**RUSSIA**

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**1. Прочитайте и переведите текст.**

The word “Motherland” comes from two words – “mother” and “land”. It is the dearest place to all of us, the place where we were born and live.

The official name of our Motherland is the Russian Federation. It is the largest country in the world. No other country equals it in size. Our country is situated both in Europe and Asia. It occupies the eastern part of Europe, the northern and central parts of Asia. Its total area is over 17 million square kilometers.

Our land is washed by 12 seas, most of which are the seas of the Arctic, the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans. In the south and in the west our country borders on 14 states. It also has sea borders with the USA and Japan.

The country has a great variety of flora and fauna. There are numerous forests, endless plains and steppes, taiga and tundra, highlands and deserts on the Russian territory. The country's highest mountains are the Caucasus, the Altai and the Urals.

In the Russian Federation there are over 2 million rivers. The longest of them are the Volga, the Lena, the Yenisei, the Ob, the Amur and some others. Our land is also rich in lakes (over 200 000 lakes), with the deepest, oldest and unique lake of sweet (fresh) water in the world, the Baikal, included.

On the Russian territory there are 11 time zones. Due to the vast territory, the climate conditions are rather different: from arctic and mild to continental and subtropical.

Russia is one of the richest in the natural resources countries in the world: oil, gas, coal, different ores, ferrous and non-ferrous metals and other minerals.

It is also one of the highly developed agro-industrial powers in the world.
The main industrial branches comprise aerospace, aircraft, atomic, machine building, ship building, automobile, chemical, coal-mining, metallurgical, electrical-engineering, textile, food and some others.

The Russian Federation is a constitutional state headed by the President. It comprises over 80 subjects: three cities of the federal status (Moscow, St. Petersburg and Sevastopol), several autonomous republics, provinces (krais), regions (oblasts) and some autonomous districts (okrugs), each having equal rights.

The state powers are divided among the legislative, executive and judicial branches which are independent of one another.

The legislative power belongs to the Russian Parliament, called the Federal Assembly, consisting of two Chambers: the Council of the Federation (the Upper Chamber) and the State Duma (the Lower Chamber). Each Chamber is headed by the Speaker.

The executive power belongs to the President and our country’s Government (the Cabinet of Ministers) headed by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President and approved by the State Duma.

The judicial power belongs to the system of courts: the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court, as well as federal and regional courts.

The state language of the Russian Federation is Russian. The national symbols of our country are the white-blue-red Flag (Tricolour) and the Golden Two-Headed (or Bicephalous) Eagle.

Russia is a multinational state. It is a unique country hosting a great variety (over 150) of nationalities, nations, ethnic groups, cultures and epochs. It ranks sixth in the world in population after China, India, the USA, Indonesia and Brazil. According to the last census, our country population is about 150 million. There are also more than 10–15 million immigrants in our country.

Moscow is the capital of our Motherland. It is our country’s largest political, cultural, scientific and industrial center and one of the most beautiful cities on the Globe.

Our country has a multiparty system. The most influential and largest political parties are the United Russia, the Liberal Democratic, the Communist and some others.

The foreign policy of the Russian Federation is that of international cooperation, peace and friendship with all the nations of the Globe, irrespective of their political and social systems.

The role of the Russian Federation in today's world is extremely significant. Being the major source of raw materials for many countries of the Globe, Russia is also an important mechanism of developing these countries' economies.

In addition, due to its immense territory, our unique country is a bridge connecting Europe and Asia. It is able to provide more than 7 % of the world’s transport corridor to transit various cargoes from Europe to Asia and backwards.

**2. Прокомментируйте следующие утверждения.**

1. The Russian Federation is one of the largest countries in the world.

2. It occupies the whole continent of Euro-Asia.

3. Our land is washed by the seas of three oceans.

4. The country's flora and fauna are rather poor.

5. There are many rivers and lakes in Russia.

6. Russia is one of the most densely populated countries on the Globe.

7. St. Petersburg is the capital of our Fatherland.

8. Our country possesses rich mineral resources.

9. The Russian Federation is one of the world's highly developed powers.

10. It is a constitutional state headed by the Prime Minister.

11. The country President controls all branches of the government.

12. The Russian Parliament is called the Federal Assembly.

13. There are many political parties in Russia and almost all of them
are represented in the State Duma.

14. Our state carries on the constructive foreign policy aimed at establishing friendly relations with various nations and international cooperation.

15. The role of our unique country in today's world is extremely significant.

**3. Переведите вопросы.**

1. Как называется наша страна официально?

2. Где она расположена?

3. Россия – самая большая страна в мире, не так ли?

4. Какова ее территория?

5. С какими государствами она граничит?

6. Какие моря и океаны омывают нашу страну?

7. Знаете ли вы, сколько рек и озер в России?

8. Назовите крупнейшие реки нашей страны.

9. А где находится самое глубокое озеро в мире?

10. Докажите, что территория нашей страны огромна.

11. Какими природными ресурсами богата Россия?

12. Россия – развитая промышленная и аграрная страна, не так ли?

13. Расскажите о составе РФ.

14. Кто является главой государства?

15. Сколько ветвей в Правительстве РФ?

16. Кому принадлежит законодательная, исполнительная и судебная власть?

17. Сколько палат имеет российский парламент?

18. Что вы знаете о партийной системе в нашей стране?

19. Назовите крупнейшие политические партии.

20. Расскажите о внешней политике нашего государства.

21. Какова роль России в мире сегодня?