

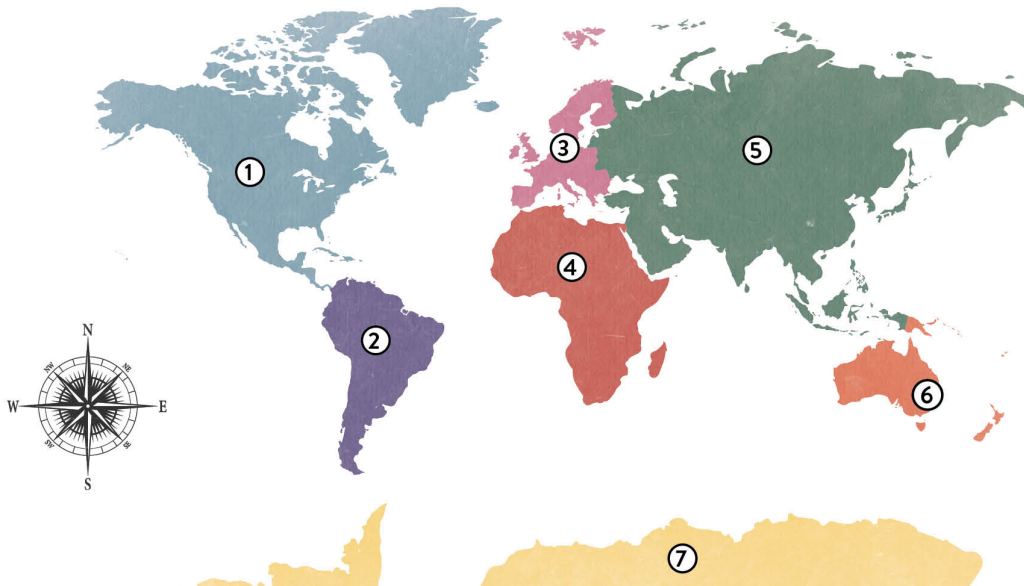
WHERE IS RUSSIA?

GLOSSARY

Continent	one of the earth's seven major areas of land
Tectonic plate	one of the massive slabs of rock that form the surface of the earth
Border	an edge between two countries
Boundary	see border
Ethnicity	a group of people who share the same culture, race, or nationality.



PART ONE: WHAT IS A CONTINENT?



A continent is a continuous mass of land, made up of many different countries. We live in the continent of Europe, which comprises 44 countries. The continents each occupy their own tectonic plates, and the boundaries between these form the boundaries between continents. These boundaries are often the sites of mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes.

How many of the world's seven continents can you remember?

- ① _____
- ② _____
- ③ _____
- ④ _____
- ⑤ _____
- ⑥ _____
- ⑦ _____

RUSSIA

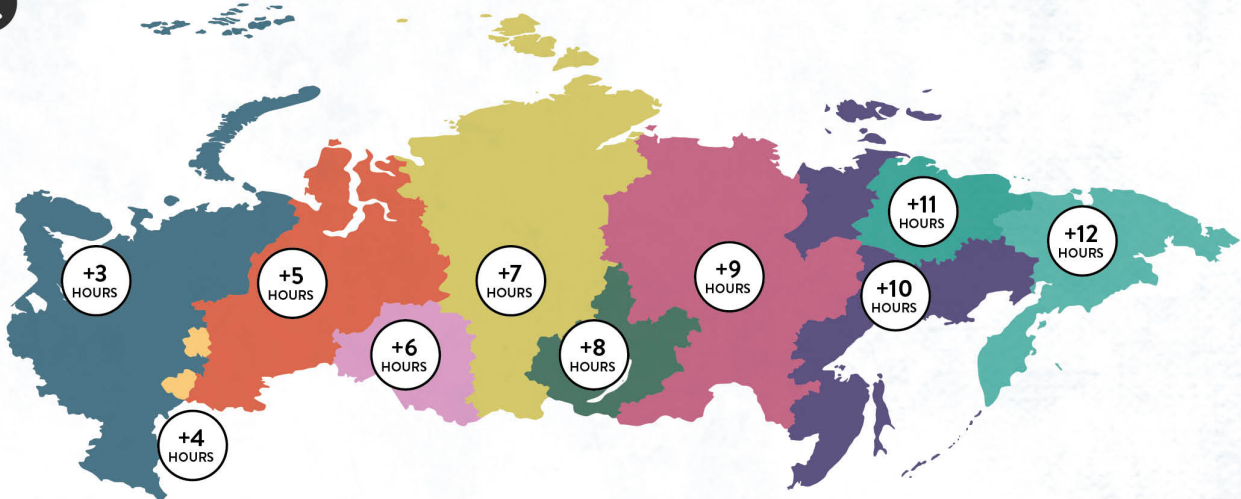


Russia is unusual because it spans two continents: Europe and Asia. The boundary between Europe and Asia is marked by the Ural mountains. Land to the West of the Urals is in Europe; land to the East is in Asia. Europe and Asia share a tectonic plate, known as the Eurasian plain. Geographers therefore sometimes use the word Eurasia to help us locate Russia.



