

МИНИСТЕРСТВО СЕЛЬСКОГО ХОЗЯЙСТВА РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ НАУЧНО-ТЕХНОЛОГИЧЕСКОЙ ПОЛИТИКИ И ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ

ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ БЮДЖЕТНОЕ ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ
УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
«ДОНСКОЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ АГРАРНЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ»
(ФГБОУ ВО Донской ГАУ)

АЗОВО-ЧЕРНОМОРСКИЙ ИНЖЕНЕРНЫЙ ИНСТИТУТ – ФИЛИАЛ
ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОГО ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОГО БЮДЖЕТНОГО ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОГО
УЧРЕЖДЕНИЯ ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
«ДОНСКОЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ АГРАРНЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ» В Г. ЗЕРНОГРАДЕ
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Кафедра «Гуманитарные дисциплины и иностранные языки»

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LINGUISTICS OF RUSSIA

ЛИНГВОСТРАНОВЕДЕНИЕ: РОССИЯ

Сборник текстов и заданий на английском языке
для обучающихся 1 курса бакалавриата
всех направлений подготовки

Часть II

Учебно-методическое пособие

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	4
THE FLAG OF RUSSIA.....	5
THE COAT OF ARMS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.....	6
VLADIMIR VLADIMIROVICH PUTIN.....	7
GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION OF RUSSIA.....	8
MOSCOW.....	10
STATE SYSTEM OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.....	13
THE SIGHTS OF MOSCOW.....	15
EDUCATION IN RUSSIA.....	18
FAMOUS RUSSIAN PEOPLE	
DMITRY IVANOVICH MENDELEYEV.....	21
YURIY ALEKSEEVICH GAGARIN.....	23
VLADIMIR IVANOVICH VERNADSKY.....	25
ILYA ROMANOVICH PRIGOZHIN.....	27
MIKHAIL VASILYEVICH LOMONOSOV.....	29
RUSSIAN HOLIDAYS AND TRADITIONS.....	31
CENTURIES-OLD TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS	
OF THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE.....	35
LITERATURE.....	37

INTRODUCTION

Настоящее пособие представляет собой страноведческий курс, совершенствующий лингвистические, коммуникативные и культуроведческие навыки студентов-бакалавров всех направлений подготовки в чтении, аудировании, говорении и письме.

В основу пособия положен коммуниктивно-проблемный принцип, реализуемый в контексте страноведческой методологии обучения вербальной коммуникации на иностранном языке.

Все эти виды речевой активности реализуются через тексты и упражнения, в которых представлена интересная и полезная для студентов информация о России, о её географическом положении, русском национальном характере, достопримечательностях, традициях и обычаях.

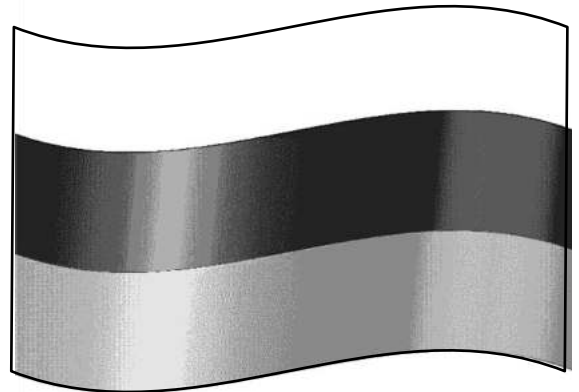
Развитие коммуникативных навыков общения реализуется через применение условно-речевых и речевых упражнений: вопросно-ответных заданий и дискуссии на английском языке. Упражнения подразделяются на задания с целью понимания текстового материала, лексические упражнения, упражнения на перевод с русского языка на английский.

Пособие может быть использовано как для аудиторной, так и для самостоятельной работы студентов очной и заочной форм обучения.

THE FLAG OF RUSSIA

The flag of the Russian Federation is a rectangular cloth of three equal horizontal stripes: upper – white, middle – blue and lower – red. The ratio of the width of the flag to its length is 2:3.

For the first time the white-blue-red flag was raised on the first Russian military ship the «Eagle» by Peter I's father Aleksey Mikhailovich. Peter I is considered the legal



father of the tricolor. On January 20, 1705 he issued a decree according to which «the trading vessels of all types» had to raise the white-blue-red flag; he himself outlined the model and determined the order of horizontal stripes.

The three colors of the flag, which became a national symbol, received official interpretation. The red means «statehood», the blue is the color of the Virgin Mary who is Russia's protector, the white is the color of freedom and independence.

At present, most often unofficially, the interpretation of the flag colors of Russia are as follows: the color white means peace, purity, perfection, the blue is the color of faith and fidelity, constancy; the color red symbolizes energy, strength, blood shed for the Fatherland.

THE COAT OF ARMS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Coat of Arms of the Russian Federation is a state symbol equal to the Flag of the Russian Federation and the National Anthem of the Russian Federation. The current Coat of Arms of the Russian Federation was modified by President Boris Yeltsin's Decree as of November 30th, 1993.

The Coat of Arms of the Russian Federation is composed of an image of a two-headed golden eagle on a red French armorial escutcheon. The eagle is crowned with two lesser crowns and one greater crown on top of them joined by a ribbon. The eagle holds scepter and orb in its claws; its breast is decorated with a silver rider on horseback in

a blue cloak on a red escutcheon piercing a black serpent writhing on its back with a silver spear. The two-headed eagle as a state symbol can be traced as far back as the rule of Tsar Ivan III, who used it on his royal seal in 1497, though images of two-headed eagles (or other birds) were found in earlier Old Russian art, e.g. on Tver coins.

The current coat of arms is based on the Coat of Arms of the Russian Empire (1882); the new state symbol succeeded the out-of-date Coat of Arms of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (after the USSR's disintegration).



VLADIMIR VLADIMIROVICH PUTIN

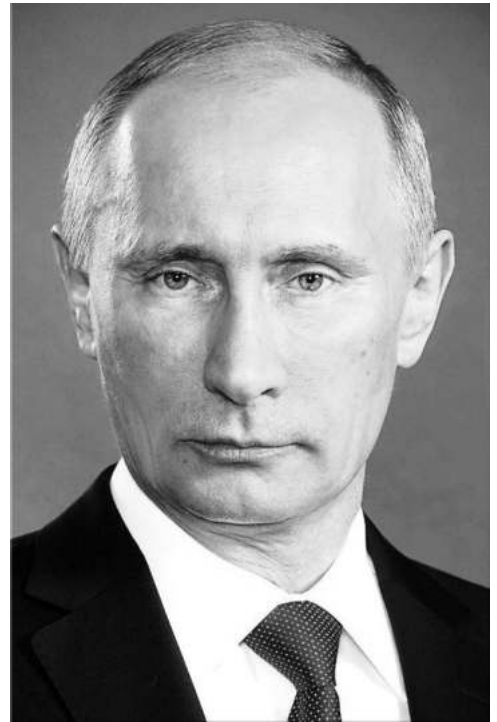
Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin is a Russian statesman and politician, acting President of the Russian Federation and Supreme Commander of the Russian Armed forces.

He was born on October 7, 1952, in Leningrad, Russia in ordinary family of workers. He was the only child in a family. They were not rich and lived in a communal apartment with other people.

As Putin had got a law degree in 1975, he joined the KGB, the security force of the former Soviet Union. Then he has been working in the KGB for 15 years, not only in Russia, but also in Germany.

For the first time he became a president of Russian Federation in 2000, then he left the position and became a prime minister in 2008. So, he had been re-elected again in 2012.

