

IS THE GEOGRAPHY OF RUSSIA A CURSE OR BENEFIT?



YEAR 8

What Continent is Russia in?

Russia is within the continents Europe and Asia.

Eurasia is the combined continental landmass of Europe and Asia.

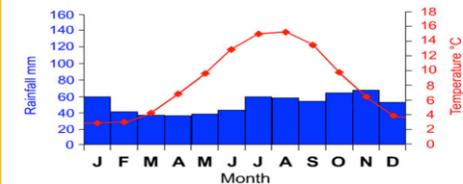
77% of the total landmass of Russia is in Asia while the rest is in Europe.



The Ural Mountains are a particularly important physical feature. The mountain range forms the traditional separation between Europe and Asia.

Russia's Climate:

Russia experiences a continental climate. It has long, cold, harsh winters and short, dry, hot summers. This can be represented on a climate graph:



Temperature = LINE GRAPH

Rainfall = BAR CHART

Weather

Climate

The state of the atmosphere at a particular place

The atmospheric conditions prevailing in an area in general or over a long period.

Biomes in Russia:

The biomes (areas of distinctive plant and animal groups, which are adapted to that particular environment) are very diverse in Russia.

Ecosystem = an interconnected community of all of the living things - biotic (e.g. plants and animals) and all of the non-living parts - abiotic of the environment (e.g. soil, water and air) that they require to survive.



Tundra: There is very little rainfall in the tundra. There are shrubs and animals will include reindeer and Muscox.

Taiga: The taiga is characterized by a cold, harsh climate, low rate of precipitation, and short growing season. There are coniferous trees and animals include the Siberian Tiger.

Steppe: Warm summers and really cold winters. Animals include rabbits and foxes. Grass is the main form of vegetation..

Temperate Forest: The deciduous forest regions are exposed to warm and cold air which cause this area to have four seasons.

Climate Change –

Changes in Earth's climate system result in new weather patterns that last for at least a few decades.



- The warming in Russia was 1.29°C for the last 100 years
- Rain increased (7.2 mm/10 years) for the period 1976–200
- Permafrost thawing
- 2010/ 2015 and 2017 Wildfire destruction has increased.

Where do people live in Russia?–



- Population density greatest in cities such as Moscow and St Petersburg
- Majority of people live in the West of Russia in the European side
- Sparse population in the north east

Russia in the Artic:

Who owns the Artic?

Arctic countries must have 200 nautical miles (miles in the sea) from the coastline or 350 miles from their continental shelf within the Arctic circle.

Why does Russia want to own Arctic?

- 30% of worlds unexploited gas reserves
- 13% of worlds oil *Until recently solid ice had prevented drilling*



What has Russia done?

In 2007 Russia planted its flag on the Arctic floor as it claimed the Lomonosov Ridge is directly connected to its continental shelf.

This caused conflict as this passes through the Central Arctic Trade Route and has implications on the environment and the local people.

Russia Rural vs Russia Urban -

Rural	Urban
A geographic area that is located outside towns and cities. Generally it has low population and lots of farming.	A town or city. Generally a built up area with a large population density (lots of people living in a small space).
X The most remote areas of Russia, some homes lack gas, plumbing, running water, and electricity.	X Russian cities are crowded.
X When Russia was part of the Soviet Union, most rural people worked on huge farms run by the government. After the Soviet Union collapsed, Russia began to break up these farms.	X The scarcity of housing forces some families to share kitchen and toilet facilities.
✓ People of Russia are avid nature lovers, and they enjoy spending time in the countryside.	✓ The quality of education, health care, and cultural life is better
✓ Rural homes generally are larger than those in the city and have private garden plots.	✓ Education or technical training that is available only in cities
	Russia is mostly an urban country; according to the census results, 74% of Russians live in urban areas -- either towns or cities.
	Rural to Urban Migration – The movement of people from the countryside to the city.



Key words:

Biome = a large geographical area of distinctive plant and animal groups, which are adapted to that particular environment.

Climate Change – Occurs when changes in Earth's climate system result in new weather patterns that last for at least a few decades.

Commodity - Any product that can be used, bought, sold or traded especially in a world market

Continental climate = A climate with a high temperature range away from the influence of the sea.

Development - The degree of wealth and material comfort available to a person or community.

Ecosystem = an interconnected community of all of the living things - biotic (e.g. plants and animals) and all of the non-living parts - abiotic of the environment (e.g. soil, water and air) that they require to survive.

GDP- is a monetary measure of all of the services (IT) and goods (cars) produced in a country over one year.

Human features – structures that have been built by man

Permafrost – Ice that stores carbon

Physical features – structures that occur naturally.

Plain = a landmass that is flat or gently rolling that covers many kilometres.

Population Density = the amount of people that live in a certain space.

Population distribution = How the people are spread out

Rural to Urban Migration = The movement of people from the countryside to the city.

Tectonic Plates - The Earth's crust (top layer) is not a solid shell. It is made up of thick, connecting pieces.

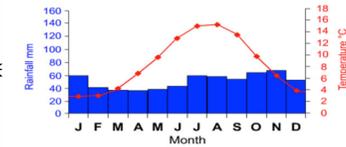
Tourism = People visiting a different place to where they live.

Volcano = a mountain or hill, typically conical, having a crater or vent through which lava, rock fragments, hot vapour, and gas are or have been erupted from the earth's crust.

Revision Tasks:

- Make a mindmap/ poster/ revision cards/notes/ presentation/ song/ answer the following questions.

1. What continent is Russia in?
2. State two positives of tourism in Russia
3. State why Russia wanted to plant its flag In the Artic.
4. In which sector do the majority of the population work in within Russia?
5. Define rural to urban migration.
6. Name one biome found in Russia
7. Using the climate graph annotate to show what shows rainfall and what shows temperature.
8. Describe the location of Russia in the world.
9. Describe the rural environment in Russia
10. Describe the distribution of the population in Russia, using the graph to the right.
11. Compare the Steppe biome to the tundra biome
12. Explain the impacts of climate change in Russia.
13. Explain how Russia's climate is different to the UK's
14. Decide whether you would rather live in rural or urban environment in Russia. Explain why.
15. Evaluate whether the physical geography of Russia influences the development rate in Russia.



Command Words:

Analyse - Take apart an idea, concept or statement and criticise it.

Assess - Come to a conclusion about the overall value or significance of something; discuss its positive and negative aspects to show balance.

Compare - Identify similarities and differences.

Define - State the meaning of an idea or concept.

Describe - Set out the main characteristics of something; DON'T EXPLAIN.

Discuss - Set out both sides of an argument (for and against) and come to a conclusion; there should be some evidence of balance.

Evaluate - Make a judgement about the effectiveness of something; discuss its strengths **and** weaknesses and come to a conclusion about its overall success or importance.

Explain - Give reasons why something happens.

Give - Produce an answer from recall.

Justify - Support an idea or argument with evidence; for the outcome chosen, the positives must outweigh the negatives.

State = name

Describe the Distribution/ Location...

When asked to describe the distribution use CLOCC.

- Compass points
- Longitude/ Latitude
- Oceans
- Continents
- Countries

