

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И НАУКИ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ АГЕНТСТВО ПО ОБРАЗОВАНИЮ

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Т.С.БОЧКАРЕВА, И.Н.РАПТАНОВА

RUSSIA

МЕТОДИЧЕСКИЕ УКАЗАНИЯ

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кандидат педагогических наук, доцент Л.А. Пасечная

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Методические указания рекомендуется для использования на практических занятиях по английскому языку для студентов 1 курса всех специальностей.

Цель учебного пособия – освоение и закрепление студентами лексических навыков и умений по теме: «Россия».

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Введение

Данные методические указания предназначены для использования на практических занятиях по английскому языку для студентов 1 курса всех специальностей.

Методические указания содержат 9 уроков. Каждый урок состоит из списка новых слов, текстов и упражнений различного типа. Данные методические указания составлены согласно требованиям рабочей программы кафедры иностранных языков ГиСЭС по английскому языку.

Цель данных методических указаний состоит в снятии лексических трудностей и обеспечении студентов необходимым набором лексики, который поможет им лучше усвоить материал по теме: «Россия». Авторы данных методических указаний составили комплекс заданий, которые помогут студентам достигнуть высокого уровня понимания текстов при чтении.

1 Unit 1. The Russian Federation

1.1 Text

The Russian Federation is the largest country in the world. It occupies about one-seventh of the earth's surface. It covers the eastern part of Europe and the northern part of Asia. Its total area is about 17 million square kilometers. The country is washed by 12 seas of 3 oceans: the Pacific, the Arctic and the Atlantic. In the south Russia borders on China, Mongolia, Korea, Kazakhstan, Georgia and Azerbaijan. In the west it borders on Norway, Finland, the Baltic States, Byelorussia, the Ukraine. It also has a sea-borders with the USA.

There is hardly a country in the world where such a variety of scenery and vegetation can be found. We have steppes in the south, plains and forests in the midland, tundra and taiga in the north, highlands and deserts in the east.

There are two great plains in Russia: the Great Russian Plain and the West Siberian Lowland. There are several mountains chains on the territory of the country: the Urals, the Caucasus, the Altai and others. The largest mountain chain, the Urals, separates Europe from Asia.

There are over two million rivers in Russia. Europe's biggest river, the Volga, flows into the Caspian Sea. The main Siberian rivers- the Ob, the Yenisei and the Lena- flow from the south to the north. The Amur in the Far East flows into the Pacific Ocean.

Russia is reach in beautiful lakes. The world's deepest lake is Lake Baikal. It is much smaller than the Baltic Sea, but there is much more water in it than in the Baltic Sea. The water in the lake is so clear that if you look down you can count the stones on the bottom.

Russia has one-sixth of the world's forests. They are concentrated in the European north of the country, in Siberia and in the Far East.

On the vast territory of the country there are various types of climate, from arctic in the north to subtropical in the south. In the middle of the country the climate is temperate and continental.

Russia is very reach in oil, iron ore, natural gas, copper, nickel and other mineral resources.

Russia is a parliamentary republic. The Head of State is the President. The legislative powers are exercised by the Duma.

The capital of Russia is Moscow. It is its largest political, scientific, cultural and industrial centre. It's one of the oldest Russian cities.

'At present, the political and economic situation in the country is rather complicated. There are a lot of problems in the national economy of the Russian Federation. The industrial production is decreasing. The prices are constantly rising, the rate of inflation is very high. People are losing their jobs because many factories and plants are going bankrupt.

But in spite of the problems Russia is facing at present, there are a lot of opportunities for this country to become one of the leading countries in the world. I'm sure that we, the younger generation, can

1.2 Vocabulary. Pronounce the following words

border - граница
total area - общая площадь
to astonish - изумлять
size - размер
population - население
to vary - меняться, изменяться
mountain chain - горная цепь
to flow - впадать
variety - разнообразие
wildlife - дикие животные
mild - мягкий
wet - влажный
windy - ветреный
snowy - снежный
dry - сухой
fuel - топливо
to include – включать
oil - нефть
natural gas - природный газ
coal - уголь
diamonds - алмазы
stripe - полоса
nobleness - благородство
honesty - честность
courage - мужество
double-headed eagle - двуглавый орел
to Introduce - вводить

1.3 Questions. Answer the questions upon the text

- 1 Is the Russian Federation one of the largest countries in the world?
- 2 Where is the Russian Federation situated?
- 3 What kind of climate is there in the country?
- 4 What do you know about the climate in the south of the country?
- 5 How many rivers are there in Russia?
- 6 Is Russia a very rich country?
- 7 What kind of mineral resources has Russia?
- 8 What kind of lakes are there in our country?
- 9 What is the capital of our country?

10 Are there any symbols of Russia? What are they?

2 Unit 2. State System of Russian Federation

2.1 Text

The Russian Federation is set up by the Constitution of 1993.

Under The Constitution Russia is a presidential republic. The federal government consists of three branches: legislative, executive and judicial. Each of them is checked and balanced by the President.

The legislative power is vested in the Federal Assembly. It consists of two chambers. The Upper Chamber is the Council of Federation; the Lower Chamber is the State Duma.

Each chamber is headed by the Speaker. Legislature may be initiated in either of the two Chambers. But to become a law a bill must be approved by both Chambers and signed by the President. The President may veto the bill.

The President is commander-in-chief of the armed forces, he makes treaties, enforces laws, appoints ministers to be approved by the Federal Assembly.

The executive power belongs to the Government, which is headed by the Prime Minister. The first action of the Prime Minister on appointment is to form the Cabinet.

The judicial branch is represented by the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court and the regional courts.

The members of the Federal Assembly are elected by popular vote for a four-year period.

Today the state symbol of Russia is a three-coloured banner. It has three horizontal stripes: white, blue and red. The white stripe symbolizes the earth, the blue one stands for the sky, and the red one symbolizes liberty. It was the first state symbol that replaced the former symbols in 1991. The hymn of Russia is «The Patriotic Song» by M.Glinka. A new national emblem is a two-headed eagle. It is the most ancient symbol of Russia. It originates from the heraldic emblem of the Ruricoviches. All these symbols are official. They have been approved by the Federal Assembly.

2.2 Vocabulary. Pronounce the following words

under the Constitution – в соответствии с конституцией

a presidential republic – власть (как часть правительства)

a branch – законодательный

executive – исполнительный

judicial – судебный

to be checked by smb. – контролироваться кем-либо

to be balanced by smb. – балансироваться, уравновешиваться кем-либо

to be vested in – осуществляться кем-либо
the Federal Assembly – Федеральное собрание

2.3 Questions. Answer the questions upon the text

- 1 What branches does the Government consist of?
- 2 What is the legislative power exercised by?
- 3 What body does the executive power belong to?
- 4 What does the system of courts consist of?
- 5 What are the national symbols of Russia?
- 6 How is a law made?

2.4 Translate into English

- 1 Глава парламентской республики России – президент.
- 2 Законопроект становится законом, если президент не наложит на него вето.
- 3 Законопроект должен быть одобрен обеими палатами и подписан президентом.
- 4 Исполнительную власть представляет кабинет министров, возглавляемый премьер-министром.
- 5 Судебная власть осуществляется Конституционным судом, Верховным судом и другими судами.