Many people believe that the President conducts a very competent foreign policy, trying to reduce some tension between Russia and other countries that arises due to various reasons. However, the President as a head of Government periodically offers various solutions to help the population: hotlines, social packages, demographic programs, etc. The President does everything our country become the most powerful and strong country in the world.



GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION OF RUSSIA

Vocabulary:

1. border – граница
2. to stretch – простираться
3. grassland – луг
4. mountain chain – горная цепь
5. non-ferrous – цветные металлы
6. three-quarter – три четверти

Read and translate the text:

In area, the Russian Federation is the largest country in the world. Its total area is about 17 million square kilometres. It occupies most of Eastern Europe and Northern Asia. Russia stretches from the Baltic Sea in the west to the Pacific Ocean in the east and from the Arctic Ocean in the north to the Black Sea, the Caucasus, the Altai, and the Sayan mountains, the Amur and the Ussuri rivers in the south. Russia borders on Finland, the Baltic States, Belarus and the Ukraine in the west, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, China in the south. The federation comprises 21 republics.

On the vast territory of the Russian Federation you can find thick forests and wide grasslands (steppes), high picked mountains and deep valleys, lowlands and highlands. The Russian Federation is situated on two plains, the Great Russian Plain and the West Siberian Lowland. The longest mountain chains are the Urals, separating Europe from Asia, the Caucasus, the Altai. Russia is rich in beautiful lakes and big and small rivers, the total number of which is over two million. Russia's most important rivers are the Volga, Europe's biggest river, flowing into the Caspian Sea, the main Siberian rivers, the Ob, the Yenisei and the Lena, and the Amur in the Far East, flowing into the Pacific Ocean.

The climate in Russia varies from arctic in the north to continental in the central part of the country and subtropical in the south.

Russia is a highly-industrialized-agrarian country. Its vast mineral resources include oil and natural gas, coal, iron, zinc, lead, nickel, aluminium, gold and other non-ferrous metals. Russia has the world's largest oil and natural gas resources. Three-quarters of the republic's mineral wealth is concentrated in Siberia and the Far East.

Tasks:

I. Answer the questions:

1. What area does the Russian Federation occupy?
2. Which countries does Russia border with?
3. On which two plains is the Russian Federation located?
4. What can you say about the climate in Russia?
5. What mineral resources is Russia rich in?

II. Translate into Russian:

1. In area, the Russian Federation is the largest country in the world.
2. The federation comprises 21 republics.
3. The longest mountain chains are the Urals, separating Europe from Asia, the Caucasus, and the Altai.
4. Russia has the world's largest oil and natural gas resources.

III. Insert the adequate prepositions and article: the, is, in, a:

1. In area, ... Russian Federation is ... largest country in the world.
2. Russia ... rich in beautiful lakes and big and small rivers, ... total number of which is over two million.
3. The climate ... Russia varies from arctic in ... north to continental in the central part of ... country and subtropical in the south.
4. Russia is ... highly-industrialized-agrarian country.

IV. Complete the sentences using the following words and expressions:

chains are the Urals, separating Europe from Asia, the Caucasus; the Great Russian Plain and the West Siberian Lowland; three-quarters of the republic's mineral; is about 17 million square kilometers.

1. The Russian Federation is situated on two plains,
2. Its total area
3. The longest mountain , the Altai.
4. wealth is concentrated in Siberia and the Far East.

V. Translate from Russian into English:

1. Россия занимает большую часть Восточной Европы и Северной Азии.
2. Россия богата прекрасными озерами, большими и малыми реками, общее количество которых составляет более двух миллионов.
3. На обширной территории Российской Федерации вы можете найти густые леса и обширные луга (степи), высокие горы.
4. Россия обладает крупнейшими в мире запасами нефти и природного газа.

VI. Make up a summary of the text.

MOSCOW

Vocabulary:

1. wooden – деревянный
2. to suffer – страдать
3. government – правительство
4. railway – железнодорожный
5. underground – подземный
6. fortress – крепость
7. invader – захватчик



Read and translate the text:

Moscow is the capital of Russia, its administrative, economic, political and scientific centre. It is one of the largest cities in the world with the population of 10 million people. The city stands on the bank of the Moskva river. Its total area is about 900 thousand square kilometres.

The city was founded by Prince Yuri Dolgoruky in 1147 as a fortress on the bank of the wide and deep Moskva river. At first it was a small settlement with wooden houses surrounded by wooden walls to protect people from the enemies. As the time passed Moscow turned into a wealthy city. In the 16th century, under Ivan the Terrible, Moscow became the capital of the state of Muscovy. Many times Moscow suffered from various invaders – the Tatars in the XIII century, the Napoleon's occupation in the XIX century, two World wars in the XX century. The present-day Moscow is the seat of the government of the Russian Federation. President of Russia lives and works here. Government offices and different international organisations are located here too.

Moscow is a major industrial city. Its leading industries are engineering, chemical and light industries. Moscow is an important railway, highway and international airway cross-road. It has 9 railway stations, 5 airports and besides Moscow is a port of five seas. Its two river ports join it to five seas and many foreign countries. Moscovites are proud of its magnificent underground, the most splendid metro in the world. Today Moscow has over a hundred beautiful stations, many of which look like palaces.

Moscow is the city of science and learning. There are over 80 higher educational institutions in the city. Moscow State University named after Lomonosov is famous all over the world. Moscow is a great cultural centre where there are lots of cinemas, concert halls, more than forty drama and musical theatres, including the Bolshoi Theatre with its famous world ballet and opera, the Art Theatre, the Maly Theatre, the Vakhtangov Theatre and others. Moscovites are proud of their museums: the Tretyakov Gallery, the Museum of Fine Arts named after A. Pushkin, the Kuskovo museum, Kolomenskoye, literary museums and art

galleries. Moscow, the heart of our country, is dear not only to Moscovites, but to all the Russians.

Tasks:

I. Answer the questions:

1. What is the population of Moscow?
2. What is the total area of Moscow?
3. When was Moscow founded and who was the founder of Moscow?
4. When did it become the capital?
5. What industries are developed in Moscow?
6. The port of which seas can Moscow be named?
7. Why are Muscovites so proud of their Metro?

II. Translate into Russian:

1. The city stands on the bank of the Moskva river.
2. Government offices and different international organizations are located here too.
3. Moscow is a major industrial city.
4. There are over 80 higher educational institutions in the city.

III. Insert the adequate prepositions and articles: a, the, of, to:

1. As ... time passed Moscow turned into ... wealthy city.
2. Moscovites are proud ... its magnificent underground, ... most splendid metro in the world.
3. Moscow, ... heart of our country, is dear not only to Moscovites, but ... all the Russians.
4. In the XVI century, under Ivan ... Terrible, Moscow became the capital ... the state of Muscovy.

IV. Complete the sentences using the following words and expressions:

Moscow is an important railway; with the population of 10 million people; a hundred beautiful stations, many of which look; of the government of the Russian Federation.

1. The present-day Moscow is the seat
2. It is one of the largest cities in the world
3. , highway and international airway cross-road.
4. Today Moscow has over like palaces.

V. Translate from Russian into English:

1. Москва – столица России, ее административный, экономический, политический и научный центр.
2. В XVI веке, при Иване Грозном, Москва стала столицей государства Московия.
3. Ведущими отраслями промышленности являются машиностроение, химическая и легкая промышленность.
4. Московский государственный университет имени Ломоносова известен во всем мире.