1/10

Russia is bigger in area than Europe, Australia and Antarctica and only slightly smaller than South America (17.6 km²). It shares its border with 14 other countries. The regions within Russia encompass many different ethnicities and cultures.



Russia spans eleven different time zones that are up to 12 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time Time.



PART THREE: MAP WORK

Use your atlases to locate and label the following on the blank map below:

- The capital city of Russia
- The Ural Mountains
- Countries that border Russia
- Bodies of water including:
 - The Arctic Ocean
 - Black Sea
 - Caspian Sea
 - Lake Baikal
- Any other features that you can identify eg cities or rivers.





Russia is interesting because

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF RUSSIA, INC. RUSSIA'S BIOMES



QUIZ

1. Russia is located in which 2 continents?

i) _____

ii) _____

2. Which physical feature forms the boundary between European and Asian Russia?

3. With how many countries does Russia share a border?

10

12

14

16

4. What is the capital of Russia?

Eurasia

St Petersburg

Moscow

Ural

GLOSSARY

Climate

the normal weather in a particular place

Altitude

height above sea level

Latitude

an imaginary line going around the earth North or South of the equator

Precipitation

water falling from the sky: rain, snow, hail, sleet

Biome

an ecosystem of plants and animals, eg a desert, grassland, rainforest



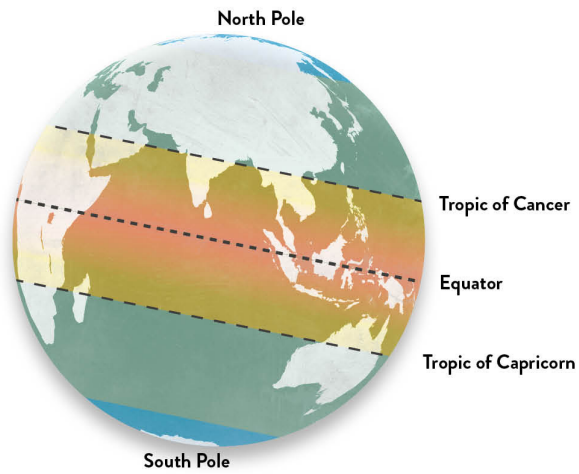
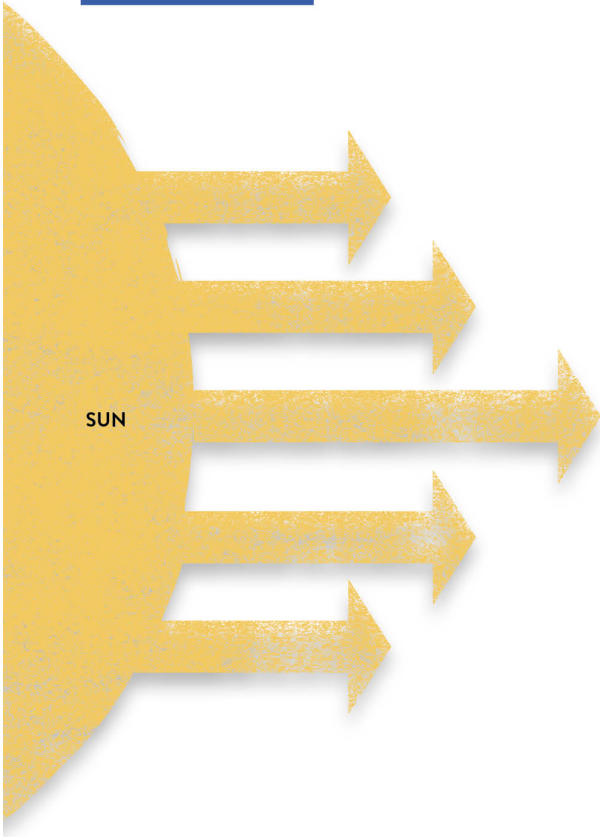
PART TWO: WHAT MAKES A CLIMATE?

The climate of a place is determined by two main factors:

- a) its latitude
- b) its altitude.

