Key Diagrams
Scientists/Interesting Facts

Flag

Coat of Arms

Soviet Union Flag (USSR).   Stalin

Key Information

Russia Is the world's largest country and occupies one-tenth of all the land on Earth.
It spans 11 time zones across two continents (Europe and Asia) and has shores on three oceans (the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Ocean).
Most people in Russia live in the westernmost part of Russia **Population:** roughly 142 million people (2020)
Capital: Moscow with 12.5 million inhabitants and Russia's largest city.
The Russian landscape varies from sandy and frozen deserts, tall mountains to giant marshes. Much of Russia is made up of rolling, treeless plains called "steppes". The region of Siberia, which occupies three-quarters of Russia, is dominated by sprawling pine forests called "taigas".
Russia is among the ten largest economies in the world.
Russia is one of the leading producers of natural gas and oil as well as metals.
Russia is home to a large number of ecosystems and different species. Its forests, steppes and tundras provide habitat for many rare animals, including Asiatic black bears, snow leopards, polar bears, and small, rabbit-like mammals called pikas.
In 1917, Russians, unhappy with their government, overthrew the tsar and formed a new elected government.
A communist group called the Bolsheviks seized power.

They created the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) from Russia and 11 other countries.
U.S.S.R. fought on the side of the United States in World War II.
After the war ended in 1945, relations between the two powers and their allies became strained, leading to what's known as the **Cold War.**
After decades of conflict, the Cold War ended in 1991 with the break up of the Soviet Union.
There are about 120 ethnic groups in Russia who speak more than a hundred languages. Roughly 80 percent of Russians trace their ancestry to the Slavs who settled in the country 1,500 years ago.
Russia is known all over the world for its thinkers and artists, including writers like Leo Tolstoy and Fyodor Dostoevsky, composers such as Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, and ballet dancers like Rudolf Nureyev.
Russia's history as a democracy is short. The country's first election, which took place in 1917, was quickly reversed by the Bolsheviks, and it wasn't until the 1991 election of Boris Yeltsin that democracy took hold.

Vocabulary