VI. Make up a summary of the text.

STATE SYSTEM OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Vocabulary:

1. branch – ветвь
2. to sign – подписывать
3. executive – исполнительный
4. legislative – законодательная
5. judicial – судебная
6. treaty – договор
7. to approve – одобрять
8. to enforce a law – обеспечить соблюдение закона

Read and translate the text:

The Russian Federation is set up by the Constitution of 1993. Under the Constitution Russia is a presidential republic. The federal government consists of three branches: legislative, executive and judicial. Each of them is checked and balanced by the President.

The legislative power is realized by the Federal Assembly. It consists of two chambers: the Upper Chamber is the Council of Federation, and the Lower Chamber is the State Duma. The members of the Federal Assembly are elected by popular vote for a four-year period. Each chamber is headed by the Speaker. Legislation may be initiated in either of the two Chambers. But to become a law a bill must be approved by both Chambers and signed by the President. The President may veto the bill.

The executive power belongs to the Government which is headed by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister appoints Ministers and forms the Cabinet.

The judicial power is represented by the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court and the regional courts.

The President is the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, he makes treaties, enforces laws, appoints ministers who must be approved by the Federal Assembly. The state symbol of Russia is a three-coloured banner. It has three horizontal stripes: white, blue and red. The white stripe symbolizes the earth, the blue one stands for the sky, and the red one symbolizes the liberty. The hymn of Russia is written by S. Michalkov and A. Aleksandrov. A new national emblem is a two-headed eagle. It is the most ancient symbol of Russia. It originates from the heraldic emblem of the Ruricovitches. All these symbols are official. They have been approved by the Federal Assembly.

Tasks:

I. Answer the questions:

1. What branches does the federal government consist of?
2. Whom does the executive power belong to?
3. What is the judicial branch represented by?
4. What are the official symbols of Russia?
5. What is the Russian national emblem and what does it originate from?

II. Translate into Russian:

1. The federal government consists of three branches: legislative, executive and judicial.
2. Legislature may be initiated in either of the two Chambers.
3. The judicial power is represented by the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court and the regional courts.
4. The hymn of Russia is written by S. Michalkov and A. Aleksandrov.

III. Insert the adequate prepositions and articles: by, is, the:

1. The legislative power ... realized ... the Federal Assembly.
2. The Russian Federation, is set up ... the Constitution of 1993.
3. They have been approved by ... Federal Assembly.
4. The white stripe symbolizes ... earth, the blue one stands for the sky, and ... red one symbolizes the liberty.

IV. Complete the sentences using the following words and expressions:

is a presidential republic; is a two-headed eagle; which is headed by the Prime Minister; the members of the Federal Assembly.

1. are elected by popular vote for a four-year period.
2. Under the Constitution Russia
3. The executive power belongs to the Government
4. A new national emblem

V. Translate from Russian into English:

1. Законодательная власть осуществляется Федеральным Собранием.
2. Президент может наложить вето на законопроект.
3. Государственным символом России является трехцветное знамя.
4. Новая национальная эмблема – двуглавый орел.

VI. Make up a summary of the text.

THE SIGHTS OF MOSCOW

Vocabulary:

1. to be surround – быть окруженным
2. cathedral – собор
3. unusual – необычный
4. priceless – бесценный
5. weapon – оружие
6. precious – драгоценный
7. conquest – завоевание
8. daily – ежедневный
9. to rise at the foot – возвышается у подножия
10. ordeals – тяжелое испытание
11. passage – проход
12. to join – присоединиться

Read and translate the text:

The Kremlin is the historical heart of the capital. It is surrounded by a high wall of two and a half kilometres long. The Kremlin walls are joined by 20 towers constructed in the XVII century. The main and tallest of the Kremlin towers is the Spasskaya Tower, notable for its clock, whose melodious chimes are well known to all citizens of the country. The oldest Tower is the Secret Tower under which there was a secret underground passage to the Moskva River.

During its history the Kremlin went through great ordeals. It was repeatedly subject to foreign invasions and suffered from fires, but Russian craftsmen always restored what had been de-stroyed, made the Kremlin still more magnificent and beautiful.

The Moscow Kremlin ranks among the most remarkable architectural creations of the world; it is a rich collection of historical monuments of different ages. In the central, Sobornaya Square, the oldest in Moscow, you can see three beautiful cathedrals, built in the XV–XVII centuries: the five-domed Uspenski Cathedral in which the Russian tsars and emperors were crowned, the Archangel Cathedral with tombs of the Moscow princes and tsars, the Blagoveshchensky Cathedral noted for the unusual oil paintings done by Andrei Rublev and his pupils. These cathedrals boast of priceless treasures of ancient Russian art, including unique frescoes, icons and marvelous samples of handicrafts.

Among the ancient buildings in the Kremlin you can enjoy the Belfry of Ivan the Great, built in 1600. Standing next to the bell tower are the Tsar Cannon, a wonder of the XVI century casting, and the XVIII century Tsar Bell, the biggest bell in the world weighing 200 tons both made by Russian masters.

The largest buildings in the Kremlin are the Great Kremlin Palace and the Palace of Congresses. The Great Kremlin Palace was the tsar's residence, constructed in the middle of the XIX century.

A passage connects the Palace with the Armoury Chamber, the oldest Russian museum and the richest collection of weapons. The Armoury also houses the

exhibition of the "Diamond Fund of Russia", showing such treasures of Russia as giant gold nuggets (самородки), unique articles of gold, silver, precious stones, magnificent jewelry and the famous Monomach hat, the symbol of power of Russian tsars. The Palace of Congresses has 800 rooms and its huge conference hall seats 6000.

A very beautiful building, Granovitaya Palata built in the end of the XV century, is the place where the Moscow tsars held magnificent receptions in honour of foreign ambassadors.

Red Square is the main square of Moscow. In the ancient Slavonic language, "red" was synonymous to "beautiful". This historical centre of Moscow, was laid out in the XV century. It is the place of parades, meetings, festivals and demonstrations. Here one can see the colourful multydomed Pokrovsky (St. Basil) Cathedral, erected by architects Postnic and Barma to commemorate Russia's conquest of the Kasan Kingdom in 1552. In front of it is the first sculptural monument of Moscow, built in a sign of respect for the Russian national heroes-patriots Kozma Minin and Dmitry Pozharsky in the struggle against the Polish-Lithuanian invasion of the XVII century. It was designed by Ivan Martos in 1818. Near the monument you can see Lobnoye Mesto, the tribune of ancient Moscow. The tsar's decrees, edicts, orders were usually read out there.

The most magnificent tower of the Kremlin, the Spasskaya Tower, looks down on Red Square; it has become the symbol of Moscow. In the mid-XIX century the famous Kremlin Chimes were mounted on the tower. The clockwork occupies three floors of the tower and weighs 25 tons. The Kremlin Chimes can be heard daily over Radio Moscow at 6 a.m. and 12 p.m.

The State Historical Museum in Red Square is a magnificent building. Besides, it is one of the major scientific and educational institutions where we can follow the life of Russian people since ancient times.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier – a monument to unidentified soldiers who perished during the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945 – rises at the foot of the Kremlin in Alexandrovsky Garden.

Tasks:

I. Answer the questions:

1. What are the two main sights of Moscow, that attract attention of all the tourists?
2. What is the Spasskaya Tower famous for?
3. Why does the Moscow Kremlin rank among the most remarkable architectural creations?
4. What is the "age" of the Tsar Cannon and the Tsar Bell?
5. When was the Great Kremlin Palace built?
6. What is the Armory Chamber?
7. What famous sights can one see in the Red Square?

