

CIVILIZATION: Russia (600-1450)

Time Period:	600-1450CE
Geographic Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Dneiper River flows North to South into the Black Sea which provided interaction with Constantinople; Kiev (early center of Russia- now Ukraine) developed along the river to the north as a major trading city -lands surrounding Dneiper and Kiev are a bread basket -tundra to the north -Ural Mountains (old and not very high serve as the East divide between Europe and Asia -Russia's topography is relatively flat because it is located along the Eurasian Plain
P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Early Russia borrowed heavily from Constantinople (Byzantine Empire) -the Cyrillic Alphabet was made when the Bible was translated into Slavic Languages; adopted from the Greek alphabet that the Byzantine Empire used -They borrowed the autocratic government from Byzantium -Under Yaroslav the wise there was a Golden Age occurred in Kiev with improved justice and a written law code; Kiev was the capital -In the 1100s the Mongols took over-they were tolerant rulers as long as Tribute was paid...ruled until 1460s when finally pushed out 250 year occupation known as the Tatar Yoke
E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Russians wealth reflected the Byzantines that they traded with; as they prospered so would the Russians -when the Mongols took over, the Russians paid heavy tribute to them; boyars were Tribute collectors - agriculturally based; became even more under the Mongol occupation
R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the Russian Orthodox Church was brought by Byzantine -It was closely tied with the state -Mongols allowed the continuation of the Church
S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Slavs came and settled along the Dneiper in the 300s; some moved into the Balkans and became part of the Byzantine empire The Vikings had over farmed Scandinavia and come to Russia where they influenced the local culture by the 800s; Slavs called the Vikings the Russ (where Russia gets its name) and co-habited Kiev as the 1st settlers -women became totally subject to male authority in households
I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Intellectually base was fed by the Byzantine Empire -Mongols were not an intellectual people; in the 1300s, while Western Europe faced the Renaissance, Russia was cut off from it because of Mongol rule, they fell behind and will be like this until the 1900s
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Yaroslav built the Saint Sophia Cathedral in Kiev in 1037 -He also built the Golden Gates of Kiev -Russia got art, architecture and music from Byzantines; they turned Byzantine domes into Russian onion domes
Decline:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the Golden Age under Yaroslav declined as rival families battled for the throne; Byzantium was weakened so Russia followed, then the Mongols took over -Ivan the 3rd (Great) freed Russia from Mongols after 250 years of rule; rule of czars began and lasted until 1917
Global connections/ interactions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Russia before the 1100s did a lot of cultural diffusion with Constantinople because of their geographic positions -Because of the Mongol conquest there was little interaction with the west and they were cut off from the Renaissance; Mongols left a legacy of absolute rule -Russia would continue to be agriculturally based due to Boyars enserfing peasantry when they couldn't pay tribute Ivan the Great wanted to create 3rd Rome after 1450s