

Population Patterns

MAIN Idea Ethnic groups, migrations, and invasions have shaped population patterns in Russia.

GEOGRAPHY AND YOU How has the ethnic diversity in your town or city changed over the years? Read to learn about the factors that have shaped Russia's population.

Russia today is home to one of the widest varieties of ethnic groups in the world—there are more than 120 different groups. An ethnic group shares a common ancestry, language, religion, customs, or a combination of these things.

The People

Over the centuries Russia grew from a territory to a multiethnic empire that stretched from Europe to the Pacific Ocean. In the process, many non-Russian ethnic groups came under its control. During the **Soviet era**—the period between 1922 and 1991 when Russia was part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)—regional political boundaries often reflected the locations of major ethnic groups, or **nationalities**.

In 1991, after the fall of the Soviet Union, several of these larger republics, including Russia, became independent countries. Although Russia is ethnically very diverse—32 ethnic groups have their own republics or administrative territories within Russia—about 80 percent of the population is ethnic Russian.

The Slavs Ethnic Russians are part of a larger ethnic group known as Slavs, a linguistic and ethnic branch of Indo-European peoples that also includes Poles, Serbs, Ukrainians, and other eastern Europeans. The Russian Slavs have dominated the country's politics and culture.

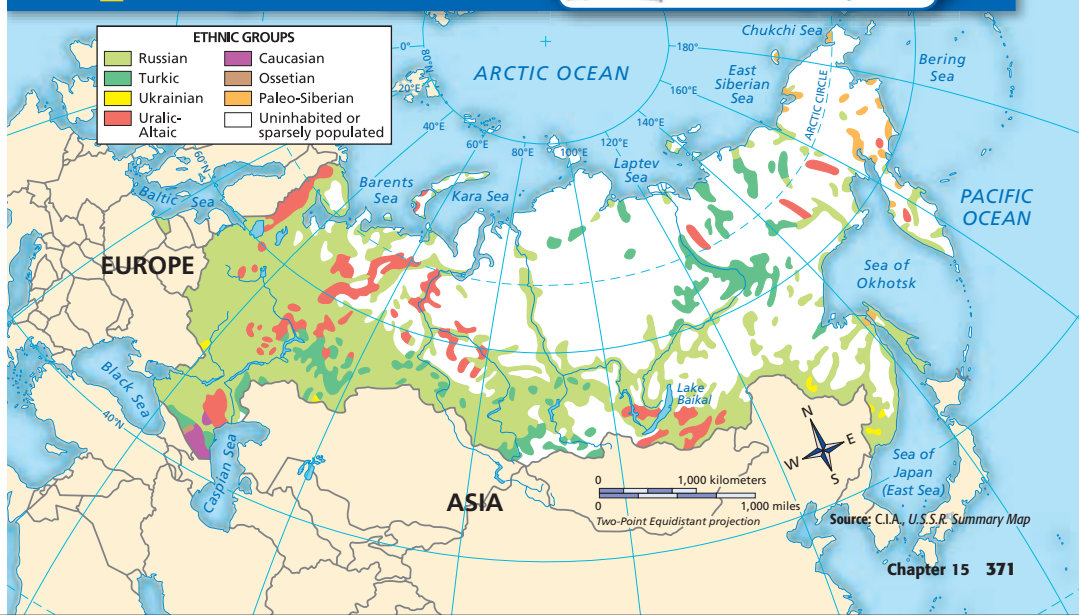
Caucasian Peoples Another large group of diverse peoples is classified as Caucasian (kaw•KAY•zhuhn) because they live in the Caucasus region of southwestern Russia. Caucasian groups include the Chechens, Dagestanis, and Ingushetians.

MAP STUDY

- Place** Where in Russia do most of the Ukrainian peoples live? Turkic peoples?
- Movement** How have the settlement patterns of ethnic groups affected political boundaries?

Use StudentWorks™ Plus or glencoe.com.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Ethnic Groups in Russia



Teach

Reading Strategy

Taking Notes Tell students that taking and organizing notes is a key factor in many forms of reading strategies. Remind them that notetaking can be their own personalized way of keeping track of the important points of any reading or lesson. **OL**

MAP STUDY

Answers

- Ukrainians live in the west, north of the Black Sea. Turkic peoples live in southern and eastern Russia.
- Ethnic groups have their own republics or administrative territories within Russia.

Hands-On Chapter Project Step 1

Russia: A Cultural Excursion

Step 1: Plan a Cultural Tour of Russia Students will research and collect information and art related to a cultural tour of Russia.

Essential Question If you were to design a tour for students traveling to Russia, where would you send them and what would they see?

Directions Have students work in groups to research the diverse cultures of Russia with the goal of preparing a package of cultural experiences to offer student travelers. Along the way, have groups consider and research the arts, folk events, sports, museums, historical sites, and anything they think other students would find interesting.

Putting It Together As they do their research, have groups organize pictures and descriptions to be considered for their package. In this step, groups should gather as much information as they can, realizing that, in the end you cannot do everything and that some things will have to be discarded. **OL**

(Chapter Project continues on page 379.)

