

European Geography & Cultures Class

Second – Fourth Grade

European Russia

See related blog post on <http://CottonRidgeHomeschool.com> for free PDF Files and images. The blog post also has links to Map Folder, Stamp Album, and Card File instructions.

A. Introduction to European Russia

1. Read

- [Gallop the Globe](#) page 61
- [Children Just Like Me](#) page 37
- [A to Z Russia](#) (The images in the PDF file provided in the related blog post and my sample cards are based on this book.)

2. Map Folders and Stamp Albums

- Pass out Folders and Stamp Albums.
- Pass out postage stamps from Russia and stamp hinges.

B. Physical Geography of Russia

1. Where on Earth

- **Find** the continent of Europe and the country of Russia on a globe. Have students color Russia on the map on their folder.
- **Find** Europe and Russia in the Atlas: start on page 76 of [Where on Earth? Atlas](#), then find the country on page 78. Move on to page 80 to view the landscape, and to page 94 to see it by night.

2. Climate, Population and Wildlife

- The **climate** of Russia is mainly continental, with a big arctic section in the north. The east of the country experiences harsh, long, bitterly cold winters. The north of the country is always covered with snow and subject to permafrost. Southern Russia enjoys warm to sometimes hot summers with a lot rainfall, and very cold snowy winters. (<https://weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine-in-Russia>)
- To see pictures of some of the animals living in Russia **visit**: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/places/Russia>.
- **Read** page 72 – 73 of the [DK Children's Atlas](#) about European Russia. **Find out** about Russian **agricultural** products, major **landforms**, and **water** bodies.

3. Card File – Follow General Card File Instructions.

- **Listen** to a Russian Music CD (see below) while working
- **Flag** and **Map** Country Cover Card PDF File
- Country **Information** Card PDF File
- **Category** Cards - plain index cards or pre-printed PDF File (you may want to provide samples for students to copy)
- **Images** PDF File for Category Cards

C. People

Choose the activities that interest you the most. Add to your Card File as you learn new things and complete activities. Listen to related music and/or stories while doing projects if possible.

1. Artists

✦ Sonia Delaunay ✦ Peter Carl Fabergé ✦ Vasily Zvyozdochkin & Sergey Malyutin* ✦ Marc Chagall

- **Look** at art from one or more of these artists on the iPad or in a book from the library
- **Paint** a picture inspired by Sonia Delaunay: <https://artfulparent.com/2015/02/artist-study-kids-sonia-delaunay.html>.
- **Make** a decorated egg inspired by Peter Carl Fabergé: <http://www.mykidsadventures.com/faberge-egg>.
- **Make** paper Matryoshka Nesting Dolls: <http://dans-mon-bocal.over-blog.com/article-qu-est-ce-qu-on-fait-aujourd-hui-8-39606708.html>
- **Color** Matryoshka Nesting Dolls: <http://chickeemama.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2013-01-19T18:09:00-08:00&max-results=1>

* Creators of the Matryoshka Nesting Dolls

2. Authors & Poets

✦ Leo Tolstoy ✦ Anton Chekhov ✦ Fyodor Dostoevsky

- **Read** or listen to a Russian story (list on page 62 of [Gallop the Globe](#)).
- **Find out** more about one of the authors above.

3. Composers

✦ Sergei Prokofiev ✦ Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky ✦ The Five

- **Listen** to *Peter and the Wolf* by Sergei Prokofiev.
- **Listen** to *Tchaikovsky Discovers America* (Classical Kids Audio Series).
- **Listen** to *The Story of Tchaikovsky in Words and Music* (VOX Music Masters Series).
- **Find out** more about The Five (also known as the Mighty Handful).

4. Prominent People

- ✦ Catherine the Great ✦ Peter the Great ✦ Nicholas II ✦ Yuri Gagarin ✦ Valentina Tereshkova
- **Read** or listen to a story about one of these important people.

5: Scientists

- ✦ Mikhail Lomonosov (Chemistry) ✦ Sofia Kovalevskaya (Mathematics)
- ✦ Aleksander Stoletov (Physics) ✦ Alexander Popov (Radio) ✦ Vladimir Zworykin (TV)
- **Read** or listen to a biography about a scientist from Russia.
- **Do** a related experiment.

D. Places & Food

1. Landmarks & Attractions

- ✦ Trans-Siberian Railroad ✦ Saint Basil's Cathedral ✦ Moscow Kremlin ✦ Alexander Palace
- ✦ Catherine Palace ✦ Peterhof Palace ✦ Winter Palace and Hermitage Museum
- Paint St. Basil's Cathedral: <http://www.paintedpaperart.com/2012/01/st-basils-cathedral/>
- Color St. Basil's Cathedral: <http://www.crayola.com/free-coloring-pages/print/st-basils-cathedral-moscow-coloring-page/>
- Create Onion Domes: <https://creativefamilyfun.net/exploring-russia-creating-onion-domes/>

2. Festivals & Events

- ✦ Russian Orthodox Christmas ✦ Tatyana's Day ✦ International Festival of Snow & Ice Sculpture
- ✦ Shrovetide ✦ May Day ✦ Sabantui ✦ Ivan Kupalo Day
- **Learn** about how to celebrate a Russian Orthodox Christmas: <https://russian-crafts.com/russiantraditions/russian-christmas.html#/cmsPage/55>
- **Make** Ice Art: <https://nurturerstore.co.uk/ice-art-winter-craft-for-kids>
- **Make** Ice Balloons: <http://queenvannacreations.com/blog//2012/02/01/ice-balloons/>
- **Make** a Flower Wreath: <http://mamapapabubba.com/2015/05/15/cupcake-liner-flower-wreath/> or <https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/printable-flower-wreaths/>

3. Food

- **Read** Eat Your Way Around the World, page 58 - 60.
- **Make** Borscht (beet soup), Medianyky (honey cakes), Beef Stroganoff.

Find more ideas on my Russia Pinterest Board:

<https://www.pinterest.com/cottonridgellc/world-geography-cultures/russia/>

Checklist for Basic Materials:

- Globe
- Galloping the Globe
- Where On Earth? Atlas
- DK Children's World Atlas
- Children Just Like Me
- A to Z Russia (or similar book)
- Map Folders, Stamp Albums, Stamps & Hinges
- Card File materials including printed PDF files (see general instructions)
- Music and/or Story CDs
- iPad or Computer with internet connection for research (optional)

Checklist for Projects:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Checklist for International Food Dishes:

- Eat Your Way Around the World cookbook *or* Recipes
- Recipe ingredients: _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
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- _____
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- _____