2.5 Text

Political system of Russia

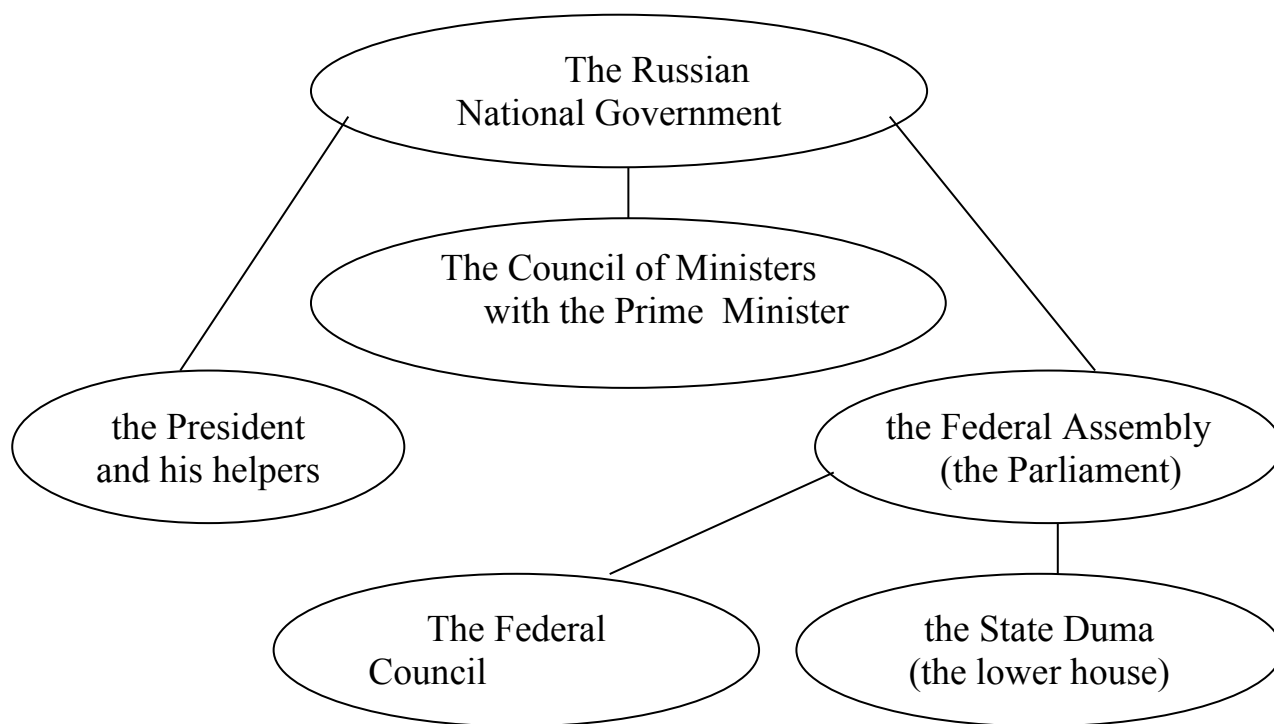
The Russian federation is a Presidential (or a constitutional) republic. The President is the head of the state and is elected directly by the people. In fact he has much power, he controls all the three branches of power. The President can even dissolve the Duma if he doesn't agree with its suggestions three times running. The President has his administration, but it's not part of the Federal Government. The President is involved in the work of the legislative and executive branches.

The Federal Assembly represents the Legislative branch of power. It's made up of the two houses: the Federation Council and the State Duma, which make laws. The Federal Assembly is also called the Parliament, but it's not its official name. Both chambers are headed by chairmen sometimes called speakers. The Duma consists of 450 deputies (one half is elected personally by the population, and the other half consists of the deputies who are appointed by their parties after voting). The members of the Federation Council are elected on a different basis. There are two representatives of each subject of the RF (89 subjects). Every law to be adapted must be approved by the State Duma, the Council of Federation and signed by the President. The President can veto laws passed by the Federal Assembly, but it can pass laws over the President's veto a two-thirds majority.

The Federal Government represents the executive branch of power. The President appoints its head, the Chairman of the Government, but the Duma must approve his appointment.

The juridical branch of power consists of the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court and lower Courts. The responsibility of the Constitutional Court is to analyse the new laws to make sure they correspond to the laws of the state. The Constitutional Court has the right to declare actions of the President, the Federal Assembly and the Federal Government unconstitutional. The Supreme Court is the highest instance for civil and criminal cases.

2.6 Look at the table and described the Russian National Government. Say who the Head of the country is, who the Head of the Council of Ministers is. What is the official name of the Russian Parliament? Who is the Head of the Federal Council? Who is the Head of the State Duma?



2.7 Choose the right item

1 The official name of our homeland is

- a) Russia;
- b) the Russia in Federation;
- c) the Republic of the Russian Federation.

2 There are ... republics and 68 other regions in the Russian Federation.

- a) 21;
- b) 12;
- c) 17.

3 The National Government of Russia consists of ...

- a) the President and the Prime Minister;
- b) the President and the Council of Ministers;
- c) the President, the Council of Ministers and the Federal Assembly.

4 There are ... Houses in the Federal assembly.

- a) two;
- b) three;
- c) four.

5 The lower House of the Federal Assembly is ...

- a) the State Duma;
- b) the Council of Ministers;
- c) the Federal Council.

6 The population of Russia is about

- a) 148 000 000;
- b) 48 000 000;
- c) 548 000 000.

7 The Head of the Republic of the Russian Federation is ...

- a) the President;
- b) the Prime Minister;
- c) the Speaker of the State Duma.

8 The original name of the city founded on the Neva banks by Peter the great was ...

- a) Petrograd;
- b) St. Petersburg;
- c) Leningrad.

9 The five ancient Russian towns which are known as Zolotoe Koltso (the Golden Ring) include Rostov Veliky, Suzdal, Vladimir, Zvenigorod and ...

- a) Tver;
- b) Smolensk;
- c) Yaroslavl.

10 Russia is a land of over ... nationalities.

- a) 10;
- b) 100;
- c) 1000.

3 Unit 3. Moscow

3.1 Text

Moscow is the capital of Russia. The city is located in western Russia and lies in the broad, shallow valley of the Moskva River, a tributary of the Oka and thus of the Volga, in the centre of the vast plain of European Russia. This region is one of the most highly developed and densely populated areas of Russia.

The climate of Moscow is of the continental type, modified by the temperate influence of westerly winds from the Atlantic Ocean. Winters are cold and long, summers are short and mild. The moderate annual precipitation occurs predominantly in the summer months, often in brief, heavy downpours.

Moscow is the largest metropolitan area in Russia with the population of about 10 million people, one of the largest cities in the world. The original settlement was founded where the Kremlin now stands. Because of its central location in the heart of European Russia, Moscow became a focal point for important trade routes.

Moscow was first mentioned in the chronicles in 1147. It is the official date of the foundation of Moscow, though the settlement had been there for some time before. It was fortified and became a market town in the late 12th century. The town was almost totally destroyed in 1237 and 1293 during the Tatar invasion. In the early 14th century Moscow became the political and religious centre of the north-eastern part of Russia. It was again captured by the Tatars in 1382. By the end of the 15th century, Moscow extended its rule over most of central and northern Russia. Its rulers continued to build fortifications around it.

The transfer of the capital by Peter the Great to St. Petersburg in 1712 brought a period of decline to Moscow. In 1812 came the Napoleon's conquest and the city was destroyed by fire. The city was rebuilt within a short period. In the 19th century Moscow became a centre for industry and commerce, as well as a leading cultural, scientific and political centre.

Moscow is the seat of the Government of the Russian Federation.

Moscow is Russia's largest industrial city. Nearly 30 percent of the city's workforce is employed in industry and industrial research. Some of Russia's largest plants are located in or around Moscow. Metallurgy, metal processing and engineering are the largest industrial sectors. Other large sectors are textiles, clothing and footwear, chemical and petrochemical industries, electronic instruments and automation equipment.

Moscow, apart from its political, administrative and economic functions as the capital of Russia, its leading cultural centre.

Moscow has a large concentration of educational institutions, and its centres of higher-education draw students from throughout Russia. Moscow State University (1755) is the leading educational institution. The city's many specialized educational institutions include the Moscow Timiryazev Academy of Agriculture and the Moscow P.I. Tchaikovsky State Conservatory. Scientific research is conducted by the

Academy of Sciences of Russia and many institutions linked to industry. The city's libraries include the V.I. Lenin State Library.

Theatre, music, and art are important in the city's life. The State Academic Bolshoi ("Great") Theatre (1825), Maly ("Little") Theatre, and Moscow Art Theatre are especially renowned. Of the many museums and galleries, the State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts and the State Tretyakov Gallery are notable. Moscow is Russia main tourist attraction.

3.2 Vocabulary. Pronounce the following words

a metropolitan area – район, где расположен город

a settlement – поселок

to become a focal point – стать фокусом, пересечением

a trade route – торговый путь

to be fortified – быть укрепленным

to become a market town – стать торговым городом

to be destroyed – быть разрушенным

the Tatar invasion – татарское нашествие

to extend its rule over smth. –распространить свою власть на (что-либо)

to build fortifications – строить укрепления

a period of decline – период упадка

the Napoleon's conquest – нашествие Наполеона

workforce – рабочая сила

metal processing – металлообработка

engineering – машиностроение

textiles – ткани

footwear – обувь

chemical and petrochemical industries – химическая и нефтехимическая промышленность

electronic instruments – электронные станки

automation equipment – автоматика

the Academy of Science – Академия наук

a scientific research institution – научно-исследовательский институт

a tourist attraction – предмет интереса туристов

3.3 Questions. Answer the questions upon the text

1 What part does Moscow play in the life of Russia?

2 What was Moscow's history before the 18th century?

3 What happened to the city in the 19th century?

4 How can you prove that Moscow is the largest industrial city in the country?

5 How can you characterize the city's role as a cultural centre?

3.4 Translate into English

1 Москва – крупнейший город в России, в Москве пересекаются многие важные торговые пути.

2 Официальная дата основания Москвы – это дата первого упоминания Москвы в летописях.

3 Сначала Москва была поселком; позже город был укреплен и стал торговым центром.

4 Из-за центрального положения Москвы в европейской части России город стал торговым, политическим и религиозным центром России.

5 Москва была несколько раз захвачена и разрушена: татарами в 13 и 14 веках, французами в 19 веке.

