

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

RUSSIA NOTES

PHYSICAL

Russia & the Republics

- ▣ Russia and the Republics cover 1/6 of earth's land surface
- ▣ 8 1/2 million square miles
- ▣ Three times the land area of U.S.
 - **Russia spans 11 time zones**
- ▣ **Distance decay** – long-distance communication, transportation are hard





RUSSIA

Political Map



Map not to Scale

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(Updated on 28th January, 2013)

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1-Ivanovo | 5-Nizhny Novgorod | 9- Vladimir | 13-Ingushetia | 17- Mordovia | 21-Kaliningrad |
| 2-Kaluga | 6- Oryol | 10-Yaroslavl | 14-Kabardino-Balkaria | 18-North Ossetia-Alania | |
| 3-Lipetsk | 7- Tambov | 11-Chechnya | 15-Karachay-Cherkessia | 19- Tatarstan, | |
| 4-Moscow | 8-Ulyanovsk | 12-Chuvashia | 16- Mari El | 20-Udmurtia | |

- Federal Boundary
- Federal Region Boundary
- International Boundary
- ★ Capital

1. Adygea
2. Altai
3. Bashkortostan
4. Buryatia
5. Dagestan
6. Ingushetia
7. Kabardino-Balkaria
8. Kalmykia

9. Karachay-Cherkessia
10. Karelia
11. Komi
12. Mari El
13. Mordovia
14. Sakha (Yakutia)
15. North Ossetia-Alania
16. Tatarstan

17. Tuva
18. Udmurtia
19. Khakassia
20. Chechnya
21. Chuvashia
22. Crimea



Lakes

- ▣ Caspian Sea - largest inland sea in world
 - 750-mile-long (north to south) saltwater lake



Lakes

- ▣ **Aral Sea** - east of Caspian, is also saltwater
 - has lost 80% of water volume since 1960 due to irrigation



What has happened...

In 1989-1990, the Aral Sea separated into two parts: the 'Large Aral' and the 'Small Aral'



1957

from a map



1977

from satellite images



1982

from satellite images



1984

from satellite images



1993

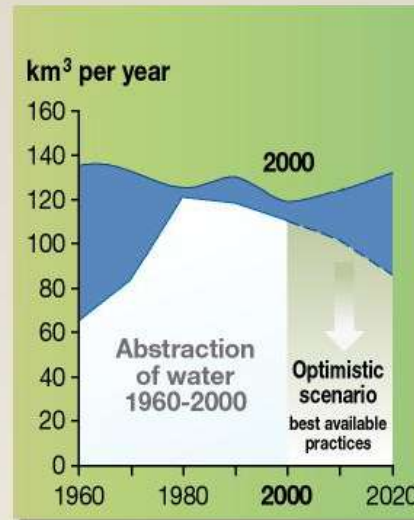
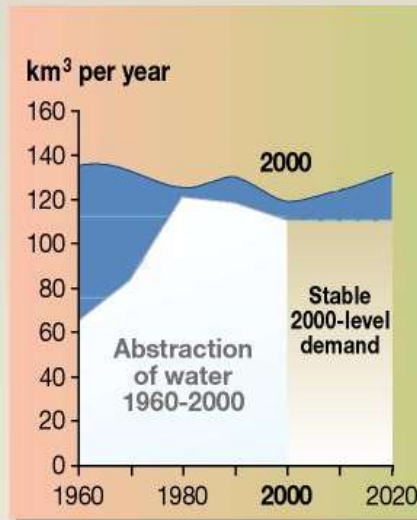
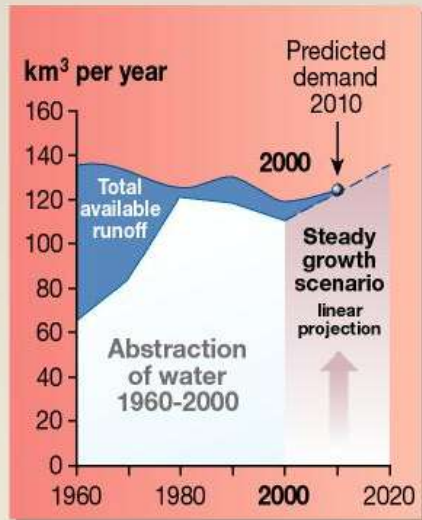
from a map



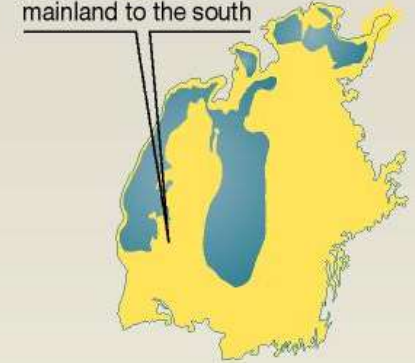
November 2000

from satellite images

What could happen...