C Critical Thinking

Determining Cause and Effect

Point out to students that human-environment interaction is an example of cause and effect as it relates to population distribution. **Ask:** What environmental qualities make your location a desirable place to live and work? (Answers will vary but might touch on proximity to waterways, arable land, or job opportunities.) **OL**

For additional practice on this skill, see the **Skills Handbook**.

MAP STUDY

Answers

1. It is cold, and the land is swampy and mountainous.
2. In the west and the south. Soil is rich, there are waterways, and the climate is milder in those regions, so most of Russia's population lives there.

READING Check Answer: oil, waterways, and a milder climate

Turkic Peoples Turkic-speaking peoples live in southwestern Russia in the Caucasus area and in the middle Volga area. The Turkic peoples of Russia include the Tatars, Chuvash, Bashkirs, and the Sakha. The most numerous of these groups are the Tatars, many of whom live in **Tatarstan** (TA•ruhr•STAN), a western republic. Russia has ruled Tatarstan since the mid-1550s. However, the republic, like other Russian republics, does have a limited amount of **sovereignty** (SAH•vuh•ruhn•tee), or self-rule.

The Sakha are a combination of local groups and Turkic peoples who originally settled along the middle **Lena River**. Formerly seminomadic, the Sakha in southern Siberia have expanded into northeastern Russia.

Density and Distribution

About 80 percent of all Russians live in western Russia. This is due in part to the rich soil, waterways, and a milder climate than that in eastern Russia. Densely settled western Russia includes the country's industrialized cities. The major industrial city is **Moscow**, Russia's capital. Since

1990, urban population growth in many industrialized centers has leveled off or decreased.

Population is more dispersed east of the Ural Mountains. Only 20 percent of Russia's population lives in Siberia, an area that accounts for about two-thirds of the country's land area. Frozen tundra, mountains, and forests make most of this part of Russia unsuitable for farming.

During the earlier years of the Soviet era, many ethnic Russians migrated to non-Russian republics of the Soviet Union. In the 1970s, however, this trend began to reverse. Since the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, more ethnic Russians have returned to their homeland. Most have settled in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and southwestern Russia. Because of this trend, the number of people moving into the country has been greater than the number of Russians leaving the country.

READING Check **Human-Environment Interaction** Why do most people live in western Russia?

MAP STUDY

1. **Human-Environment Interaction** What factors have contributed to the sparse population of eastern Russia?
2. **Location** Where are many of Russia's largest cities located? Why is this important?

Use StudentWorks™ Plus or glencoe.com.



Differentiated Instruction

Leveled Activities

BL Differentiated Instruction, p. 62

OL Enrichment Activity, URB, p. 29

AL Differentiated Instruction, p. 59

ELL Vocabulary Activity, URB, p. 24

Learn More About

Enrichment Activity 15

Major Events in Twentieth-Century Russian History

Objectives: Use the following information to complete the timeline activity. Be sure to include the date and the location of each event.

1917-1918: The Russian Revolution. The Bolsheviks took power in the city of Petrograd (now St. Petersburg).

1922: The Soviet Union was formed by the union of the Russian Republic and the Transcaucasian, Ukrainian, and Byelorussian Republics.

1929-1933: The Great Purge. Joseph Stalin's campaign to eliminate political opponents and consolidate power.

1941-1945: World War II. The Soviet Union fought against the Axis powers.

1954: The Soviet Union established the Communist Party.

1991: The Soviet Union collapsed.

1991-1999: The Chechen War. A conflict in the North Caucasus region.

2000-2008: Vladimir Putin's Presidency. Putin's leadership in the 2000s.

Objectives: Use the Line Box to decide whether each of the following represents a war or a revolution.

1. The Russian Revolution of 1917

2. The Great Purge of 1929-1933

3. The Soviet Union collapsed in 1991

4. The Chechen War in the North Caucasus region of Russia

5. The Soviet Union lasted for 74 years

6. Vladimir Putin was elected president of Russia on the sixth anniversary of the Russian Revolution

My Pup Pal Lives in St. Petersburg

Objectives: Use the following information to complete the map activity. Be sure to include the date and the location of each event.

1917-1918: The Russian Revolution. The Bolsheviks took power in the city of Petrograd (now St. Petersburg).

1922: The Soviet Union was formed by the union of the Russian Republic and the Transcaucasian, Ukrainian, and Byelorussian Republics.

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Vocabulary Activity 15

Cultural Geography of Russia

Objectives: Match each definition in the first column with the correct term in the second column. Write the letter of the correct term in the blank at the end of each sentence. Each item is worth 10 points.