6 Перенос столицы в Санкт-Петербург привел Москву к упадку.

7 Москва – промышленный и торговый центр, местонахождение правительства Российской Федерации.

8 Рабочая сила столицы занята в металлургии, металлообработке, машиностроении, химической и нефтехимической промышленности и других отраслях.

9 В Москве находятся около 80 НИИ, Академия наук, Российская государственная библиотека с крупнейшим архивом.

10 Москва – центр издательского дела.

3.5 Put questions to the following sentences

1 Moscow is located in western Russia.

2 Moscow was first mentioned in the chronicles in 1147.

3 In 1812 came the Napoleon's conquest and the city was destroyed by fire.

4 Moscow has a large concentration of educational institutions.

5 Scientific research is conducted by the Academy of Sciences of Russia.

3.6 Find in the text the English equivalents for

- 1) приток Оки;
- 2) сильные дожди;
- 3) пересечение торговых путей;
- 4) быть укрепленным;
- 5) быть разрушенным;
- 6) распространить свою власть;
- 7) период упадка;
- 8) центральное местоположение;
- 9) нашествие Наполеона;
- 10) Академия наук.

3.7 Choose the endings to the following sentences which are correct according to the text

1 Moscow was first mentioned in chronicles ...

- a) in 1147.
- b) in 1237.
- c) in 1712.

2 Moscow was almost totally destroyed in 1237 during ...

- a) the Great Patriotic War.
- b) the Tatar invasion.
- c) the earthquake.

3 The climate of Moscow is modified by the temperate influence of westerly winds from the ...

- a) Pacific Ocean.
- b) Atlantic Ocean.
- c) India Ocean.

3.8 Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions

1 Moscow is the capital ... Russia.

2 Moscow is the largest metropolitan area ... Russia ... the population ... 10 million people.

3 ... 1812 came the Napoleon's conquest and the city was destroyed ... fire.

4 Some of Russia's largest plants are located ... or ... Moscow.

5 Scientific research is conducted ... the Academy ... Sciences ... Russia.

6 Nearly 30 percent ... the city's workforce is employed ... industry.

3.9 Read and learn the dialogue by heart

- When was Moscow founded?
- Moscow was founded in 1147.
- Is there a monument to Yuri Dolgoruky in Moscow? Where is it?
- Yes, there is. It is in the centre of Moscow.
- When did Moscow become the capital?
- In the 16th century. It was under Ivan III that Moscow became the capital of the state of Moscovy.
- In 1712 the capital was moved to St. Petersburg, wasn't it? When did Moscow become the capital again?
- After the October Revolution Moscow became the capital again.
- What do you know about St. Basil's Cathedral?
- St. Basil's Cathedral was built in the mid-16th century in memory of the victory over Kazan.

- There is a monument to Minin and Pozharsky in Red Square. What can you say about it?
- During the Troubled Times Moscow was occupied by the Polish invaders, but they were routed by the popular levy headed by Minin and Pozharsky.
- What can you see on the territory of the Kremlin?
- On the territory of the Kremlin you can see old cathedrals, the Bell Tower of Ivan the Great (колокольня Ивана Великого), the Palace of Congresses, the Tzar-Cannon (Царь-пушка) and Tzar-Bell (Царь-колокол) – the biggest cannon and bell in the world.
- What is Your favorite place in Moscow?
- Red Square is.

4 Unit 4. Moscow is a cultural centre of Russia

4.1 Text

In March of 1918 Moscow became the capital. The supreme organs of state power and many central institutions moved to Moscow from Petrograd. It was extremely difficult in the years of the Civil war to see the image of a new city in deserted and unheated Moscow.

The rapid growth of Moscow's population occurred during the twenties and thirties, in 1931 work began to develop the Master Reconstruction Plan of Moscow, a plan which many people abroad considered to be vain dream.

The city grew and changed, the streets and squares became wider, the wooden houses at the former outskirts disappeared. But the buildings of cultural and historical value were carefully preserved.

Today, as ever, the Kremlin with Red Square is the centre of Moscow. Here Moscow began more than eight hundred years ago. The city has grown so vast since, the present and the past are so closely interwoven that one can not embrace it all at once.

Certain villages, distant country estates have become the new residential areas of Moscow. New dwellings rose not only within the established parts of Moscow but new neighbourhoods took shape in Tyoply Stan, Orekhovo-Borisovo, Yasenevo.

In the past century Moscow went through the invasion of Napoleon's army that forced all Muscovites to leave their city. Moscow was burned down but was never conquered. Once the enemy was driven away, its inhabitants set about building Moscow anew.

Nowadays in erecting new buildings, the Muscovites take care to preserve its unique monuments. Its architectural ensembles have been formed over the centuries and each generation added features of its time to the appearance of the city.

The city has thousands of libraries, schools, kindergartens and nurseries, hundreds of clubs and cinemas, dozens of higher educational establishments, theatres, museums and stadiums.

Neither words nor convincing figures, however, can give a complete idea of what had been done in Moscow. One has to visit Moscow plants and factories, to stroll about its streets and squares, to see its new residential areas.

The Kremlin is now both a piece of living history and an ensemble of masterpieces of Russian architecture.

The first thing that meets the eye is the redbrick walls of the Kremlin, reinforced by 20 towers, five of which are also gates. The Kremlin's towers are unique in appearance. Built in 1485, the Tainitsky Tower is the oldest. The highest of them is the Trinity Tower which is 80 metres tall.

The Bolshoi Theatre was opened in 1825. The theatre seats 2,150. The company has more than 900 members.

The State Tretyakov Gallery. The gallery's works of Russian fine arts range from unique mosaics and icons of the 11th century to works of contemporary artists. The gallery is named after great Russian Connoisseur Pavel Tretyakov who left his collection as a gift to the nation. It has become one of the most popular places of interest in Moscow since then.

4.2 Vocabulary. Pronounce the following words

deserted – пустынный
unheated – неотапливаемый
rapid – быстрый, скорый
occur – иметь место, случаться
to be vain dream – быть напрасной мечтой
outskirts – окраина, предместье
to disappear – исчезать, срываться
to preserve – сохранять
interwine – переплетать, переплетаться
embrace – принимать, охватывать
estate – поместье
dwelling – дом, жилище
take shape – оформляться
invasion – вторжение
inhabitant – житель
to stroll – прогуливаться, бродить
reinforce – усиливать, подкреплять
Connoisseur - знаток

4.3 Questions. Answer the questions upon the text

- 1 When did Moscow become the capital?
- 2 What was the former capital of Russia?
- 3 When did the rapid growth of Moscow's population occur?
- 4 What is the centre of Moscow?
- 5 When did Napoleon's invasion take place?

- 6 What did all Muscovites do then?
- 7 Do Muscovites love their city? What do they do for Moscow?
- 8 What new residential areas in Moscow do you know?
- 9 Have you ever been to Moscow?
- 1 What impression did Moscow produce on you?
- 2 What places of interest do you know?
- 3 What would you like to see in Moscow?
- 4 Have you ever been to the Bolshoi Theatre?
- 14 What do you know about the Tretyakov Gallery?

4.4 Put questions to the following sentences

- 1 In March of 1918 Moscow became the capital.
- 2 The Kremlin with Red Square is the centre of Moscow.
- 3 In the past century Moscow went through the invasion of Napoleon's army.
- 4 The Kremlin's towers are unique in appearance.
- 5 The Bolshoi Theatre was opened in 1825.
- 6 The gallery is named after great Russia Connoisseur Pavel Tretyakov.

4.5 Find in the text the English equivalents for

- 1) переехать в Москву из Петрограда;
- 2) гражданская война;
- 3) быть напрасной мечтой;
- 4) историческая ценность;
- 5) предместье;
- 6) воздвигать новые здания;
- 7) коллекция шедевров;
- 8) оформляться;
- 9) знаток;
- 10) попадаться на глаза.

4.6 Fill in the blanks with the prepositions

- 1 The supreme organs ... state power moved to Moscow from Petrograd.
- 2 The Kremlin ... Red Square is the centre ... Moscow.
- 3 ... the past century Moscow went ... the invasion ... Napoleon's army.
- 4 The Tainitsky Tower was built ... 1485.
- 5 The gallery is named ... great Russian Connoisseur Pavel Tretyakov.
- 6 The gallery's works ... Russian fine arts range ... unique mosaics and icons ... the 11th century.

5 Unit 5. From the History of Moscow

5.1 Text

The first mention of Moscow appears in the chronicles for 1147, nearly a century before the Mongol-Tatar invasion. In those times Moscow belonged to Yury Dolgoruky, Prince of Vladimir. It was a small settlement on the banks of the Moskva River. At the prince's order a wooden fortress (a Kremlin) was erected on a high hill above the river. In the 13th century Moscow became the centre of a principality. Moscow expanded its territory until it reached supremacy over all the other Russian principalities, though still a Tatar vassal state. In 1320s the Orthodox church moved its administration from Vladimir to Moscow and that rose its prestige.