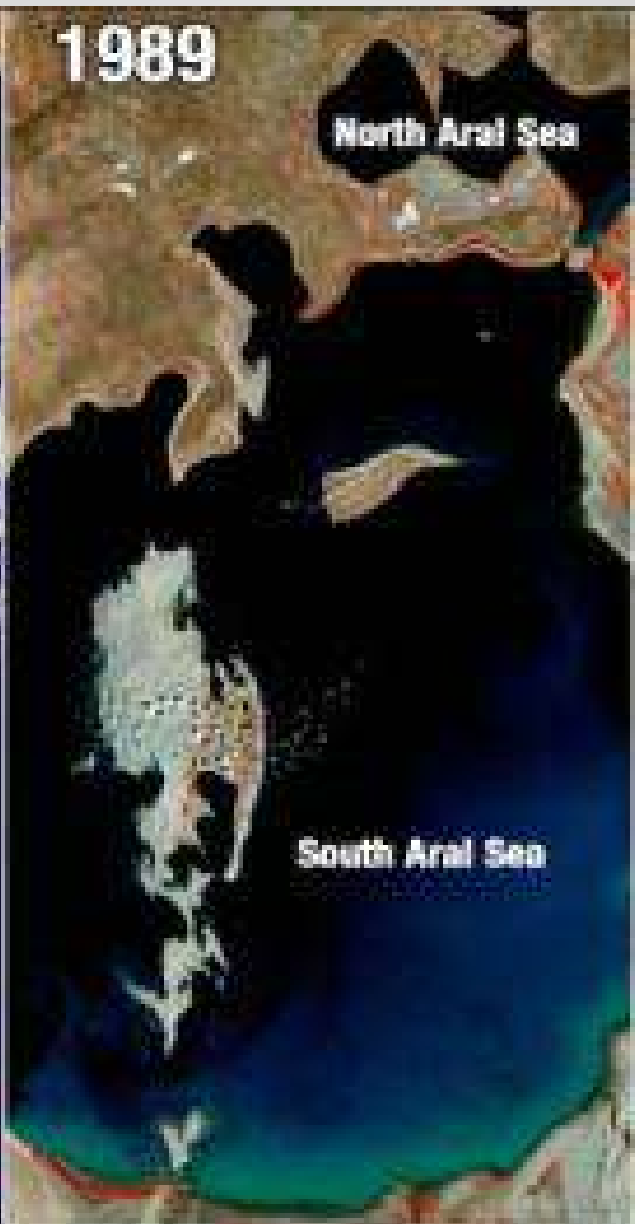
Between November 2000 and June 2001, Vozrojdeniya Island joined the mainland to the south



November 2007

from satellite images

Sources: Nikolai Denisov, GRID-Arendal, Norway (especially for the graphics below); Scientific Information Center of International Coordination Water Commission (SIC ICWC); International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS); The World Bank; National Astronautics and Space Administration (NASA); United States Geological Survey (USGS), *Earthshots : Satellite images of environmental change*, United States Department of the Interior, 2000.



Lakes

- ▣ **Lake Baikal** - Deepest & oldest lake in the world
 - a mile from surface to bottom at deepest point
 - 400 miles long, holds 20% of world's fresh water
 - home to 2,500 unique plant & animal species



Natural Resources

- ▣ Many of Russia's resources are in **Siberia** - frigid, arctic Russian area of Asia
- ▣ Hard to get at & move resources due to climates, terrain & distances
- ▣ **taiga** – largest forest on earth located in Russia - Produces 1/5 of the world's timber



Climatic Zones



Winkel Tripel Projection

Russia's Climate

- ▣ Humid continental and subarctic climates dominate region
- ▣ **Continentality** - effect the region's enormous size has on its climates
 - Distance from sea decreases precipitation
- ▣ -moisture from Atlantic Ocean is lost further inland
- ▣ Distance from sea also creates extreme temperatures

Russia's Climate

- ▣ Siberia – average temperatures are usually below 50 degrees F
 - Siberian temperatures can drop below -90 degrees F
- ▣ Region has layer of permafrost that can reach depths of 1,500 feet
- ▣ Buildings on permafrost sink and fall when their heat thaws ground
 - buildings must be set off ground on concrete pillars



Review Questions

What body of water is Eastern Europe farther away from than Western Europe which results in it having a harsher climate?

