

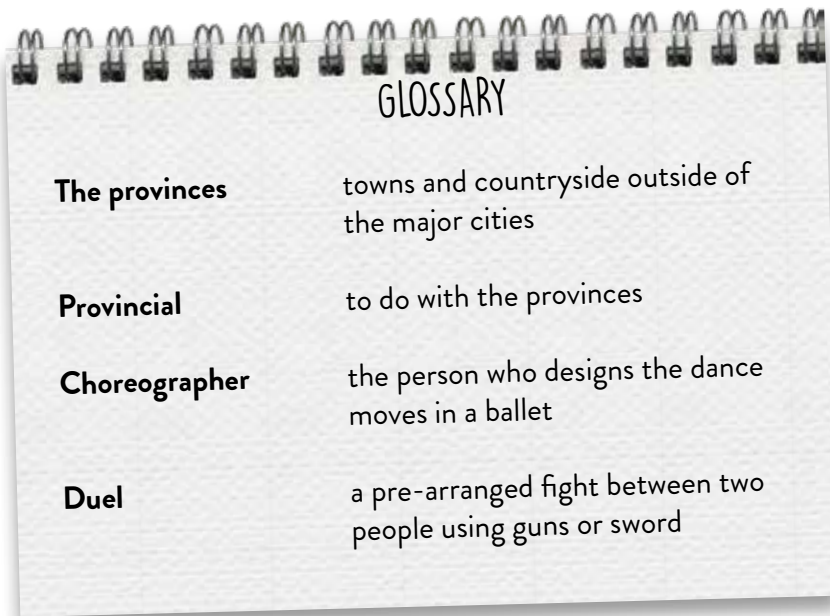
# RUSSIAN CULTURE



## QUIZ

### TRUE OR FALSE?

	TRUE	FALSE
Russia is the world's largest country	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Russia has the largest population in the world	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The capital of Russia is St Petersburg	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Russia has a tropical climate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Russia shares a border with China	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## RUSSIAN CULTURE

Russia has a rich and vibrant cultural heritage and is particularly famous for its ballet, theatre, literature, painting and folk art. Russian culture reflects its history in many ways. Before the revolution, art, music and ballet were uncontroversial: books, plays and ballets retold well-known stories and were accompanied by harmonious music. Paintings depicted traditional scenes of rural life and portraits of the rich

and famous. However, the revolution of 1917 found its way into culture as well. Paintings became jagged abstract flashes of colour, music was more atonal and challenging; ballet, theatre and literature showed the lives of the peasants and workers instead of Tsars and princesses. Some things remained however, and the traditional nesting dolls, or matryoshka, are enduring symbols of Russia.



## RUSSIAN THEATRE



### RUSSIAN THEATRE

Russia theatre is world renowned. The most famous Russian playwright is Anton Chekhov. His plays include *The Cherry Orchard*, *Three Sisters*, *The Seagull* and *Uncle Vanya*.

They depict life amidst the idle rich in provincial Russia and, although written in the 1890s, seem to predict and foreshadow the coming revolution.

### RUSSIAN BALLET

However, it is probably ballet that Russia is most famous for. The most famous ballet company is the Bolshoi ballet (link to Bolshevik. Bolshoi means big, Bolshevik means majority).

Two of the most famous composers of ballet music are Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky.



TCHAIKOVSKY



STRAVINSKY

Tchaikovsky wrote the music for *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Nutcracker*.

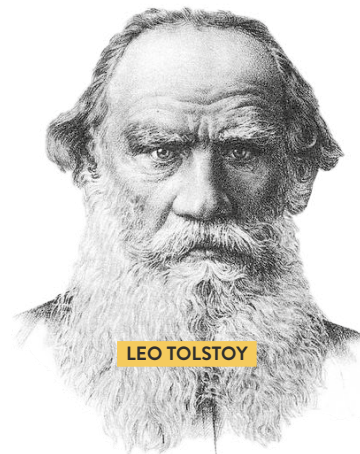
Stravinsky was a more modern composer who wrote the music for *The Firebird* and *The Rite of Spring*.



LET'S PRACTISE SOME BALLET DRILLS OURSELVES

### RUSSIAN LITERATURE

Russian literature is also world-famous. Three of the most famous authors are Tolstoy, who wrote the epic *War and Peace*, Dostoevsky, author of *Crime and Punishment* and Pushkin, famous for his short stories. Russian authors had dramatic lives. In 1849, Dostoevsky was sentenced to four years in a Siberian prison camp for anti-Tsarist activities; Tolstoy fought in several duels and Pushkin was actually killed in a duel in 1837.



LEO TOLSTOY

LET'S HEAR ONE OF PUSHKIN'S SHORT STORIES, THE QUEEN OF HEARTS