

RUSSIA

KEY FACTS

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- Russia is the largest country in the world
- It covers 17 million km², one tenth of all the land on earth
- It spans two continents: Europe and Asia and eleven time zones
- The border between European Russia and Asian Russia is marked by the Ural mountains
- Vladimir Putin is the president of Russia

Physical geography

- The longest river in Russia is the Volga
- The main mountain range is the Ural mountains
- Russia contains the largest freshwater lake in the world: Lake Baikal
- The climate in Russia varies with location. The mildest areas are along the Baltic Coast. Winter in Russia is very cold, with temperatures in the northern regions of Siberia reaching -50 degrees Celsius in winter.
- Russia has four main biomes, from North to South: Arctic Tundra, Taiga or coniferous forest, Steppe or grassland, desert

Human Geography

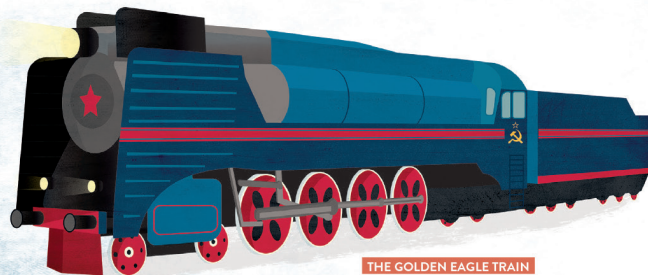
- Russia's capital city is Moscow, which has a population of just over 12 million.
- The central square in Moscow is Red Square, which is located next to the Kremlin, a fortified complex of buildings including palaces, museums and the centre of government.
- Russia's second city is St Petersburg

Russian resources

- Russia is very rich in natural resources, with gold, oil and diamonds-a-plenty
- Russia is the world's number one oil exporter



THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY FUN FACTS



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- The Trans-Siberian railway is the world's longest direct passenger train route
- The journey from Moscow to Vladivostok covers 9,288km, passes through eight time zones and takes over a week to complete
- There are 876 stations along the route