

1/8/23

Country Quiz

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers

Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

In this series of quizzes, posted every so often, we test your knowledge of world countries. This week, it's RUSSIA.

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
2. Read the first question. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may "buzz" in and answer.
4. Scoring: Give 10 points for each correct answer.

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Instructions: This week we test your knowledge of RUSSIA.

1. Russia, the largest country (in area) in the world, is mostly found on which continent?
2. Russia borders fourteen countries. How many of its neighbors can you name?
3. It's true, as former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin used to say, that you can see Russia from Alaska. The easternmost point of Russia and the westernmost point of Alaska are separated by a 53-mile strip of this waterway.
4. What is the capital of Russia?
5. The second-largest city in Russia was originally named after an early 18th century leader. In 1914, the name was changed to Petrograd, and then in 1924 to Leningrad. After the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, this city was again known by this original name.
6. What is the name of the Russian currency?
7. What is the meaning of the term Cyrillic?
8. Russia has been, at varying times, divided, then reunited, and divided again. It has been fought over and then led by a host of Eurasian groups whose names fill the history books: Slavs, Huns, Mongols, Ottomans, Tartars, and Cossacks, among others. But "modern" Russia started to take shape in the mid-16th century under the rulership of this type of monarch – a Russian term that is derived from the Latin word *Caesar*, meaning "Emperor."
9. Can you name the famous Russian ruling family that included Peter the Great (Tsar from 1682 to 1725), Catherine the Great (Tsarina from 1762 to 1796), and Nicholas II, the last Russian Tsar?
10. Catherine the Great, who presided over the Russian Age of Enlightenment, founded this famous museum. Originally built as an extension to the Winter Palace (the official residence of the Russian monarchs), today it is the largest museum in the world.
11. Can you name the Bolshevik leader who led the October Revolution of 1917 and founded the Soviet Union, the world's first socialist state?
12. After Lenin died in 1924, this communist leader came to power and initiated decades of mass repression, including executions, political purges, torture, and the imprisonment of millions. He ruled until 1953, when he died of a massive stroke.
13. One of the great symbols of the Cold War was the space race between the US and the

- USSR. Do you remember the name of the Russian cosmonaut who became the first human to orbit the Earth in April 1961?
14. Starting in 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev began to introduce new policies to enact some liberal reforms to the Soviet system. Two of these policies were *perestroika*, meaning "restructuring," and this second policy whose name means "openness."
 15. Gorbachev's office was abolished when the USSR was dissolved. Do you remember who succeeded him in 1991, and, in so doing, won the first direct presidential election in Russian history?
 16. Who is the president of Russia today?
 17. Can you name the lake located in Southern Siberia that is considered the world's oldest lake? (It is also the deepest lake in the world, and among the cleanest.)
 18. The Kalashnikov was invented in Russia. What is it?
 19. As of 2009, the average life span for a Russian male is a surprisingly low 66.4 years. (For females, the average lifespan is 76.4 years.) Researchers have discovered that the four biggest factors that contribute to a shorter lifespan among Russia men include these preventable causes.
 20. The works of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky are examples of Russia's many contributions to the world of music. Can you name the Christmas ballet that is most likely Tchaikovsky's most well known work?
 21. Born in Riga, Latvia, this 26-year-old star of the Kirov ballet was on tour in Canada when he escaped into a getaway car and defected to the west.
 22. Perhaps one of the most famous icons of Russian literature is this author of the classic novels *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*.
 23. Although he became famous playing the King of Siam in *The King and I*, this actor was actually born in Vladivostock in 1920.
 24. What are Russians Boris Spassky and Garry Kasparov famous for?
 25. Can you name the jewelry company, founded in St. Petersburg in 1842, that is famous for designing elaborate jewel-encrusted Easter eggs for the Russian Tsars?

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ANSWERS

1. Asia
2. Azerbaijan; Belarus; China; Estonia; Finland; Georgia, Kazakhstan; North Korea; Latvia; Lithuania; Mongolia; Norway; Poland; Ukraine
3. The Bering Strait
4. Moscow. *Note: With roughly 15 million residents, Moscow is not only the largest city in Russia (by far), it is also the 15th-largest city in the world.*
5. Saint Petersburg
6. The Russian ruble
7. "Cyrillic" refers to the name of the Russian alphabet. By contrast, the alphabet used for English and most European languages (a, b, c, etc.) is known as the Latin (or Roman) alphabet.
8. Tsar (also spelled Tzar, Czar, or Csar)
9. Romanov. The end of Romanov rule came in July 1918, when Nicholas, along with his wife, their four daughters, and their son (the Tsarevich), were executed by the Bolsheviks in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution.
10. The Hermitage
11. Vladimir Lenin
12. Joseph Stalin
13. Yuri Gagarin
14. *Glasnost*
15. Boris Yeltsin
16. Vladimir Putin
17. Lake Baikal
18. The AK-47 Kalashnikov is the most widely used assault rifle in the world.
19. Smoking, alcohol poisoning (drinking), traffic accidents, and violent crime. *(It should be noted that the life expectancy statistics cited above do not include the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current war with Ukraine.)*
20. *The Nutcracker*
21. Mikhail Baryshnikov
22. Leo Tolstoy
23. Yul Brynner
24. They are world champion chess players.
25. Fabergé