Prince Ivan I Kalita (1325—1341) was the first Moscow prince to be granted the right to collect the tribute money from the other Russian principalities. His grandson, Prince Dmitry Donskoi, was the victor of the battle of Kulikovo over Mongols in 1380.

Prince Ivan III who had earned himself the title Ivan the Great expanded Muscovy northwards. He subjugated Novgorod in 1487.

In 1472 Ivan the Great strengthened his position by marrying Sophia Paleologus as his second wife. She was a niece of the last Byzantine emperor. Since then Ivan had adopted the prestigious Byzantine emblem of the double-headed eagle.

Already Ivan III saw Muscovy as an imperial power. Texts were propagated in order to give the dynasty a Roman pedigree and Byzantine regalia. To transform Moscow into a capital, a huge building programme was undertaken, involving the reconstruction of the Kremlin. The results were impressive. After the fall of Constantinople a monk from Pskov, writing to Ivan's son Vassily III, referred to Moscow as the third Rome: "Two Romes have already fallen, but the third remains standing, and the fourth there will not be."

When Ivan III died in 1505, his power of Muscovy was consolidated by his successor Vassily III, who annexed the principalities of Pskov (1510), Smolensk (1514), and Ryazan (1521).

5.2 Vocabulary. Pronounce the following words

Muscovy – Москва
settlement – поселение
principality – княжество
supremacy – зд. верховная власть
vassal – вассальный, зависимый
tribute – дань
subjugate – покорять, подчинять
strengthen – усилить
propagate – распространяться
pedigree – родословие
under take – предпринять

successor – преемник
annex - присоединять

5.3 Questions. Answer the questions upon the text

- 1 Who is considered to be the founder of Moscow?
- 2 When was Moscow first mentioned?
- 3 What happened in 1320s?
- 4 What can you tell about the reign of Ivan Kalita and Ivan the Great?
- 5 What did Ivan the Great's second marriage mean for him?
- 6 What programme was under taken to transform Moscow into a capital of imperial power?
- 7 Who consolidated Muscovy after Ivan the Great's death?

5.4 Match the two parts of the sentences

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 The first mention of Moscow ... | a) moved its administration from Vladimir to Moscow. |
| 2 It was a small settlement ... | b) was the victor of the battle of Kulikovo over Mongols in 1380. |
| 3 In 1320s the Orthodox church ... | c) on the banks of the Moskva River. |
| 4 Prince Dmitry Donskoi ... | d) appears in the chronicles for 1147. |
| 5 In 1472 Ivan the Great strengthened ... | e) a huge building programme was under taken. |
| 6 To transform Moscow into a capital ... | f) his position by marrying Sophia Paleologus. |

5.5 Agree or disagree with the following sentences

- 1 In the 13th century Moscow became the centre of Russia.
- 2 Prince Ivan I Kalina was the first Moscow prince to be granted the right to collect the tribute money from the other Russia principalities.
- 3 In 1472 Ivan I Kalita strengthened his position by marrying Sophia Paleologus as his second wife.
- 4 Ivan III died in 1505.
- 5 The first mention of Muscovy appears in the chronicles for 1147.
- 6 Sophia Paleologus was a daughter of the last Byzantine emperor.

5.6 Find the synonyms to the following words? According to the text

dependent; levy; to subdue; to intensify; to spread;; to join; family tree; to enlarge.

5.7 Fill in the blanks with the verb “to be”

1 It ... a small settlement on the banks of the Moskva River.

2 Prince Dmitry Donskoi ... the victor of the battle of Kulikovo over Mongols in 1380.

3 Texts ... propagated in order to give the dynasty a Roman pedigree and Byzantine regalia.

4 “Two Romes have already fallen, but the third remains standing, and the fourth there ...”

5 When Ivan III died in 1505, his power of Muskovy ... consolidated by his successor Vassily III.

6 Unit 6. The Kremlin

6.1 Text

The Kremlin is the heart of Moscow. It is surrounded by a high wall of 2 1/2 kilometres long, built by the Russian builders by order of Ivan III (1462-1505), and supervised by Italian architects. The twenty towers on the Kremlin wall, which give it a unique aspect, were built for decoration and have no military significance. They were constructed in the century when Moscow had ceased to be a fortress. Among the ancient buildings in the Kremlin are the churches and a tall bell tower built in 1600 by Russian architects under Boris Godunov and known as the Bell Tower of Ivan the Great. The largest cathedral, the Uspenski (Assumption), was built in 1475-1479 by Aristotle Fiorovante. There are some very fine old frescoes, some of which were restored in the XX-th century. It was there that the Russian tsars and emperors were crowned.

The Archangel Cathedral was built in 1505 by the Italian architect, Alevisio Novy. The tombs of the Moscow princes and tsars are here, among them the graves of Ivan the Terrible, of his son Ivan, and of his second son, Tsar Fyodor. The Blagoveshchensky (Annunciation) Cathedral was built in 1484 by architects from Pskov. It is noted for the unusual oil paintings done in the fifteenth and the sixteenth centuries by Andrei Rublev and his pupils, the greatest artists of the time.

Facing the same square is a very beautiful building known as Granovitaya Palata (Palace) which was built in the end of the 15th century by Marco Ruffo and Pietro Solari. In this palace the Moscow tsars held magnificent receptions in honour of foreign ambassadors. The Granovitaya Palace is connected with the enormous Grand Kremlin Palace.

Among other historical monuments in the Kremlin are the Tsar Cannon (sixteenth century) and the Tsar Bell (eighteenth century), both of enormous size and made by Russian masters. In a large wing of the Palace is the Armoury and a museum of applied art where imperial collections of utensils, furniture, weapon and garments of eastern and western workmanship are on display.

In the north-eastern section of the Kremlin is a beautiful building of classic design built by the most famous Russian architect of the eighteenth century, M.Kazakov. In the square opposite this building is the former Arsenal, along the facade of which are numerous cannons captured by the Russian Army from-Napoleon in 1812-1814.

6.2 Vocabulary. Pronounce the following words

to be surrounded by smth. – быть окруженным чем-либо
by order of – по приказу (кого-либо)
to be supervised by smbd. – под руководством кого-либо
to cease to be a fortress – перестать быть крепостью
a bell tower – колокольня
Ivan the Great – Иван Великий
a cathedral – собор
to be restored – быть отреставрированным
a tsar – царь
an emperor – император
to be crowned – быть коронованным
the tombs of princes and tsars – гробницы князей и царей
a grave – могила
the greatest artist of the time – величайший художник своего времени
to face the square – выходить на площадь
magnificent – пышный
to hold receptions in honor of smbd. – проводить приемы в честь кого-либо
a foreign ambassador – иностранный посол
the Grand Kremlin Palace – Большой Кремлевский дворец
the Tsar Cannon – Царь-пушка
the Tsar Bell – Царь-колокол
a wing – крыло
the Armoury – Оружейная палата
a museum of applied art – Музей прикладного искусства
an imperial collection – императорская коллекция
utensils – предметы быта
a garment – предмет одежды
to be on display – выставляться, экспонироваться
a building of classic design – здание в классическом стиле

6.3 Questions. Answer the questions upon the text

- 1 What is the history of the Kremlin towers?
- 2 When and what for were the Kremlin towers built?
- 3 What are the Kremlin cathedrals famous for?
- 4 What are the other famous buildings facing the same square?
- 5 What is there in the northern section of the Kremlin?

6.4 Translate into English

1 Кремль окружен стеной с 20 большими, построенными для украшения и не имеющими военного значения.

2 Древние постройки Кремля включают церкви, колокольню Ивана Великого и относятся к 15-18 векам. (date back to)

3 Церкви Соборной площади известны своими фресками и гробницами царейю

4 В Успенском соборе короновали царей и императоров.

5 В Гранатовой палате давали приемы в честь иностранных послов.

6 В Оружейной палате хранятся мебель, одежда и оружие из царских коллекций.

6.7 Find in the text the English equivalents for

- 1) быть окруженным чем-либо;
- 2) перестать быть крепостью;
- 3) Оружейная палата;
- 4) Царь-пушка;
- 5) иностранный посол;
- 6) выходить на площадь;
- 7) быть коронованным;
- 8) гробницы князей времени;
- 9) величайший художник своего времени;
- 10) предметы быта;
- 11) здание в классическом стиле;
- 12) Музей прикладного искусства;
- 13) предмет одежды;
- 14) выставляться.

7 Unit 7. St. Petersburg

7.1 Text

St Petersburg; is the second largest city in Russia and one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It was founded in 1703 by Peter the Great as the «Window to the West». Thousands of workmen were brought from all parts of Russia to build a new city on the swampy land at the mouth of the Neva River. Peter the Great was in a hurry. The work was fast and hard, and workmen dropped dead by the hundreds. But the work went on. St Petersburg, a city of great beauty, with palaces, cathedrals, churches, government buildings became the capital.