II. Translate into Russian:

1. The Kremlin walls are joined by 20 towers constructed in the XVII century.
2. The Great Kremlin Palace was the tsar's residence, constructed in the middle of the XIX century.
3. This historical centre of Moscow, was laid out in the XV century.
4. Near the monument you can see Lobnoye Mesto, the tribune of ancient Moscow.
5. The State Historical Museum in Red Square is a magnificent building.

III. Insert the adequate prepositions and article: by, of, with, the:

1. A passage connects the Palace ... the Armory Chamber, the oldest Russian museum and the richest collection ... weapons.
2. It is surrounded ... a high wall ... two and a half kilometres long.
3. ... most magnificent tower ... the Kremlin, the Spasskaya Tower, looks down on Red Square.
4. It is ... place ... parades, meetings, festivals and demonstrations.
5. It was designed ... Ivan Martos in 1818.

IV. Complete the sentences using the following words and expressions: and its huge conference hall seats 6000; which there was a secret underground passage to the Moskva River; looks down on Red Square; it has become the symbol of Moscow; the most remarkable architectural creations of the world; Red Square.

1. The oldest Tower is the Secret Tower under
2. The Palace of Congresses has 800 rooms
3. The Moscow Kremlin ranks among
4. is the main square of Moscow.
5. The most magnificent tower of the Kremlin, the Spasskaya Tower

V. Translate from Russian into English:

1. За свою историю Кремль прошел через большие испытания.
2. В середине XIX века на башне были установлены знаменитые кремлевские куранты.
3. Благовещенский собор известен необычными картинами маслом, выполненными Андреем Рублевым и его учениками.
4. Главной и самой высокой из кремлевских башен является Спасская башня.
5. Государственный исторический музей на Красной площади – великолепное здание.

VI. Make up a summary of the text.

EDUCATION IN RUSSIA

Vocabulary:

1. system of education – система образования
2. basic and professional education – базовое и профессиональное образование
3. primary, basic and secondary education – начальное, основное и среднее образование
4. highly qualified – высококвалифицированный
5. charged – заряжен
6. academic year – учебный год
7. elementary, secondary and high school – начальная, средняя и старшая школа
8. mandatory – обязательный
9. admission age – возраст поступления
10. physical development – физическое развитие
11. conscious choices – сознательный выбор
12. compulsory – обязательный
13. curriculum – учебная программа
14. vocational education – профессиональное обучение
15. Unified State Examination – Единый Государственный Экзамен
16. Higher education – высшее образование
17. study abroad – учиться за границей
18. enrolling at – зачисление в
19. taking advantage of – воспользовавшись

Read and translate the text:

THE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION IN RUSSIA

The **system of education** in Russia includes 2 levels – **basic and professional education**. The first one includes preschool, **primary, basic and secondary education**, that all together make up a school block. The professional level includes secondary and higher stages – Bachelor's, Specialist's and Master's degree and preparation of **highly qualified** staff.

General Education School education in Russia is not **charged**, it consists of 34 weeks of study per year and 27 to 36 hours of study per week. In general, the **academic year** runs from 1 September to the beginning of June. School examinations are in June. Therefore, its duration is 11 years and has the following gradation: **elementary, secondary and high school** (grades 1–4, 5–9 and 10–11), the first 2 stages are **mandatory**. School **admission age** is 6–7, and scholars usually graduate when they are 17–18. School graduates get a school certificate necessary for becoming a university student. Russian general education focuses on the intellectual, emotional, moral, and **physical development** of the individual. It aims to develop the abilities that allow a student to adapt to life in society, as well as helping individuals to make **conscious choices** concerning professional education.

General education is **compulsory**. The basic **curriculum** has some compulsory topics, such as the Russian language, foreign languages, mathematics, history, politics, and natural sciences. Every school designs its own curriculum, which is based on state requirements Secondary Vocational Education. Students in Russia now can leave school after grade 9 and go to a college, technical school or specialized school to get secondary **vocational education**. In such institutions skilled workers, employees and mid-level professionals are trained. Such education can also serve as a preparatory stage before entering the university. The study usually lasts from 2 to 4 years.

Higher Education

Having finished the 11th grade scholars pass the **Unified State Examination** on several subjects and following the examination results they can enter the university. **Higher education** in Russia could be free, but the quantity of state-funded spots is limited. Therefore, there is a possibility to study under contract at the Russian universities. Higher education system of the first level includes Specialty programmes, which last for 5–6 years, and a Bachelor's degree, which lasts for 4 years. The second level includes Master's degree programmes (last for 2 years on average), and the third level – postgraduate study (from 3 years). Today Russian students of any education level can continue **study abroad**, by **enrolling at** a foreign institution, receiving an internship or **taking advantage of** a student exchange programme.

Tasks:

I. Answer the questions:

1. What is the structure of the Russian system of education?
2. What educational stages are mandatory?
3. What is the admission age for the primary school?
4. What compulsory topics does basic curriculum include?
5. When can Russian students leave school?
6. What is the goal of Russian general education?
7. Is higher education free in Russia?
8. Who can get a vocational education?

II. Translate into Russian:

1. The professional level includes secondary and higher stages – Bachelor's, Specialist's and Master's degree and preparation of highly qualified staff.
2. School admission age is 6–7, and scholars usually graduate when they are 17–18. School graduates get a school certificate necessary for becoming a university student.
3. Every school designs its own curriculum, which is based on state requirements Secondary Vocational Education.
4. Higher education system of the first level includes Specialty programmes, which last for 5–6 years, and a Bachelor's degree, which lasts for 4 years.

III. Insert the adequate prepositions and article: the, to, at, in, on, for, of:

1. ... system ... education Russia includes 2 levels – basic and professional education.
2. School graduates get a school certificate necessary ... becoming a university student.
3. Having finished ... 11th grade scholars pass ... Unified State Examination several subjects and following ... examination results they can enter ... university.
4. Therefore, there is a possibility ...study under contract Russian universities.

IV. Complete the sentences using the following words and expressions:

runs from 1 September to the beginning of June, preschool, primary, basic and secondary education, go to a college, technical school or specialized school to get secondary vocational education, from 2 to 4 years, that all together make up a school block.

1. The first one includes ...
2. In general, the academic year ...
3. Students in Russia now can leave school after grade 9 and
4. The study usually lasts ...

V. Translate from Russian into English:

1. Учебный год длится с 1 сентября до начала июня.
2. Система общего образования в России сфокусирована на интеллектуальном, эмоциональном, моральном и физическом развитии личности.
3. Высшее образование в России бесплатно, но количество бюджетных мест ограничено.
4. Второй уровень образования включает магистратуру и длится в целом 2 года, третий уровень обучения – это аспирантура.

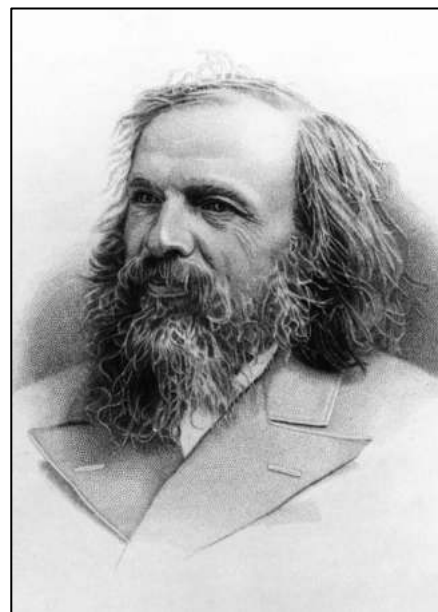
VI. Make up a summary of the text.

