

# RUSSIA

## Russia Quick Facts

**Official Name:** Russian Federation  
**Total area:** 17,098,242 sq km  
**Population:** 142,355,415 (July 2016 est.)  
**GDP:** \$3.745 trillion (2016 est.)  
**Government:** semi-presidential federation  
**Capital:** Moscow  
**Motto:** No official motto

Russia is a unique country that spreads across two continents. The Ural Mountains form the dividing line between Europe and Asia. The Caucasus Mountains in the southwest also separate European Russia from the Middle Eastern countries of Asia. About 23% of the land area of Russia is in Europe and 77% is in Asia. However, about 77% of the population lives in European Russia.

Russia is the largest nation in the world in land area. It occupies about one-tenth of all land on Earth. There are a variety of land features and climates throughout the vast Russian nation. The European Plain stretches from the

Ural Mountains and Volga River to the western border. The plain is mostly flat with some rolling hills. It is poorly drained in many areas, resulting in marshes. The two largest lakes in Europe, Lake Ladoga and Lake Onega, are located in this region. The continental climate includes hot summers and cold winters. Agriculture is a major industry in this area. Products include grain, sugar beets, sunflower seeds, vegetables, fruits, beef, and dairy products.

The steppes are grassland plains without trees in the central and southern areas of Russia. Today, some areas of the steppes are used for farming.

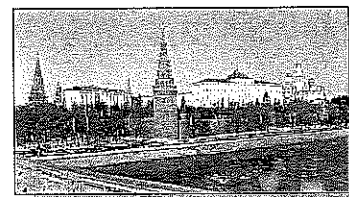
Areas of coniferous forests, called taiga, extend from the western border of Russia to the Pacific Ocean on the east. While Russia still contains the largest reserve of coniferous forests in the world, much land has been cleared for agriculture. Trees are also cut for lumber and other wood products.

Siberia is the northern part of Russia from the Ural Mountains to the Pacific and Arctic Oceans. This area is known for its frozen tundra, a treeless and marshy plain. There are also rolling hills, plateaus, and mountain ranges. The West Siberian Plain is located between the Ural Mountains and the Yenisey River. It includes large areas of taiga. An oil field with natural gas resources is also found here. This area also includes some of the world's largest swamps.

Major rivers in Russia include the Volga and Dnieper in the west, the Lena and Ob in the center, and the Amur in the east. Lake Baikal in Siberia contains more fresh water than any other lake in the world. Besides the Urals, the mountain ranges of Russia are mostly located along the borders of the country. The Caucasus Mountains contain Russia's and Europe's highest peak, Mt. Elbrus at 5,633 m (18,481 ft). A series of mountain ranges are located along the borders with China and Mongolia. The Kolyma Mountains extend into far northeastern Russia.

Since the fall of communism, Russia has been moving toward a market-based economy. However, most of the wealth and resources are still under the control of the state. Russia is a leading producer of oil, natural gas, steel, and aluminum.

The Russian head of state is the president, who is elected by the people. The head of government is the premier and several deputies and ministers, who are all appointed by the president. The premier must also be approved by the Duma. The legislature is called the Federal Assembly and is composed of the Federation Council and the State Duma. The highest courts are the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and the Constitutional Court.

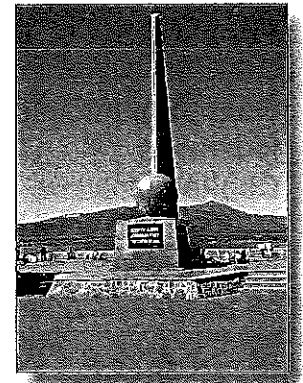
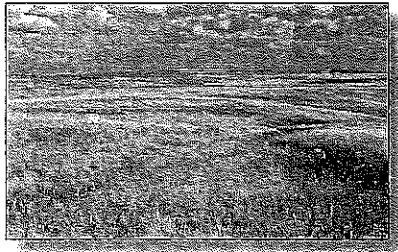