Under later Rulers, the new capital of the Russian Empire grew rapidly in wealth and beauty. Architects were brought from western Europe to lay out the city in harmonious squares. Buildings were constructed of grey and rose-coloured granite.

The Hermitage Palace and the Winter Palace, the homes of the tsars, were equal to any in Europe.

When the first world war began in 1914, the German-sounding name, St.Petersbourg, was changed to Petrograd. After the Great October Revolution the city was renamed after Lenin.

During the Great Patriotic War the city suffered a great deal. The German armies laid siege to it in 1941, and for the next year and a half it was cut off from the rest of the country. No food could be brought in, and people died of starvation. Daily shelling and air raids destroyed parts of the city, thousands of people were killed. Rebuilding took years.

Now St. Petersburg is an important industrial, cultural and educational centre. The population of the city is over 5 million.

St. Peterburg is indeed a wonderful city. At every turn there is something to catch your eye. The Winter Palace, the Hermitage, the Russian, Museum, St. Isaac's Cathedral, the Peter-and-Paul Fortress, the Admiralty building attract thousands of tourists from every corner of the world.

Petersburg's many museums house some of the world's famous art collections. The Hermitage, for example, contains the richest collection of pictures in the world. The city is called Northern Venice because there are 65 rivers and canals there with artistically decorated bridges. It's also famous for its beautiful white nights.

7.2 Vocabulary. Pronounce the following words

Peter the Great – Петр Великий

a swampy land – болотистая местность

at the mouth of – в устье (какой-либо реки)

to be in a hurry – торопиться

to drop dead by the hundreds – падать замертво сотнями

under later rulers – при более поздних правителях

to grow rapidly in wealth and beauty – быстро богатеть и хорошеть

to lay out the city – разбивать город

to be constructed of granite – быть построенным из гранита

the Hermitage Palace – Эрмитаж

the Winter Palace – Зимний дворец

to be equal to any in Europe – не уступать любому в Европе

a German – sounding name – название, звучащее на немецкий лад

to be renamed after – быть переименованным и названным в честь (кого-либо)

to suffer a great deal – сильно пострадать

to lay siege to – начать блокаду

to be cut off from the rest of the country – быть отрезанным от остальной части страны

to die of starvation – умирать от голода

daily shelling and air raids – ежедневные бомбежки и воздушные налеты

at every turn – на каждом повороте

to catch one's eye – привлекать внимание
to house smth. – размещать что-либо
a word's famous art collection – всемирно знаменитая художественная
коллекция

7.3 Questions. Answer the questions upon the text

- 1 How was St Petersburg built?
- 2 What kind of city was built by the workmen?
- 3 When was the city renamed?
- 4 What happened to the city during the Great Patriotic war?
- 5 What kind of city is St Petersburg?
- 6 What museums and other sights is St Petersburg noted for?
- 7 What else is St Petersburg famous for?

7.4 Translate into English

1 Санкт-Петербург, второй по величине город России, был основан в 1703 году.

2 Тысячи рабочих, приведенных из всех частей России, построили великолепный город.

3 При более поздних правителях западные архитекторы спланировали город, рабочие построили здания из серого и розового гранита.

4 По красоте Санкт-Петербург не уступает любому из европейских городов.

5 Город пострадал во время блокады, от бомбежек и налетов.

6 После войны Ленинград был восстановлен.

7 Великолепные тысячи туристов из разных стран.

8 Санкт-Петербург знаменит также своими белыми ночами и всемирно известными музеями, которые содержат богатейшие художественные коллекции.

7.5 Find in the text the English equivalents for

- 1) не уступать любому в Европе;
- 2) сильно пострадать;
- 3) начать блокаду;
- 4) Зимний дворец;
- 5) разбивать город;
- 6) умирать от голода;
- 7) привлекать внимания;
- 8) размещать что-либо;
- 9) быстро богатеть и хорошеть;
- 10) болотистая местность;
- 11) торопиться.

7.6 Put the questions to the under lined words and expressions

1 St. Petersburg was founded in 1703 by Peter the Great as the “Window to the West”.

2 Architects were brought from western Europe.

3 After the great October Revolution the city was renamed after Lenin.

4 During the Great Patriotic War the city suffered a great deal.

5 The population of the city is over 5 million.

6 St. Petersburg is famous for its beautiful white nights.

7 The Hermitage contains the richest collection of pictures in the world.

7.7 Read and learn the dialogue by heart

- Where do you come from?
- I came from Leningrad.
- What is the name of this city now?
- Some years ago its previous name was restored. It is St. Petersburg again.
- When was your native town founded?
- It was founded at the very beginning of the 18th century.
- What are the historical landmarks (bexu) of your city?
- First of all it was founded as the capital of the country. So it was for a long time. But in 1918 the city of Moscow became the seat of the government for the second time. My native town is a heroic city. It over came the hardships of the Second World War and blockade. I suppose it is the most beautiful city of Russia.

7.8 Text

Peter the Great

Peter the great went down in Russian history for having rejected the Muscovite past. He enthusiastically made Russia closer to West. He was a giant among his contemporaries and a man of genius.

Peter intended to modernize his country and raise it to the first rank of European powers. He engaged skilled foreigners from Prussia, Holland, Great Britain to bring the latest western technology to Russia.

Peter had a passion for navigation. As a founder of the Russia navy, Peter first started to develop the Russia fleet in 1695. He wanted to capture from the Turkey the fortress town of Azov and gain access to the Black Sea.

In 1703 Peter the Great captured the Swedish fortress of Nyenschanz on the River Neva, and on an island nearby he ordered to construct the Peter and Paul Fortress, the first building of the future city of St. Petersburg.

In order to maintain the huge armed forces of Russia, Peter I had to reform many of the traditional administrative, social and fiscal structures of the country. One of the first major steps was to introduce compulsory military service. Another action was to

replace the traditional Muscovite hierarchy of titles of the nobility with the Table of Ranks, a system closer to western models.

The Tsar's reforms extended to many different fields: law, police, military discipline, the navy, commerce, the sciences, the fine arts and education. He introduced a simplified new Russian alphabet. He devoted his whole mind and energy to his mission in life: to add to his empire and to hack a window open on Europe.

The city of St. Petersburg was founded by Peter the Great in 1703 as a harbour for the Russian fleet. It was built as a fortress from which Russia could threaten the Swedes, and as spiritual centre of the new European Russia. The construction of St. Petersburg was under taken at a great speed. Forty thousand peasants were engaged in the building of Russia's new capital. Many of them suffered from disease and malnutrition and met their end in the marshlands.

Peter the Great's rule had been harsh and his reign was full of radical changes. He died in 1725 at the age of fifty-two. Long after his death, he remained a dominant figure in the minds of the people. Catherine the Great commissioned the most famous monument to him, the Bronze Horseman. The monument was designed by the French sculptor Falconet. It was unveiled in St. Petersburg in 1782 with great pomp and ceremony.

7.9 Pronounce the following words

reject – отвергать

giant – гигант

navy – военно-морской флот

access – доступ, выход

maintain – содержать (зд. армию)

fiscal – финансовый

introduce – вводить

compulsory – обязательный

nobility – дворянство

Table of Ranks – «Табель о рангах»

simplified – упрощенный

hack – прорубить (зд. окно)

harbour – гавань

threaten – угрожать

disease – болезнь

malnutrition – плохое питание

marchland – болото

harsh – жесткий

commission – поручать

the Bronze Horseman – Медный всадник

unveil – торжественно открыть

pomp – пышность

7.10 Answer the questions upon the text

- 1 What kind of person was Peter the Great?
- 2 Can Peter be considered as a father of Russian fleet? Why did Peter start to develop the fleet?
- 3 What was Peter's greatest wish?
- 4 What building did the Peter order to construct after capturing the Swedish fortress on the River Neva?
- 5 What were the results of the Great Northern War against Sweden?
- 6 In what fields did Peter conduct the reforms? Give some examples of Peter's reforms.
- 7 When and why was St. Petersburg founded by Peter the Great?
- 8 Who was engaged in the building of Russia's new capital? What were the labour conditions?
- 9 By whom was the monument to Peter the Great designed? When was it unveiled?
- 10 To what mission did Peter devote his whole mind and his energy? What is the role of Peter the Great in Russian history?

8 Unit 8. Tretyakov gallery

8.1 Text

The State Tretyakov Gallery is one of the best-known picture galleries in Russia. It takes its name from its founder Pavel Tretyakov, a Moscow merchant and art connoisseur.

In the mid-19th century, Tretyakov began to collect Russian paintings. He visited all the exhibitions and art studios and bought the best pictures of contemporary artists. He was especially fond of the works of the Peredvizhniki (or Wanderers) — the artists who belonged to the Society of Travelling Art Exhibitions. Little by little Tretyakov extended his range of interest and began to collect earlier Russian paintings. More than once he had to add wings to his house in Lavrushinsky Pereulok, because his collection grew larger and larger.