FAMOUS RUSSIAN PEOPLE

DMITRY IVANOVICH MENDELEYEV

Vocabulary:

1. property – свойство
2. to arrange – организовать
3. to return – вернуть
4. according – в соответствии
5. to investigate – исследовать
6. petroleum – нефть



Read and translate the text:

Dmitry Ivanovich Mendeleev is a famous Russian chemist. He is best known for his development of the periodic table of the properties of the chemical elements. This table displays that elements' properties are changed periodically when they are arranged according to atomic weight. Mendeleev was born in 1834 in Tobolsk, Siberia. He studied chemistry at the University of St. Petersburg, and in 1859 he was sent to study at the University of Heidelberg. Mendeleev returned to St. Petersburg and became Professor of Chemistry at the Technical Institute in 1863. He became Professor of General Chemistry at the University of St. Petersburg in 1866. Mendeleev was a well-known teacher, and, because there was no good textbook in chemistry at that time, he wrote the two-volume "Principles of Chemistry" which became a classic textbook in chemistry. In this book Mendeleev tried to classify the elements according to their chemical properties. In 1869 he published his first version of his periodic table of elements. In 1871 he published an improved version of the periodic table, in which he left gaps for elements that were not known at that time. His table and theories were proved later when three predicted elements: gallium, germanium, and scandium were discovered. Mendeleev investigated the chemical theory of solution. He found that the best proportion of alcohol and water in vodka is 40%. He also investigated the thermal expansion of liquids and the nature of petroleum. In 1893 he became director of the Bureau of Weights and Measures in St. Petersburg and held this position until his death in 1907.

Tasks:

I. Answer the questions:

1. What is Dmitry Ivanovich Mendeleev known for?
2. What is the name of the chemistry textbook of Mendeleev?
3. What did Mendeleev discover while researching the chemical theory of solution?
4. In what year did he become the director of the Bureau of Weights and Measures in St. Petersburg?

II. Translate into Russian:

1. Dmitry Ivanovich Mendeleev is a famous Russian chemist.
2. Mendeleev returned to St. Petersburg and became Professor of Chemistry at the Technical Institute in 1863.
3. In 1869 he published his first version of his periodic table of elements.
4. He also investigated the thermal expansion of liquids and the nature of petroleum.

III. Insert the adequate prepositions: are, to, of, in:

1. This table displays that elements' properties ... changed periodically when they ... arranged according ... atomic weight.
2. He became Professor ... General Chemistry at the University ... St. Petersburg in 1866.
3. In 1893 he became director ... the Bureau of Weights and Measures ... St. Petersburg and held this position until his death in 1907.
4. Mendeleev investigated the chemical theory ... solution.

IV. Complete the sentences using the following words and expressions:

three predicted elements: gallium, germanium, and scandium were discovered; are changed periodically when they are arranged according to atomic weight; that the best proportion of alcohol and water; in 1869 he published his first.

1. version of his periodic table of elements.
2. His table and theories were proved later when
3. This table displays that elements' properties
4. He found in vodka is 40%.

V. Translate from Russian into English:

1. Менделеев родился в 1834 году в Тобольске.
2. В 1871 году Менделеев опубликовал улучшенную версию своей периодической таблицы.
3. Менделеев исследовал химическую теорию раствора.
4. Эта таблица показывает, что свойства элементов периодически меняются, когда они упорядочиваются в соответствии с атомным весом.

VI. Make up a summary of the text.

YURIY ALEKSEEVICH GAGARIN

Vocabulary:

1. honorary – почетный
2. to land – приземляться
3. to cause – вызвать
4. celebrity – знаменитость
5. guidance – руководство
6. circumstance – обстоятельство
7. fully – полностью
8. avenue – проспект



Read and translate the text:

Yuriy Alekseevich Gagarin – USSR Pilot-Cosmonaut, Hero of the Soviet Union, honorary citizen of many Russian and foreign cities. On April 12, 1961, Yuri Gagarin became the first person in world history to make a flight into outer space. The Vostok carrier rocket with the Vostok-1 spacecraft, on which Gagarin was on board, was launched from the Baikonur cosmodrome. After 108 minutes of flight, Gagarin successfully landed in the Saratov region, not far from Engels. Since April 12, 1962, the day of Gagarin’s flight into space has been declared a holiday – Cosmonautics Day.

The first space flight caused great interest all over the world, and Yuri Gagarin himself turned into a world celebrity. At the invitation of foreign governments and public organizations, he visited about 30 countries.

On March 27, 1968, Yuri Gagarin died in a plane crash near the village of Novoselovo, Kirzhachsky district, Vladimir region, performing a training flight on a MiG-15UTI airplane under the guidance of an experienced instructor V.S. Seryogin. The causes and circumstances of the crash remain not fully elucidated until today.

In honor of the first cosmonaut, a number of settlements were renamed (including his hometown Gzhatsk), streets and avenues were named. In different cities of the world, many monuments to Gagarin were installed.

Tasks:

I. Answer the questions:

1. Who is Yuri Alekseevich Gagarin?
2. When and whom was the first flight into space made by?
3. When was the Cosmonautics Day holiday announced?
4. Where and when Yuri Gagarin died?

II. Translate into Russian:

1. The Vostok carrier rocket with the Vostok-1 spacecraft, on which Gagarin was on board, was launched from the Baikonur cosmodrome.
2. At the invitation of foreign governments and public organizations, he visited about 30 countries.
3. The causes and circumstances of the crash remain not fully elucidated until today.
4. In different cities of the world, many monuments to Gagarin were installed.

III. Insert the adequate prepositions and articles: with, on, the, of:

1. The Vostok carrier rocket ... the Vostok-1 spacecraft, ... which Gagarin was on board, was launched from ... Baikonur cosmodrome.
2. In honor of ... first cosmonaut, a number ... settlements were renamed (including his hometown Gzhatsk), streets and avenues were named.
3. ... first space flight caused great interest all over ... world, and Yuri Gagarin himself turned into a world celebrity.
4. After 108 minutes ... flight, Gagarin successfully landed in ... Saratov region, not far from Engels.

IV. Complete the sentences using the following words and expressions: many monuments to Gagarin were installed; on April 12, 1961, Yuri Gagarin became the first person; near the village of Novoselovo, Kirzhachsky district, Vladimir region, performing a training flight on a MiG-15UTI airplane; not far from Engels.

1. in world history to make a flight into outer space.
2. In different cities of the world,
3. On March 27, 1968, Yuri Gagarin died in a plane crash under the guidance of an experienced instructor V.S. Seryogin.
4. After 108 minutes of flight, Gagarin successfully landed in the Saratov region....

V. Translate from Russian into English:

1. 12 апреля 1961 года Юрий Гагарин стал первым человеком в мировой истории, совершившим полет в космическое пространство.
2. Первый полет в космос вызвал большой интерес во всем мире, а сам Юрий Гагарин превратился в мировую знаменитость.
3. В честь первого космонавта был переименован ряд населенных пунктов.
4. Юрий Алексеевич Гагарин – летчик-космонавт СССР, Герой Советского Союза.