What mountains divide Europe from Asia?

What do people who believe Europe & Asia are one continent call it?

What is the oldest & deepest lake in the world?

What region in Russia has many resources & a very cold climate cold climate?

Review Questions

How many time zones does Russia cross?

What is Taiga

Why do builders in Siberia have to take special precautions with their buildings?

What is the largest inland sea in the world?

What is distance decay?

CULTURE & ECONOMY

History of Expansion

- ▣ 9th century- Vikings from Scandinavia established a settlement near Kiev, soon the settlement began to expand.
- ▣ Expansion halted in the 13th century, invasion of the Mongols (Tatars). Who controlled the region until the 1500s
- ▣ Ivan the Great (prince of Moscow), ended their rule. Also the first **czar** of Russia. Extended territory.
- ▣ By the 17th century the empire expanded to the Pacific Ocean.

Lagging behind Western Europe

- ▣ Rapid territorial growth, but less than impressive advances in technology.
- ▣ **Peter the Great** (czar from 1682-1725) moved capital to **St. Petersburg** “window to the west.”
- ▣ Made strides in **modernizing** Russia
- ▣ However, didn't develop industry until the end of the 19th century (W. Euro- mid 19th)
- ▣ Industry: harsh working conditions and low wages contributed to resentment towards the czars

Bolshevik Revolution...a new beginning

- ▣ During WW I, anger turned to revolt.
- ▣ **1917- Russian Revolution: Russian Communist Party, led by V.L. Lenin took control of government from the czars. Also, the economy**
- ▣ By 1922 created the U.S.S.R., the Soviet Union
- ▣ By WW II Joseph Stalin takes control, led the Soviets in the fight against Germany, but as the war came to a close tension arose between them and the West, especially the U.S.

Marxism

- ▣ Karl Marx- believed that the capitalist system was doomed because it concentrated wealth in the hands of a few, leaving everyone else in poverty. *Communist Manifesto*
- ▣ Also, he predicted that communism system would replace capitalism
- ▣ In a communist society, citizens would own property together, and share the wealth.
- ▣ **Command Economy**

Harsh Reality

- ▣ Rapid industrialization was a major goal, and industrial and agricultural production increased.
- ▣ However this transformation forced the people to sacrifice greatly, million starved, many tried to fight this betrayal, but at great risk.
- ▣ Under Stalin, some 14 million were put to death.

Cold War

- ▣ Stalin installed pro-Soviet governments in Eastern European countries (satellite nations).
- ▣ In the 1940s, tensions between the U.S. and Soviet Union led to conflict.... The Cold War
- ▣ The rivalry continued into the mid-1980s, when Mikhail Gorbachev started to give more political and economic freedom to the Soviet people.
- ▣ The Soviet Union officially collapsed in 1991
- ▣ With the fall, the region was divided into 15 independent republics, of these Russia is the largest and most powerful.

Traditional Russian Country Home



Eastern Europe's Economy

- ▣ 1945 – 1989 - Eastern Europe had a **command economy** - central government made major economic decision
 - Inefficient system brought shortages, trade deficiencies, & pollution
- ▣ 1989, - Soviet Union tried **market economy** - making goods consumers want
- ▣ 1992 - Russia began process of **privatization** - sold government-owned businesses to private individuals & companies (prices of goods increase 250%)

RUSSIA AND THE FORMER SOVIET UNION, 1991



Eastern Europe's Economy

- ▣ **Lingering Problems** include old equipment, lack of materials, few educated workers & capital
- ▣ 1990s - **“Russian mafia”** criminal organizations grew rapidly
- ▣ control 40% of private companies & 60% of state- owned companies
- ▣ Organized crime slowed economic reform by rewarding illegal activity
 - government cannot tax such activity