In 1881 Pavel Tretyakov opened his collection to the public. 11 years later he donated it to the city of Moscow. Since then the gallery has received hundreds of pictures from other museums and private collections.

The Tretyakov Gallery reflects the whole history of Russian art, from the 11th century to the present day.

It has a rich collection of old Russian icons. The world-famous icon is The Trinity, painted in the early 15th century by Andrei Rublev.

The gallery contains halls devoted to the magnificent works of such 18th-century celebrities as Rokotov, Levitsky, Borovikovsky, Shchedrin.

The first half of the 19th century is represented by brilliant paintings by Bryullov, Tropinin, Ivariov, Venetsianov. The second half of the 19th century is especially well represented. The gallery has the best collection of the Peredvizhniki, such as Kramskoy, Perov, Ghe, Yaroshenko, Myasoyedov, and others. Linked with the Peredvizhniki are such great names in Russian art as Surikov, Repin, Vereshchagin, Vasnetsov, Levitan. There you can see historical paintings, portraits, still-lives, landscapes, seascapes, etc.

Further on we find the cream of turn-of-the century Russian art: Serov, Vrubel, Kustodiev...

Canvases of modern painters are housed in the new building situated on Krymskaya Naberezhnaya (Crimean Embankment).

The Tretyakov Gallery is not only Russia's biggest and most important museum of Russian Art. It's also a research, cultural and educational centre.

8.2 Vocabulary. Pronounce the following words

the State Tretyakov Gallery - Государственная Третьяковская галерея

the Society of Travelling Art Exhibitions - Товарищество передвижных
ВЫСТАВОК

The Trinity - Троица

merchant - купец

connoisseur - знаток

studio - студия

contemporary - современный

little by little - мало-помалу, понемногу

to extend - расширить

range of interest - круг интересов

wing - крыло, флигель, пристройка к дому

to open to the public - открыть для посетителей

to donate - преподнести в качестве дара, передавать в дар

private collection - частная коллекция

to reflect - отражать

icon - икона

to contain - содержать

to devote to - посвящать (чему-либо, кому-либо)

magnificent - великолепный

celebrity - знаменитость

to represent - представлять

to link - связывать

portrait - портрет

still-life - натюрморт (мн. число still-lives)

landscape - пейзаж

seascape - морской пейзаж

further on - далее

cream - цвет, "сливки", самое лучшее

turn-of-the century - начало века
canvas - холст, полотно
to house - помещать, размещать
research - научно-исследовательский

8.3 Questions. Answer the questions upon the text

- 1 When did Pavel Tretyakov begin to collect Russian paintings?
- 2 Whose works was he especially fond of?
- 3 What do you know about the Peredvizhniki?
- 4 Where did Tretyakov keep his collection?
- 5 When did he open his collection to the public?
- 6 What did Tretyakov do with his collection?
- 7 Who was The Trinity painted by?
- 8 Do you know any other famous icon-painters?
- 9 What 18th century portrait-painters do you know?
- 10 Why is the second half of the 19th century especially well represented at the Gallery?
- 11 What great Russian names are linked with the Peredvizhniki?
- 12 What turn-of-the-century Russian artists do you know?
- 13 Where are canvases of modern painters housed?
- 14 When did you last go to the Tretyakov Gallery?
- 15 Who are your favourite Russian painters?

8.4 Read and learn the dialogue by heart

8.4.1 Dialogue

- Have you ever been to Tretyakov Gallery?
- Yes, I have.
- What can you say about the monument in front of the gallery?
- There is a monument to Pavel Tretyakov, one of the two brothers-businessmen.

They organized exhibitions of Russian art, built a special house for such occasions. They had a good taste for art and they used to buy some pieces of art. Russian painters, sculptures considered the Tretyakov proposals to be very creditable. The Tretyakov brothers were real Moscovites. They made another wonderful gift to the city of Moscow – a passage between two streets in the business part of the city. There is a memorial plaque on the wall of one of Moscow houses telling about it.

- What can you say about the gallery collections?
- There are collections of Russian icons, portraits, genre scenes and so on.
- Which painting do you like best of all?
- I can't say. I like Vasnetsov's paintings illustrating Russian fairytales. I like Surikov's paintings because they are close to me. But I take a real delight in Kuizingy paintings. They are so unusual and yet realistic.
- What other art museums in Moscow do you know?

- I can say about the Museum of Fine Arts in Volhonka Street. It was Marina Zvetayeva's father, the Moscow University professor who organized it as an educational museum for the university students. But later it grew into a great museum of foreign arts. Nowadays the Museum of Fine Arts is the pride of the city of Moscow and the whole Russia as well as Tretyakov Gallery is.

8.4.2 Dialogue

- Do you know names of other Russia's pianists?
- Yes, I do.
- What are they?
- Nicolai Petroff is one of them. By the way, he is related to the famous singer of the Bolshoi Theatre Ivan Petroff.
- Do you visit conservatoire?
- Yes, I do, but not very often.
- Do you play any instrument?
- No, I do not.
- Do you know any composer's names?
- Certainly. They are Chopin, Schumann, Bach, Debussy and so on.
- But all of them are foreign composers. Do you know any Russian composers?
- Of course, I do. I'm fond of Russian opera music. I enjoy visiting Bolshoi Theatre. I look forward to listening to opera "Hovanschina" by Musorgski. It's a pity the Rimski-Korsakov opera "Snow-Maiden" is not performed in Bolshoi Theatre nowadays.
- But there are a lot a ballets are staged now.
- My mum is a great admirer of ballet.

8.5 Text. Valentin Serov

One of my favourite artists is Valentin Serov. When I first saw his famous pictures — the Girl with Peaches and the Girl in the Sunlight — in the Tretyakov Gallery, frankly speaking, I wasn't too impressed. The girls seemed quite ordinary and I couldn't understand what was so special about these portraits.

Some years later I happened to be in Abramtsevo, where these two pictures had been painted. It's a very beautiful place. Abramtsevo belonged to Sawa Mambntov, a well known patron of arts. Our guide told us about the people who had been invited there. It seemed that all artists, actors and writers of that period had stayed at Abramtsevo or at least visited it.

When I went to the Tretyakov Gallery after that and looked at the Girl with Peaches again, I suddenly remembered that day in Abramtsevo, and for the first time I noticed the play of light and shade in the picture, the atmosphere of a sunny summer day.

It's surprising that Serov painted this picture when he was only 22 years old. I read somewhere that at the time he had not seen the works of French Impressionists,

who tried to catch the sunlight and the air and transfer it to the canvas. But he managed to do it perfectly.

Serov was born in 1865. His father was a well-known composer and the boy grew up in the atmosphere of creative activity. His first art teacher was Repin, who noticed that the boy could catch the likeness of a model often more quickly and surely than older artists.

Later Serov studied at the Academy of Fine Arts and graduated from it when he was 20.

For several years he taught at Moscow School of Painting Sculpture and Architecture. But teaching did not interfere with his painting. Probably now he would be called a workaholic. He painted almost 700 canvases, though, unfortunately, his life was not very long — he died in 1911.

He was a brilliant landscape painter, he created genre scenes, but he is mostly remembered as a portraitist. The list of his portraits reads as "who-is-who" in Russian culture of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He painted Sava Mamontov, Konstantin Korovin, Ilya Repin, Isaak Levitan, Nikolai Leskov, Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, the great actress Yermolova... The list can be continued. And practically all his portraits are excellent from the technical point of view — the colours, the composition, but there is more than that they show people's personality.

8.6 Vocabulary. Pronounce the following words

Valentin Serov - Валентин Серов

Tretyakov Gallery - Третьяковская галерея

Abramtsevo - Абрамцево

Sava Mamontov - Савва Мамонтов

Girl with Peaches - Девочка с персиками

Girl in the Sunlight - Девушка, освещенная солнцем

Academy of Fine Arts - Академия изящных искусств

Moscow School of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture - Московское училище живописи, ваяния и зодчества

frankly speaking - откровенно говоря

to be impressed - быть под впечатлением

ordinary - обыкновенный

special - особенный

to belong - принадлежать

patron of arts - покровитель искусств

guide - гид, экскурсовод

atmosphere - атмосфера

Impressionist - импрессионист

to transfer - переносить

canvas - полотно

composer - композитор

creative activity - творческая деятельность

likeness - сходство

to interfere with - мешать
workaholic - трудоголик
landscape painter - пейзажист
genre scene - жанровая сцена
portraitist - портретист
reads as - читается как
"who-is-who" - "кто есть кто"
from the technical point of view - с точки зрения техники
personality - личность, характер

8.3 Questions. Answer the questions upon the text

- 1 What is Abramtsevo famous for?
- 2 Who did Sawa Mamontov invite to Abramtsevo?
- 3 When was Valentin Serov born?
- 4 Who was his first teacher?
- 5 Where did Serov study?
- 6 How old was he when he painted the Girl with Peaches?
- 7 How many canvases did he paint?
- 8 What kind of pictures did Serov paint?
- 9 Can you name any of his famous portraits?
- 10 Who is your favourite painter?
- 11 Have you ever been to the Tretyakov Gallery?
- 12 What kind of pictures do you prefer — portraits, landscapes, genre scenes?
- 13 Somebody said that when an artist creates a portrait it is not a portrait of his sitter, but a portrait of the artist himself. Do you agree?