VI. Make up a summary of the text.

VLADIMIR IVANOVICH VERNADSKY

Vocabulary:

1. cognition – познание
2. soil – почва
3. guidance – руководство
4. influence – влияние
5. crust – земная кора
6. research – исследование
7. nuclear – ядерный



Read and translate the text:

Date of birth: March 12, 1863 Place of birth: Saint Petersburg, Russia. Died: January 6, 1945. Vladimir

Ivanovich Vernadsky was a famous Russian-Ukrainian mineralogist who introduced the concept

of the noosphere or the sphere of human cognition. Born in a family of teachers, at an early age he showed interest in natural sciences. His interest in mineralogy was aroused by the works of soil scientist Vasily Dokuchaev and geologist Alexei Pavlov. He began his academic career working under the famous mineralogist Paul Groth, who classified minerals based on their chemical composition and crystal structure. Working under Paul's guidance, he got acquainted with crystallography and studied in detail the structure and composition of aluminosilicates. He also investigated the influence of geological forces on the formation of compounds in the earth's crust. He laid the foundations for the development of geochemistry through his research on radioactivity and how it can be used as a source of thermal energy. However, his outstanding contribution was the theory of the interdependence of the geosphere, biosphere and noosphere. His ideas were criticized, but he continued his research and became a pioneer of environmental sciences. Being a supporter of alternative energy sources, he strongly recommended not to use nuclear energy, in particular, the creation of nuclear weapons.

Tasks:

I. Answer the questions:

1. Where and when was Vladimir Vernadsky born?
2. Who was he?
3. Name Vernadsky's outstanding contribution.
4. What did he recommend never to do?

II. Translate into Russian:

1. His interest in mineralogy was aroused by the works of soil scientist Vasily Dokuchaev and geologist Alexei Pavlov.
2. He also investigated the influence of geological forces on the formation of compounds in the earth's crust.
3. His ideas were criticized, but he continued his research and became a pioneer of environmental sciences.
4. He also investigated the influence of geological forces on the formation of compounds in the earth's crust.

III. Insert the adequate prepositions and articles: with, on, the, a:

1. He began his academic career working under ... famous mineralogist Paul Groth, who classified minerals based ... their chemical composition and crystal structure.
2. Born in ... family of teachers, at an early age he showed interest in natural sciences.
3. He laid the foundations for ... development of geochemistry through his research ... radioactivity and how it can be used as ... source of thermal energy.
4. Working under Paul's guidance, he got acquainted ... crystallography and studied in detail ... structure and composition of aluminosilicates.

IV. Complete the sentences using the following words and expressions:

of the interdependence of the geosphere, biosphere and noosphere; of the noosphere or the sphere of human cognition; he showed interest in natural sciences; his interest in mineralogy was aroused.

1. Vladimir Vernadsky was a famous Russian-Ukrainian mineralogist who introduced the concept
2. However, his outstanding contribution was the theory
3. by the works of soil scientist Vasily Dokuchaev and geologist Alexei Pavlov.
4. Born in a family of teachers, at an early age

V. Translate from Russian into English:

1. Владимир Вернадский работал под руководством знаменитого минералога Пола Грота.
2. Он также исследовал влияние геологических сил на образование соединений в земной коре.
3. Его идеи подверглись критике, но он продолжил свои исследования.
4. Он заложил основы для развития геохимии благодаря своим исследованиям радиоактивности и того, как ее можно использовать.

VI. Make up a summary of the text.

ILYA ROMANOVICH PRIGOZHIN

Vocabulary:

1. origin – происхождение
2. to award – наградить
3. dissipative – рассеивающий
4. irreversibility – необратимость
5. to create – творить
6. equilibrium – равновесие
7. collaboration – сотрудничество



Read and translate the text:

Ilya Romanovich Prigozhin was born on the 25th of January, 1917 in Moscow.

He was a Belgian physicochemist of Russian origin who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1977 for his contribution to nonequilibrium thermodynamics, in particular to the theory of dissipative structures. He was also known for his work on complex systems and irreversibility. Born in Russia shortly before the Russian Revolution of 1917, he and his family moved to Belgium when he was a little boy. As a student, he was more interested in history and archaeology, but fate led him to choose chemistry. After receiving bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry from the Free University of Brussels, he began his academic career by becoming a professor at his alma mater. After World War II, he conducted vital research in chemistry and developed mathematical models that showed how chemical reactions could create complex, changing structures, which he called "dissipative structures". It was his study of the role of these structures in thermodynamic systems far from equilibrium that earned him the Nobel Prize. He is also credited with developing the basis of the two fluid model in collaboration with Robert Herman. At a later stage of his career, he focused on the fundamental role of indeterminism in nonlinear systems at both the classical and quantum levels.

Tasks:

I. Answer the questions:

1. Where and when was Ilya Prigozhin born?
2. Which was he awarded the Nobel Prize for?
3. How was his life after the Second World War?
4. What other famous works of Prigozhin do you know?

II. Translate into Russian:

1. He was also known for his work on complex systems and irreversibility.
2. As a student, he was more interested in history and archaeology, but fate led him to choose chemistry.

3. It was his study of the role of these structures in thermodynamic systems far from equilibrium that earned him the Nobel Prize.
4. Born in Russia shortly before the Russian Revolution of 1917, he and his family moved to Belgium when he was a little boy.

III. Insert the adequate prepositions and articles: in, also, the, by:

1. After receiving bachelor's and master's degrees ... chemistry from the Free University of Brussels, he began his academic career ... becoming a professor at his alma mater.
2. At a later stage of his career, he focused on ... fundamental role of indeterminism ... nonlinear systems at both ... classical and quantum levels.
3. He is ... credited with developing the basis of ... two fluid model ... collaboration with Robert Herman.
4. He was ... known for his work on complex systems and irreversibility.

IV. Complete the sentences using the following words and expressions:

systems far from equilibrium that earned him the Nobel Prize; two fluid model in collaboration with Robert Herman; born in Russia shortly before the Russian Revolution; master's degrees in chemistry from the Free University of Brussels.

1. He is also credited with developing the basis of the
2. After receiving bachelor's and , he began his academic career by becoming a professor at his alma mater.
3. It was his study of the role of these structures in thermodynamic
4. of 1917, he and his family moved to Belgium when he was a little boy.

V. Translate from Russian into English:

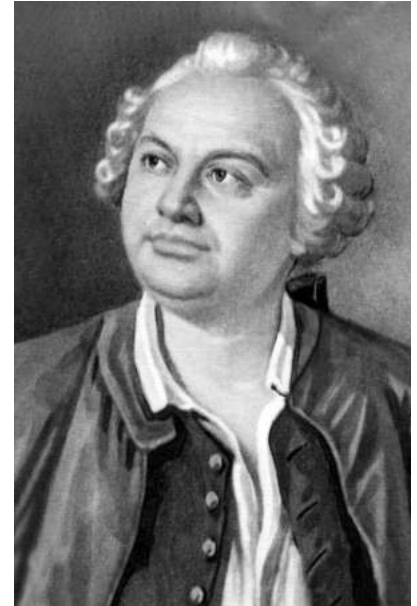
1. Будучи студентом, он больше интересовался историей и археологией, но судьба привела его к выбору химии.
2. Именно его исследование роли этих структур в термодинамических системах, далеких от равновесия, принесло ему Нобелевскую премию.
3. После Второй мировой войны он провел жизненно важные исследования в области химии и разработал математические модели.
4. Илья Пригожин был известен своими работами о сложных системах и необратимости.