1. general term for a major ethnic group

2. culture

3. opposite side of Russia

4. belief calling for greater economic equality

5. member of a revolutionary group led by Lenin

6. philosophy calling for a new society led by violence

7. country controlled by the Soviet Union

8. struggle between communism and capitalism for world influence

9. policy of economic self-reliance

10. policy of greater political openness

11. belief that there is no God

12. second largest religious group in Russia

13. the subject of Lenin, Brezhnev, Khrushchev

14. organized religious movement

15. state-globally sourced communism

A. ethnic group

B. religion

C. Cold War

D. communism

E. czar

F. ethnic group

G. Islam

H. socialism

I. nationalism

J. religion

K. Islam

L. Buddhism

M. communism

N. self

O. socialism

P. religious religious movement

Q. religious movement

R. nationalism

Culture

MAIN Idea The policies of the Soviet government have had lasting effects on Russia's culture.

GEOGRAPHY AND YOU How has religion influenced culture in the United States? Read to learn about the influence of religion in Russia.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, millions of Russians are rediscovering their faiths and traditions and expressing themselves creatively.

Language and Religion

Although more than 100 languages are spoken in Russia today, Russian is the country's official language. Ethnic Russians generally speak only this language, while people belonging to other ethnic groups are bilingual and speak their own language and Russian. The Altaic family of languages is spoken by the Turkic peoples of western Russia. The primary languages spoken in eastern Russia are Russian and the Turkic languages spoken by the Sakha.

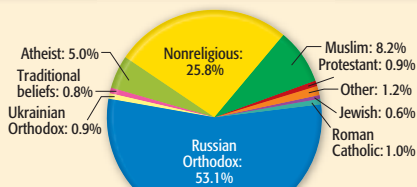
The Soviet government strictly discouraged religious practices and discriminated against certain groups. It actively promoted **atheism** (AY•thee•IH•zuhm), or the belief that there is no God or other supreme being. In the late 1980s, however, the government began to relax its restrictions on religion.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, the influx of many foreign missionaries from Western Christian denominations prompted lawmakers in 1997 to place restrictions on the activities of newly established religious groups. Only Russian Orthodoxy, Islam, Judaism, and Buddhism were allowed full liberty as traditional religions of Russia.

Christianity The Eastern Orthodox Church had been central to Russian culture for a thousand years before the Communist revolution in 1917. In 988 Prince Vladimir, leader of Kievan Rus, adopted Eastern Orthodox Christianity as Russia's official religion. By 1453 the Byzantine Empire, the center of the Eastern Orthodox Church, had fallen, and Russia asserted its claim as leader of the Orthodox Christian world.

Today, most Russians who claim a religious affiliation belong to the Russian branch of the Orthodox Church. Many of the churches that were looted or destroyed during the Soviet era

Religion in Russia Today



Source: Encyclopaedia Britannica 2009.

GRAPH STUDY

- Place** How does the number of Christians in Russia compare to the number of Muslims?
- Place** Why do you think so many Russians classify themselves as nonreligious?

have been repaired and rebuilt. Other Christian groups, including Roman Catholics and Protestants, have also reemerged.

Islam Islam is the second-largest religion in Russia and also enjoying a rebirth. The majority of people who practice Islam in Russia live in the Caucasus region and between the Volga River and the Urals. Most Russian Muslims follow the Sunni branch, which is practiced in most Arab countries as well as in Turkey and Afghanistan.

Judaism People practicing Judaism in Russia have long been persecuted. In czarist times, Jews could settle only in certain areas, could not own land, and were often the targets of organized persecution and massacres known as **pogroms**. Yet Jewish communities managed to thrive in many of Russia's cities.

Events in the twentieth century took a tragic toll on Russia's Jews. As a result, many Jews migrated to Israel or the United States. Despite lingering prejudice, Jewish communities in Russia are restoring their religious practices.

Buddhism The republics of Tuva, Buryatia, and Kalmykia (kal•MIH•kee•uh), near the **Caspian Sea**, have a large number of Buddhists, giving the religion traditional status in the country. A small number of Buddhists live in the larger cities such as St. Petersburg and Moscow, where they have access to urban Buddhist centers and facilities.

RUSSIA

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CHAPTER 15 Section 1

D Differentiated Instruction

Verbal/Linguistic ELL students may appreciate help in using various pronunciation keys. Students may be interested in seeing English/Russian dictionaries and learning the Cyrillic alphabet. **ELL**

R Reading Strategy

Organizing Have students create a chart that presents the following information on Russia's four officially recognized religions: percentage of population represented, how the religion came to Russia, key points of the religion's history in Russia, and the religion's contributions to Russian culture. Students may need to use library or Internet resources. **OL**

GRAPH STUDY

Answers

- There are more than six times as many Christians as Muslims.
- The government actively promoted atheism for many years.

Additional Support

Activity: Interdisciplinary Connection

Language Arts Have students work in groups to learn the Russian alphabet or some basic Russian words and phrases.

Groups will work to develop a short Russian language presentation for the rest of the class. Tell them that their presentation can be learning and presenting the Russian alphabet. Explain that if they do this type of activity, they should

write the letters on the board and give the rest of the class instruction on how to pronounce the letter. Another group could sing the Alphabet Song in Russian. Other groups might consider developing short verbal exchanges to present for the class that would include name introductions and polite exchanges. **OL**