8.7 Text. Isaac Levitan

Isaac Ilyich Levitan, the great Russian artist, became the first painter of the Russian scenery, who revealed all its beauty. He is a real poet of the Russian countryside. He continued and developed the traditions of painters of the Russian realistic school — Savrasov, Polenov, Serov. Levitan found significant meaning and poetry in what would seem the most everyday subjects.

He is a very individual sort of painter. You can't but appreciate his paintings, because there is something; in his landscapes that reflects our own moods.

He deeply felt what he wished to express and his brush transferred these feelings to the canvas. It is interesting to note that a master of landscape, he never introduced figures into it. Though if you look at the Autumn Day in Sokolniki - everything seems to bring out the loneliness of the figure in the centre: the trees losing their leaves, the remote, indifferent sky, the path going off into the distance. But the fact is that it was not Levitan who painted the figure. It was Checkov's brother Nicolai who did it.

His travels over the Volga region influenced Levitan's art, the impression made on him by the great Russian river was unforgettable. For his life and painting he

chose Plyoss — a small beautiful town on the Volga. His paintings Evening, Golden Plyoss, After Rain reflect his love for nature.

Last summer I visited Plyoss and saw the places where the great pictures were painted. Many people admire his pictures Deep Waters, Evening Bells, Springtime, The Last Snow and, of course, his famous Golden Autumn. All his paintings are very emotional, lyrical and realistic.

In the closing years of his life Levitan made several journeys abroad to France, Italy and Germany where he painted a number of landscapes, although his best works of the period were devoted to Russia. He was only 40 when he died in 1900.

Levitan's influence on the painters of lyrical landscapes was great. Levitan's feeling for nature, his great love for his native land, his ability to reveal and depict the poetry of the Russian land have won his paintings the love and gratitude of people.

8.8 Vocabulary. Pronounce the following words

Isaac Ilyich Levitan - Исаак Ильич Левитан (1860-1900)

Savrasov - Саврасов А.К. (русский живописец передвижник)

Polenov - Поленов В.Д. (русский живописец, передвижник)

Serov - Серов В.А. (русский живописец, передвижник)

Plyoss - Плес (город на берегу Волги)

scenery - пейзаж

to reveal - открывать, обнаруживать

countryside - сельская местность

to develop - развивать, совершенствовать

realistic - реалистический

significant - важный, значительный

individual - индивидуальный, особенный, оригинальный

you can't but - нельзя не...

to appreciate - ценить

landscape - пейзаж

to reflect - отражать

mood - настроение

to express - выражать, отражать

brush - кисть

to transfer - переносить

canvas - холст, полотно

to introduce - вводить, представлять, вносить

figure - фигура

to bring out - выявлять, обнаруживать

loneliness - одиночество

remote - отдаленный

indifferent - безразличный, равнодушный, холодный

to influence - влиять

to make an impression on — производить впечатление на

unforgettable - незабываемый
to admire - восхищаться
emotional - эмоциональный, волнующий
lyrical - лирический
closing years - последние годы (жизни)
journey - поездка, путешествие
abroad - за границей, за границу
although - хотя
to devote to - посвящать (кому-либо, чему-либо)
to depict - изображать, рисовать
gratitude - благодарность

8.9 Questions. Answer the questions upon the text

- 1 What is Levitan famous for?
- 2 Levitan is a very individual sort of painter. Can you prove it?
- 3 What traditions did Levitan continue and develop?
- 4 What place did Levitan choose for his life and painting?
- 5 Did the Volga influence his art?
- 6 How old was Levitan when he died?
- 7 Why do so many people like his pictures?

9 Unit 9. Comprehension reading

9.1 Text. Holidays in Russia

There are many national holidays in Russia, when people all over the country do not work and have special celebrations.

The major holidays are: New Year's Day, Women's Day, May Day, Victory Day, and Independence Day.

The first holiday of the year is New Year's Day: People see the new year in at midnight on the 31st of December. They greet the new year with champagne and listen to the Kremlin chimes beating 12 o'clock.

There are lots of New Year traditions in Russia. In every home there is a New Year tree glittering with coloured lights and decorations. Children always wait for Father Frost to come and give them a present. Many people consider New Year's Day to be a family holiday. But the young prefer to have New Year parties of their own.

A renewed holiday in our country is Christmas. It is celebrated on the 7th of January. It's a religious holiday and a lot of people go to church services on that day.

On the 8th of March we celebrate Women's Day when men are supposed to do everything about the house, cook all the meals and give women flowers.

The greatest national holiday in our country is Victory Day. On the 9th of May, 1945, our army completely defeated the German fascists and the Great Patriotic War ended. We'll never forget our grandfathers and grandmothers who died to defend our

Motherland. We honour their memory with a minute of silence and put flowers on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Independence Day is a new holiday in our country. On the 12th of June, 1992, the first President of Russia was elected.

We also celebrate Day of the Defender of Motherland on the 23^d of February, Easter, Day of Knowledge and lots of professional holidays which are not public holidays and banks, offices and schools do not close.

9.2 Vocabulary. Pronounce the following words

Independence Day – День независимости

Father Frost - Дед Мороз

Christmas - Рождество

Easter - Пасха

Day of the Defender of Motherland - День защитника Отечества

Day of Knowledge - День знаний

celebration - празднование

major - главный

to see the new year in - встречать новый год

to greet - встречать (возгласами, аплодисментами)

champagne - шампанское

chimes - куранты

to beat (beat, beaten) - бить, отбивать

a New Year tree - новогодняя елка

to glitter - блестеть, сверкать

to consider - считать

the young - молодежь, молодые люди

renewed - возобновленный, восстановленный

religious - религиозный

service – служба

men are supposed to.. - предполагается (подразумевается), что мужчины...

to defeat - наносить поражение, разбивать

fascist - фашист

to elect - избирать

public - общенародный, общественный

9.3 Questions. Answer the questions upon the text

- 1 What public holidays are celebrated in Russia?
- 2 What is your favourite holiday?
- 3 How is New Year's Day celebrated in your family?
- 4 Do you see the new year in at home?
- 5 What New Year traditions do you know?
- 6 When is Christmas celebrated?
- 7 What holiday do we celebrate on the 8th of March?
- 8 What is the greatest national holiday in our country?

9 Why is the 9th of May so sacred for the Russian people?

10 What other Russian holidays do you know?

9.4 Text. Sports in Russia

Sport has always been popular in our country. There are different sporting societies and clubs in Russia, Many of them take part in different international tournaments and are known all over the world. A great number of world records have been set by Russian sportsmen: gymnasts, weightlifters, tennis players, swimmers, figure skaters, runners, high jumpers. Our sportsmen take part in the Olympic Games and always win a lot of gold, silver and bronze medals.

Millions of people watch figure skating competitions, hockey and football matches, car races, tennis tournaments and other sports events. Certainly watching sports events and going in for sports are two different things.

In the past it was never admitted that professional sport existed in our country. The official point of view was that our sport was totally amateur. Now everybody knows that sport can be a profession and a business.

But sport can be fun as well. Besides, it helps to stay in good shape, to keep fit and to be healthy.

Doing sports is becoming more and more popular. Some people do it occasionally - swimming in summer, skiing or skating in winter - but many people go in for sports on a more regular basis. They try to find time to go to a swimming pool or a gym at least once a week for aerobics or yoga classes, body building or just work-out on a treadmill. Some people jog every morning, some play tennis.

For those who can afford it there are clubs where they give lessons of scuba diving or riding. In spring and summer young people put on their roller-skates and skate in the streets and parks.