VI. Make up a summary of the text.

MIKHAIL VASILYEVICH LOMONOSOV

Vocabulary:

1. fisherman – рыбак
2. observe – наблюдать
3. diligently – старательно
4. refuse admission – отказать в приёме
5. concealing – скрытый
6. gain admission – получить допуск
7. rapid progress – быстрый прогресс
8. metallurgy – металлургия
9. mining – горный
10. equal – равный
11. eliminating distortions – устранение искажений



Read and translate the text:

Mikhail Vasilyevich Lomonosov was born in the family of a fisherman in the northern coastal village of Denisovka not far from Archangelsk. When he was ten years of age his father began to take him sea fishing. The dangerous life of a fisherman taught him to observe the natural phenomena. During the long winter nights young Lomonosov studied his letters, grammar and arithmetic diligently. As he was the son of a peasant, he was refused admission to the local school. Some years later, through concealing his peasant origin, Lomonosov gained admission to the Slavonic-Greek-Latin Academy and for five years lived a hand-to-mouth existence on three kopecks a day. The noblemen's sons studying with him made fun of the twenty-year-old giant who, in spite of the gears and his own poverty, made rapid progress. Lomonosov's ability and diligence attracted attention of the professors and as one of the best students he was sent abroad. He spent all the time there studying the works of leading European scientists in Chemistry, metallurgy, mining and Mathematics.

On his return to Russia in 1745 he was made a professor and was the first Russian scientist to become a member of the Academy of Sciences. For the number of discoveries Lomonosov has no equal in Russian science. Many of his ideas and inventions only won recognition in the XIX century.

As a poet and scientist he played a great role in the formation of the Russian literary language, eliminating distortions and unnecessary foreign words.

He died in 1765. His living memorial is the Moscow University, which he founded in 1755.

Tasks

I. Answer the questions:

1. What kind of family was Lomonosov born in?
2. What taught him to observe natural phenomena?

3. How did he gain admission to the Slavonic-Greek-Latin Academy?
4. What kind of existence did he live during his studies in Moscow?
5. How did he manage to study abroad?
6. What sciences did he study there?
7. What was he made on his return to Russia?
8. What role did Lomonosov play in science?
9. What is considered his living memorial?
10. What discoveries of Lomonosov are known to you?

II. Translate into Russian:

1. When he was ten years of age his father began to take him sea fishing.
2. During the long winter nights young Lomonosov studied his letters, grammar and arithmetic diligently.
3. Many of his ideas and inventions only won recognition in the XIX century.
4. On his return to Russia in 1745 he was made a professor and was the first Russian scientist to become a member of the Academy of Sciences.

III. Insert the adequate prepositions and article: in, the, to, of:

1. He spent all ... time there studying ... works of leading European scientists ... Chemistry, metallurgy, mining and Mathematics.
2. His living memorial is ... Moscow University, which he founded ... 1755.
3. Lomonosov's ability and diligence attracted attention ... professors and as one ... best students he was sent abroad.
4. As he was the son ... a peasant, he was refused admission ... the local school.

IV. Complete the sentences using the following words and expressions:

in 1745, in the 19th, in 1755, of the Academy of Sciences, in 1765.

1. Many of his ideas and inventions only won recognition ... centurs.
2. On his return to Russia ... he was made a professor and was the first Russian scientist to become a member ...
3. His living memorial is the Moscow University, which he founded ...
4. He died ...

V. Translate into English:

1. Когда ему исполнилось десять лет, отец начал брать его на морскую рыбалку.
2. Как поэт и ученый он сыграл большую роль в становлении русского литературного языка, устранив искажения и ненужные иностранные слова.
3. Сыновья дворян, учившиеся вместе с ним, высмеивали двадцатилетнего великана, который, несмотря на собственную бедность, делал значительные успехи.
4. Способности и трудолюбие Ломоносова привлекли внимание профессоров, и как одного из лучших студентов его отправили за границу.

VI. Make up a plan and retell the text.

RUSSIAN HOLIDAYS AND TRADITIONS

Vocabulary:

1. unique – уникальный
2. long-established – давно устоявшийся
3. exhibition – выставка
4. exchange – обмениваться
5. military forces – вооруженные силы
6. carnation – гвоздика
7. straw doll – соломенная кукла
8. godparents – крестные родители

Read and translate the text:

Every nation has its own culture and traditions. Russia is a unique country with a centuries-old history and long-established national customs. Russians enjoy their holidays and celebrate them with a lot of food, presents and in big companies of relatives and friends.

There are three types of holidays in Russia: family holidays, state or public holidays and religious holidays.

Family holidays include birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and other family celebrations. Different families have different traditions of celebrations. State or public holidays in Russia include Constitution Day, New Year's Day, the International Women's Day, May Day, Victory Day and Independence Day. State organizations, banks and companies do not work on these days. People spend holiday time with their families and friends; they go to theatres or exhibitions, or go to city centre where there are usually folk festivals and concerts in the open air and celebrate with other people.

Russian religious holidays include Christmas, Easter and some others. There is also a pagan holiday – Shrovetide or Pancake Day.

New Year's Day is the major family holiday for many Russians. It is a national holiday in Russia, on which most businesses and public offices are closed. Schools and universities are closed as part of their winter holidays at this time of the year. New Year's dinner usually starts late on December 31 and includes Russian salad, dressed herring, sparkling wine and other national food. Five minutes before the clock strikes midnight people watch the president's speech on TV and raise a toast to the chiming of the Kremlin clock. After that Russians congratulate each other and exchange presents. Some people go outside to play snowballs, make a snowman or light fire crackers.

Some Russians celebrate this day at their friends' houses or attend the fireworks displays in their city. Celebrations for children include a decorated fir tree and Grandfather Frost, the Russian equivalent of Santa Claus who is believed to bring presents. Grandfather Frost often comes with his granddaughter, Snegurochka (Snow Girl).

Victory Day celebrated on May 9 is a very important historic holiday which marks Germany's surrender to the Soviet Union in 1945, ending one of the bloodiest wars in Russia's history. Public offices, schools and most businesses are closed for the celebrations. There may be changes in public transport routes due to parades and street performances.

A lot of people attend a local military parade and watch the fireworks display at night on this day. The biggest parade is in Moscow's Red Square, showcasing Russia's military forces. Veterans wear their medals as they head to the parade or an event organized by local veteran organizations. Another tradition is to give red carnations to veterans and to lay wreaths at the war memorial sites. Schools usually have concerts and performances, sing wartime songs and read poetry. At home, families gather around a festive table to honor surviving witnesses of World War II and remember those who passed away.

Orthodox Christmas is both a national and religious holiday in Russia so banks and public offices are closed on January 7th. Russians celebrate it by having a family dinner, attending a Christmas liturgy and visiting relatives and friends. For many Russians, Christmas Day is a family holiday but it is not as important for many families as New Year's Day. Many people visit friends and relatives, as well as give and receive presents. Prior to Christmas Day, there is Christmas Eve, which marks the start of an old Slavonic holiday, Svyatki, during which young women used a mirror and candles to see the image of their future husbands. Maslenitsa, also known as Pancake Week or Shrovetide, is a Russian pagan holiday celebrated during the last week before Great Lent (the seventh week before Easter). Maslenitsa is an ancient Slavonic holiday, dating back to the pagan culture. This is a festival, celebrating the approach of the spring, warmth and renovation of the nature. During the week Russians eat pancakes, have celebrations and every day of the Pancake Week has its own name and traditions. For example, Sunday is called the Forgiveness Day when everybody should ask for forgiveness. Young married couples usually visit their relatives, give presents to parents and friends, pay visits to their godparents to give presents to them, too. When asking for forgiveness people usually bow and normally hear the reply, God will forgive you. All the food that is left needs to be eaten up, followed by a piece of rye bread and salt, as a reminder of the upcoming Lent. This is also the last day of the week when pancakes are eaten.