The Kremlin, Containing the Central Offices of the Russian Government

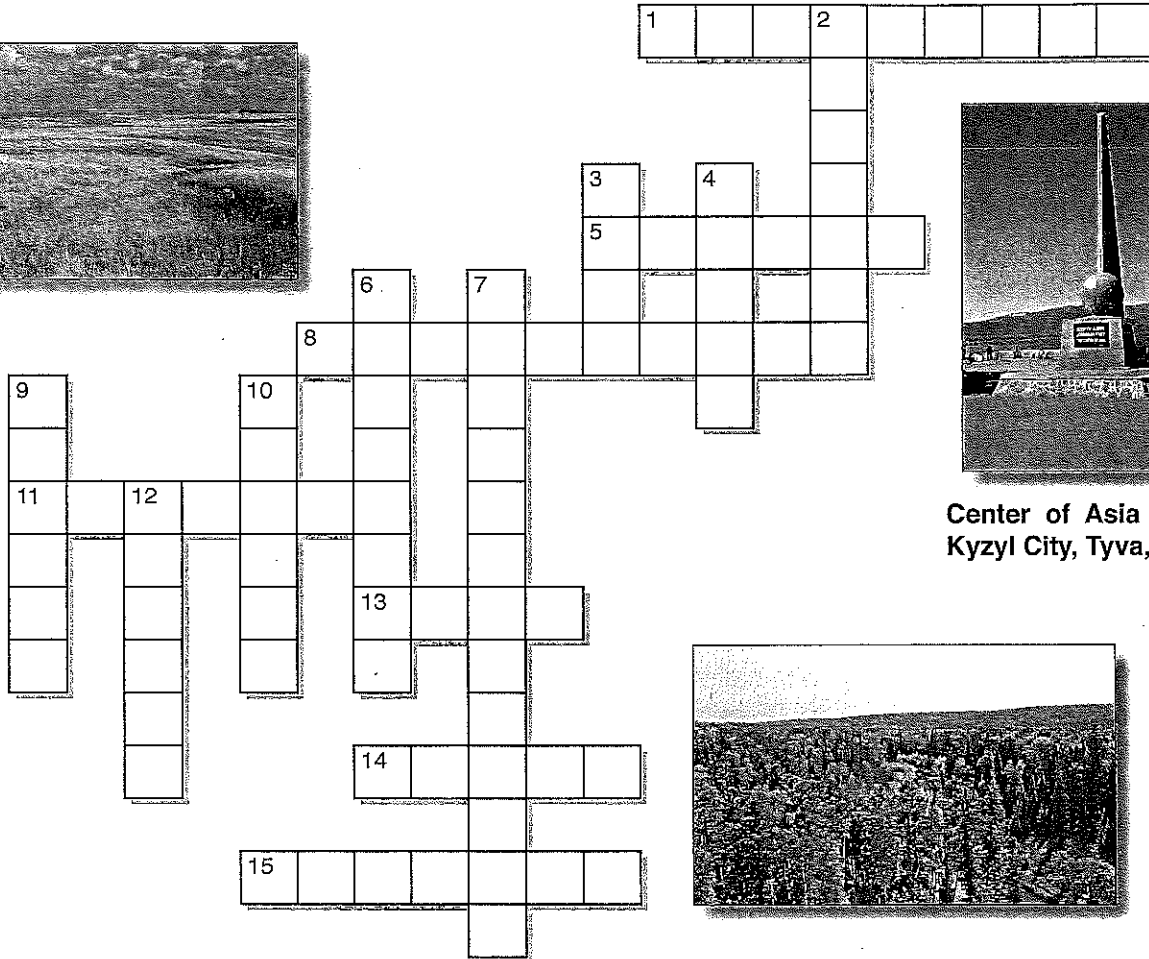
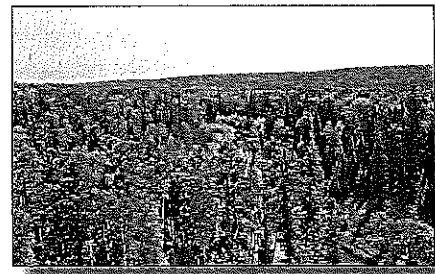
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# RUSSIA CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**Directions:** Use the clues below to complete the puzzle about Russia.



Center of Asia Marker,  
Kyzyl City, Tyva, Russia



**Across**

- 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the head of state in Russia.
- 5. Some of the world's largest \_\_\_\_\_ are located in the West Siberian Plain.
- 8. Russia is a leading producer of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 11. \_\_\_\_\_ is known for its frozen tundra.
- 13. The \_\_\_\_\_ Mountains are the dividing line between Europe and Asia.
- 14. The \_\_\_\_\_ is a major river in western Russia.
- 15. The Russian \_\_\_\_\_ is appointed by the president and approved by the Duma.

**Down**

- 2. The \_\_\_\_\_ are grassland plains without trees.
- 3. This is the continent where most of Russia's land lies.
- 4. Areas of coniferous forests are called \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6. The \_\_\_\_\_ Mountains divide southwest Russia from the Middle East.
- 7. The \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ is mostly flat with some rolling hills, marshes, lakes, and farmland.
- 9. The capital of Russia is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10. This is the continent where most of Russia's people live.
- 12. Lake \_\_\_\_\_ has more fresh water than any other lake in the world.