9.5 Vocabulary. Pronounce the following words

sporting society - спортивное общество

tournament - турнир, чемпионат

record - рекорд

gymnast - гимнаст

weightlifter - тяжелоатлет

figure skater - фигурист

high jumper - прыгун в высоту

to admit - признавать

professional - профессиональный

point of view - точка зрения

totally - полностью

amateur - любительский

fun - удовольствие

in good shape - в хорошей форме

fit - зд. в хорошем состоянии, в хорошей форме
to do sports - заниматься спортом
on a more regular basis - более регулярно
гум - тренажерный зал
aerobics - аэробика
йога - йога
body-building - бодибилдинг
work-out - тренировка
treadmill - тренажер "беговая дорожка"
to jog - бегать трусцой
to afford - позволить себе
scuba diving - дайвинг, плавание с аквалангом
roller skates - роликовые коньки

9.6 9.3 Questions. Answer the questions upon the text

- 1 Why is sport so important in our life?
- 1 Do Russian sportsmen take part in the Olympic Games?
- 2 Do they often win medals?
- 3 Was there a gym or a sports ground in your school?
- 4 What professional sporting societies or clubs do you know?
- 5 Are there any keep-fit centres in your neighbourhood? Do you go there?
- 6 Do you go in for sports or do you prefer to watch other people playing?
- 7 What team are you a fan of?
- 9 What is your favourite kind of sport?
- 10 How long have you been playing it?
- 11 Do you take part in competitions?
- 12 What games are popular hi Russia?

9.7 Text. Anton Cheknov

My favourite writer is Anton Pavlovich Chekhov, in my opinion, he is the greatest Russian dramatist and short-story writer. I'm never tired of reading and rereading his plays and humorous stones.

Chekhov was born in 1860 in Taganrog. In 1879 he went to Moscow, where he studied medicine. Though he practised little as a doctor in his lifetime, he was prouder of his medical knowledge than of his writing talent.

While in college, Chekhov wrote humorous sketches for comic papers to support his family. He collected the best ones into a volume, Motley Stories, in 1886. The book attracted the attention of the publisher of the Novoje Vremja, Russia's largest paper, and Chekhov was asked to contribute stories regularly.

Chekhov, as an established writer, was able to develop a style of his own. Though he never gave up writing comic stories, he began working in a more serious vein. In 1887 Ivanov, his first play, established Chekhov as a dramatist. From then on, he concentrated on writing plays, as well as short stories.

Chekhov was seriously ill. He had tuberculosis and knew what it meant. By 1892 his health was so bad that he was afraid to spend another winter in Moscow. He bought a small estate near a village Melikhovo, 50 miles from Moscow. He spent 5 years there, and those were happy years in spite of the illness. He wrote some of his best stories there, including Ward No. 6, several well-known one-act comedies and two of his serious dramatic masterpieces, The Seagull and Uncle Vanya.

The Seagull was first staged in the Alexandrinsky Theatre in Petersburg. It was a complete failure because of the dull and clumsy production. It was a cruel blow to Chekhov. However, the play was successfully performed as the first production of the Moscow Art Theatre in 1898. From then on, Chekhov was closely connected with this theatre and with its founder, K.S. Stanislavsky, in 1901 he married an Art Theatre actress, Olga Knipper, who acted in his play The Three Sisters the same year.

Chekhov's health went from bad to worse and he had to spend the remaining years in the Crimea and other health spas.

The Cherry Orchard, his last play, was produced in 1904. Soon after the first night Chekhov died. He was 44.

Chekhov had an immense influence on the 20th century drama. Besides, several generations of writers both in Russia and abroad studied and imitated Chekhov to perfect their own literary style.

9.8 Vocabulary. Pronounce the following words

Chekhov Anton Pavlovich - Чехов Антон Павлович

Taganrog - Таганрог

Motley Stories - Пестрые рассказы

Ivanov - Иванов

Ward No. 6 - Палата № 6

The Seagull - Чайка

Uncle Vanya - Дядя Ваня

the Alexandrinsky Theatre - Александринский театр

the Moscow Art Theatre – Московский Художественный театр

The Three Sister - Три сестры

the Crimea - Крым

The Cherry Orchard - Вишневый сад

in my opinion - по-моему

dramatist - драматург

humorous stories - юмористические рассказы

medicine - медицина

lifetime - (вся) жизнь

to be proud of - гордиться чем-либо

sketch - зарисовка, набросок

comic - комический

to support - поддерживать, содержать

volume - том

to attract attention - привлечь внимание

to contribute - сотрудничать (в газете, журнале), писать (для газеты, журнала)

regularly - регулярно

established – признанный, известный

to develop - развивать

a style of one's own - собственный стиль

to give up - бросить, отказаться (от чего-либо)

vein - стиль, направление

from then on - с тех пор, с той поры, с того времени

to concentrate on - концентрироваться, сосредоточиваться

tuberculosis – туберкулез (сокр. форма: ТВ)

estate - поместье

one-act comedy - одноактная комедия

masterpiece – шедевр

it was a complete failure - пьеса провалилась

dull - скучный, монотонный

clumsy - неуклюжий, грубый, неудачный

production - постановка

It was a cruel blow to Chekhov. - Это был страшный удар для Чехова.

to perform - исполнять, играть

to go from bad to worse - ухудшаться, становиться все хуже и хуже

springs - курорт (с минеральными водами)

to produce - ставить (о пьесе)

first night - премьера

immense - огромный

influence - влияние

drama - драма

generation - поколение

to imitate - подражать

to perfect - совершенствовать .

literary - литературный

9.9 Questions. Answer the questions upon the text

- 1 Do you like Chekhov's humorous stories?
- 2 When and where was he born?
- 3 When did he begin writing his first humorous sketches?
- 4 Who helped Chekhov in his writing career?
- 5 What made Chekhov move to Melikhovo?
- 6 The Seagull was first staged in the Alexandrinsky Theatre. Why was it a complete failure?
- 7 What was Chekhov's last play?
- 8 Do you know any English or American writers who were influenced by Chekhov?

9.10 Text. Andrei Sakharov

Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov, an outstanding scientist and public figure, was born on the 21st of May, 1921, into the family of teachers. He graduated from Moscow University in 1942. In 1947 he defended his thesis "for the degree of Candidate of Science. In 1953 he defended his Doctorate thesis and was elected member of the Academy of Sciences.

When he was a graduate student Sakharov began to work on the Soviet nuclear weapons programme and soon he suggested a totally new idea for a hydrogen bomb design. But he was getting more and more worried about the consequences of his work. He understood better than anybody else what nuclear weapons meant and he thought about his own responsibility and about the responsibility of the states which possessed such weapons.

In 1968 he wrote an article attacking Soviet political system. He wrote that people needed a democratic society, free of dogmatism.

Sakharov is often called the father of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, but he became more known as a champion for human rights and freedom. For this work the Nobel Committee awarded him the Peace Prize in 1975. The Committee called him "the conscience of mankind". The Soviet authorities, however, did not allow him to go to Norway to receive the award.

In 1966 he took part in his first human rights demonstration, a one-minute silent protest in Pushkin Square. A year later, he wrote a letter to Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev defending imprisoned dissidents.

His international repute as a scientist kept him out of jail, but in 1980 when he protested against Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, he was deprived of all his titles and orders and exiled to the city of Gorky. In 1986 Michail Gorbachev invited Sakharov to return to Moscow. He was given back all his titles and orders.

Andrei Sakharov died in 1989. He is remembered by everybody as an outstanding humanist, who could teach and inspire and who foresaw the changes that are taking place now.

9.11 Vocabulary. Pronounce the following words

Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov - Андрей Дмитриевич Сахаров

the Academy of Sciences - Академия наук

Nobel Committee - Нобелевский комитет

Peace Prize - Премия мира

Norway - Норвегия

Afghanistan - Афганистан

Gorky - г. Горький

outstanding - выдающийся

public figure - общественный деятель

to defend one's thesis - защищать диссертацию

degree of Candidate of Science - ученая степень кандидата наук

Doctorate thesis - докторская диссертация

to elect - выбирать, избирать
graduate student - студент-старшекурсник
nuclear weapons - ядерное оружие
to suggest - предложить
totally - полностью, совершенно
hydrogen bomb - водородная бомба
design - конструкция
consequence - следствие
responsibility - ответственность
to possess - владеть
to attack - нападать, критиковать
democratic - демократический
dogmatism - догматизм
champion - защитник, борец
human rights - права человека
to award - награждать, присуждать
conscience - совесть
mankind - человечество
authorities - власти
protest - протест;
to protest - протестовать
to defend - защищать
to imprison - заключать в тюрьму
dissident - диссидент
repute - репутация
jail - тюрьма
intervention – насильственное вмешательство, интервенция
to deprive of - лишать чего-либо
title - зд. титул, звание
order - орден
to exile - ссылать, изгонять
humanist - гуманист
to inspire - вдохновлять, воодушевлять
to foresee (foresaw, foreseen) - предвидеть

9.12 Questions. Answer the questions upon the text

- 1 When was Andrei Sakharov born?
- 2 What were his parents?
- 3 What university did he graduate from? When?
- 4 What is Sakharov famous for as a scientist?
- 5 When did he defend his Doctorate thesis?
- 6 What conclusion did he come to while working on the bomb?
- 7 When did he take part in his first human rights demonstration?
- 8 What prize was he awarded?

- 9 Why was he exiled to Gorky?
- 10 Who helped him to come back to Moscow?
- 11 Why is Sakharov known all over the world?

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