Sunday evening is the time when Maslenitsa straw doll has to be burnt; after it has turned to ashes, young people walk over the fire, marking the end of the Maslenitsa festivities.

My favourite family holiday is New Year's Day. A week before the celebration my mother and I decorate a New Year tree with colorful glass balls and toys. My family usually has the New Year dinner in the evening, long before midnight and just before the New Year comes, we have snacks, caviar and sparkling wine. When the clock strikes midnight, we give each other presents. Later, we watch TV and relax and go outside to watch fireworks displays.

Another celebration which I like is my birthday. It is in spring and usually my friends and I get together, have a party either at my flat or in a cafe and then go for a walk. I like getting presents and having fun. Once we went to the central park and rode on a big wheel. It was great! I also remember my birthday when my family and I went to a water park and spent a lot of time there swimming and sliding on waterslides of various shapes and sizes!

I think that holidays are important because they connect people and give them an opportunity to have fun and enjoy themselves.

Tasks:

I. Answer the questions:

1. What holidays do the Russians have?
2. What are the three types of Russian holidays?
3. What days are included in family holidays?
4. What celebrations are state or public?
5. What do religion holidays include?
6. When is New Year's Day celebrated?
7. What are the most popular traditions on this day?
8. How do you usually celebrate New Year's Day?
9. What is Victory Day and why is it important for the Russians?
10. When is it celebrated?
11. What are the traditions and activities on Victory Day?
12. When is Christmas celebrated in Russia?
13. What are the Christmas traditions?
14. How do you usually celebrate this holiday?
15. What is Maslenitsa? What other names does it have?
16. What are the traditions of this pagan holiday?
17. What are your favourite Russian holidays?
18. Why do you like them?
19. What do you and your family usually do on these days?
20. Do you think holidays are important? Why (not)?

II. Translate into Russian:

1. Family holidays include birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and other family celebrations.
2. There is also a pagan holiday – Shrovetide or Pancake Day.
3. A lot of people attend a local military parade and watch the fireworks display at night on this day.
4. When asking for forgiveness people usually bow and normally hear the reply, God will forgive you.
5. They usually buy small presents for their girlfriends and boyfriends such as chocolate or sweets and make greetings cards in the shape of a heart.

III. Insert the adequate prepositions and article: at, of, for, the, in, with, on:

1. Different families have different traditions ...celebrations.
2. New Year's Day is ...major family holiday ...many Russians.
3. Some Russians celebrate this day... their friends' houses or attend ...fireworks displays ...their city.
4. Orthodox Christmas is both a national and religious holiday ... Russia so banks and public offices are closed... January 7th.

IV. Complete the sentences using the following words and expressions:

because they connect people and give them an opportunity to have fun and enjoy themselves, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and other family celebrations, give presents to parents and friends, pay visits to their godparents to give presents to them, too, do not work on these days, a centuries-old history and long-established national customs.

1. Russia is a unique country with ...
2. Family holidays include...
3. State organizations, banks and companies ...
4. Young married couples usually visit their relatives ...
5. I think that holidays are important ...

V. Translate into English:

1. У каждой нации есть свои собственные обычаи и традиции.
2. Новый год – один из самых главных праздников для россиян.
3. Масленица – древний славянский праздник, восходящий к языческой культуре.
4. В День Победы многие люди посещают местный военный парад и наблюдают за ночным фейерверком.

VI. Make up a plan and retell the text

CENTURIES-OLD TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS OF THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE

Read and translate the texts:

Russia is a modern country with the Russian traditions deeply rooted not only in the religion but also in pagan Russian customs and traditions. People believe in numerous omens and legends and still celebrate pagan holidays like Maslenitsa (Shrovetide) and Ivan Kupala. Christianity enriched the Russian holiday traditions with such great holidays as Easter and Christmas. The Russian holidays and traditions are a mixture of old and new and are passed on from generation to generation. Nowadays, Russians enjoy the combinations of these holidays and traditions, often exchanging gifts or performing pranks according to each holiday's customs.

Russian family traditions

Russian families are large and friendly and are not limited to the husband, wife, and children. A family includes grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles, nephews, and nieces. They all closely communicate with each other and get together for birthdays and anniversaries. Russians not only celebrate together but are always ready to help their relatives in difficult times. The tradition of loving their own home and protect their family is instilled into Russians since childhood.

Weird Russian traditions

Some Russian traditions and superstitions are surprising and unique. Many of them are deeply rooted in Slavic mythology. Here are a few of them:

Before leaving for a long journey, you and all those who are seeing you off must sit for a moment in silence.

Knocking on wood is known in Russia as well as in other countries. However, Russians add a symbolic three spits over one's left shoulder, and Russians will often knock three times as well.

Breaking a mirror is bad luck in Russia, as is looking at one's reflection in a broken mirror, and the effect is more severe than seven years of bad luck as in American culture.

Returning home for a forgotten thing is a bad omen. One should leave it behind, but if returning is necessary, to avoid bad luck, one should look in the mirror before leaving again.

Traditional Russian gifts

Matryoshka, valenki, balalaika, samovar, Vologda lace, Khokhloma, and Gzhel ceramics – these are the most popular Russian souvenirs from different parts of this vast country. Every region has its distinctive features and unique crafts.

Traditional Russian wedding gifts

The wedding has always been some kind of performance with a certain order of wedding ceremonies that are repeated from village to village, from region to region.

As a wedding gift, Russians usually present something practical that the bride and groom will use and enjoy. Presents that relate to Russian culture are the best. Wedding gifts can be pricey because most are hand-made and are very delicate. Spending substantially on a gift could be worth it because the couple will appreciate it.

Maslenitsa

It is the most cheerful holiday among Russian celebrations and traditions. This holiday is considered to come from pre-Christian pagan times. The rituals of Maslenitsa are fascinating, and they symbolize the end of the winter and the welcoming of the spring.

Russian celebrations and traditions present a mixture of new and old, religious and secular, professional and private, and if you are visiting Russia during one of the holidays, join in the fun the Russians have. Russian love for holidays is known all over the world, and they indeed know how to celebrate.

Easter

Easter holiday came to Russia from Byzantium at the end of the 10th century. Since then, Easter has been widely celebrated all over Russia.

The day before Easter, all churches hold night services and organize religious processions around churches. For Easter, kulich, the traditional holiday baking symbolizing the body of Christ, is baked, and Easter eggs are painted. The Easter morning starts from visiting neighbors and giving away Easter eggs. Christian Easter feast lasts seven days with an abundance of food. It is believed that quality Easter bread, kulich, ensure the well-being of the family.

Ivan Kupala

People all over the world are celebrating the summer solstice. In Russia, such a holiday is Ivan Kupala. The night of 23 June is a jolly holiday full of ritual acts, songs, chants, and all kinds of fortune-telling, legends, and beliefs.

The day is called after the pagan deity Kupalo, the God of summer fertility. People used to sing songs and jump over the bonfire to his honor. This ritual has become an annual celebration combining pagan and Christian traditions. Kupala got the name Ivan (John) after Russia was baptized.

People believed that herbs and flowers get the miraculous and healing power during Ivan Kupala night and, therefore, the village healers collected medicinal roots and herbs during this night.

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