Russia and the Eurasian Republics



1.1 Physical Geography

- Russia and the Eurasia republics make up 1/6th of the land surface on earth
- Russia is 6,000 miles long from east to west
- Eurasia republics include: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan



Geographic features

- Huge plains called steppes- Northern European Plain and West Siberian Plain
- Central Siberian Plateau
- Oceans- Arctic to the north and Pacific to the east
- Deserts to the south
- Mountains- Caucasus- Eurasian republics and Ural in west central Russia











1.2 Land of Extreme Climates

- ¹/₂ of the land in Russia is permafrost
- Winters are cold- some areas have 60 below zero temperatures
- Winters are also dark- some areas have darkness all day for more than a month
- Vegetation is affected by the climate
 - Tundra only small plants, few trees
 - Taiga- forest area
 - Agriculture is limited to western plains(Black and Caspian Sea areas) Herding in arid and semiarid areas





1.3 Natural resources

- Among the richest in the world in resources
 - Oil and natural gas in Eurasia
 - Peat –
 - Hydroelectric power-
 - Iron ore, aluminum, gold, copper, platinum, uranium, cobalt, manganese and chrome
- Resources are hard to reach in Siberia
 - Remote locations
 - Permafrost makes harvesting resources very difficult

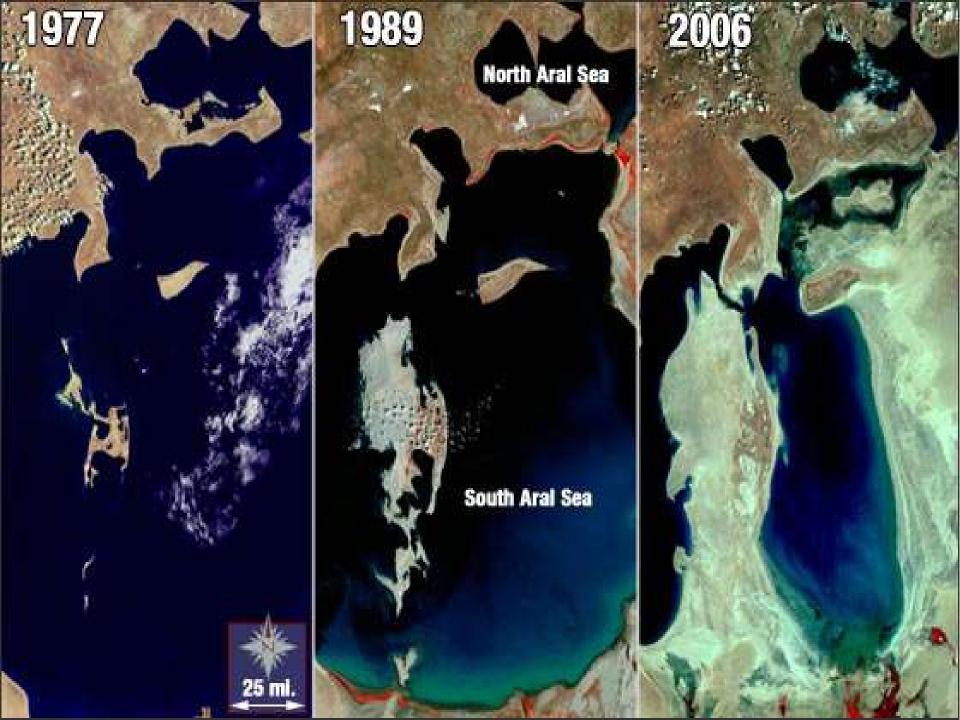


photo by Michael Shamshidov

1.4 Central Asian Landscapes

- Efforts to grow cotton in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan with irrigation have led to the shrinking of the Aral Sea
- Problems
 - Heavy fertilizer and pesticide residues were left in the land
 - Loss of habitat for both plants and animals
 - Threat to humans- toxic chemical in the land
 - Fishing industry was almost non existent
- Dams were built in 2005 in Kazakhstan to save the North Aral Sea