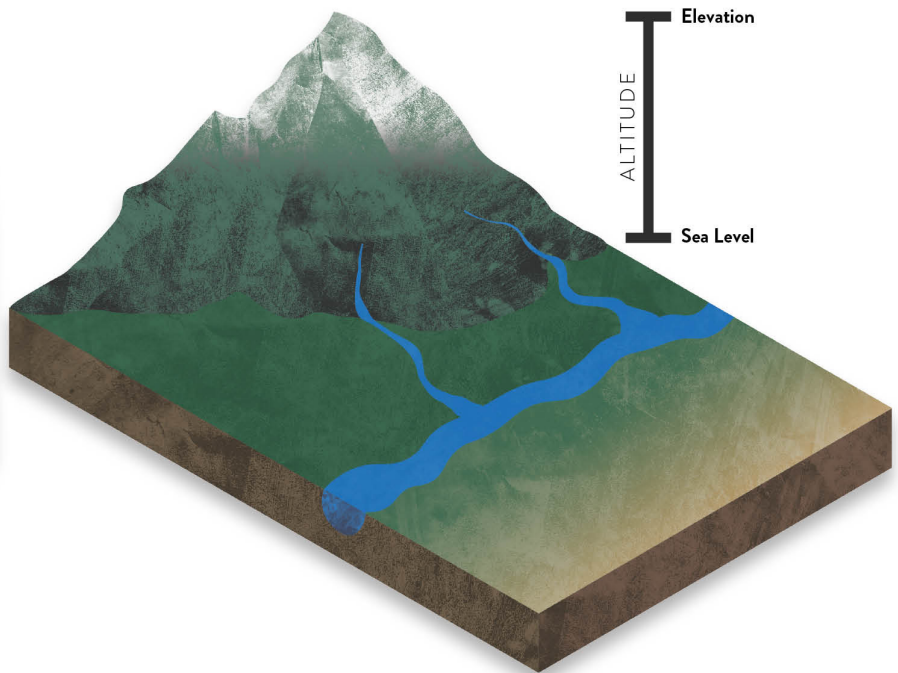
LATITUDE IS THE MEASUREMENT OF DISTANCE NORTH OR SOUTH OF THE EQUATOR.

LATITUDE



ALTITUDE

PLACES WITH A GREATER ALTITUDE — THOSE THAT ARE HIGHER ABOVE SEA LEVEL — ARE COLDER THAN THOSE WITH A LOWER ALTITUDE. JUST THINK ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TOP OF MOUNT EVEREST AND THE SAHARA DESERT!





PART THREE: RUSSIA'S CLIMATE

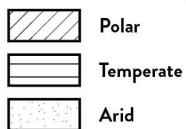
There are five main global climates:

- Tropical
- Arid
- Temperate
- Continental
- Polar

These groups are identified/determined/classified by their average temperatures and levels of precipitation.



KEY



RUSSIA'S CLIMATE

Russia is vast. Different parts of Russia therefore have different climates. Southern parts of Russia are hot and arid. Moving North, the temperature gradually drops. Parts of central Russia have a temperate climate, much like ours in the UK. North of the Arctic circle, the winter temperature regularly reaches -40°C .

Yakutsk in North-Eastern Russia is one of the world's coldest cities: in winter the temperature has dropped as low as minus 64°C !

RUSSIA'S BIOMES

The biome – types of plants and therefore all living things, is dependent on the climate. For example, the arid climate of parts of Southern Russia cannot sustain much plant life; they are therefore likely to be deserts.

In the polar North of Russia, temperatures regularly reach 40°C . The soil is permanently frozen so plant roots cannot take hold. Between the polar North and the arid South, Russia has a temperate continental climate. This climate supports a variety of biomes: the Steppe grasslands in the South, which become deciduous forests as we move North and the temperature drops. Continuing Northwards, the dominant biome is the Taiga or coniferous forest, which finally gives way to the Arctic Tundra of the far North.



LOOK BACK AT THE CLIMATE MAP. WHAT PREDICTIONS WOULD YOU MAKE ABOUT THE BIOMES IN X AND Y?



RUSSIA'S BIOMES

Russia has five main biomes, moving South to North. Can you match them to the pictures:

Deciduous forest

Similar to the woods and forests that we have in the UK. The most iconic tree in the Russian forests is the silver birch.



Steppe

Large parts of Russia are covered in grasslands. In Africa, these are called the **savannahs**. In Russia, they are called the **Steppe**.



Desert

Russia has a small amount of desert in the South East of the country, near the Caspian sea.



Taiga

A **coniferous forest** which covers large parts of the Russia. The trees which grow here can tolerate colder temperatures and lower levels of rainfall.



Tundra

The frozen North. The soil here is permanently frozen (permafrost). Too cold for trees or much plant life.



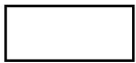


MAP WORK

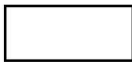
Now shade the climate map above to show the five different biomes of Russia. Don't forget to add a key below!



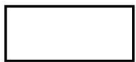
KEY



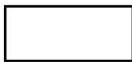
Desert



Taiga



Steppe



Tundra



Deciduous forest



The Russian landscape would be exciting to explore because _____

Furthermore _____
