

## Text A

### THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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 population of the country is about 143.3 mln. people. 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, Belarus, Ukraine. It also has a sea-border 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 mountain 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 rich in beautiful lakes. The world's deepest lake (1,600 metres) 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 rich in oil, coal, iron ore, natural gas, copper, nickel and other mineral resources.

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

The national symbols of the Russian Federation are a white-blue-red **banner** and a double-headed eagle.

The Russian Federation is a presidential republic headed by the President. The country government consists of three branches: **legislative, executive** and **judicial**. The President controls only the executive branch — the government, but not the Supreme Court and Federal Assembly.

The legislative power belongs to the **Federal Assembly** comprising two chambers: **the Council of Federation** (upper Chamber) and the **State Duma** (lower Chamber). Each chamber is headed by the Speaker. The executive power

belongs to the government (the Cabinet of Ministers) headed by the Prime Minister. The judicial power belongs to the system of Courts comprising the Constitutional Court, the **Supreme Court** and federal courts.

Our country has a multiparty system. The largest and most **influential** political parties are the «United Russia», the Communist party, «The Patriots of Russia», «The Justice Russia», «The Apple», Liberal-Democratic and some others.

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

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 do very much to make Russia as strong and powerful as it used to be.

### *Names*

the Russian Federation - Российская Федерация	the Great Russian Plain - Русская (Восточно-Европейская) равнина
Europe - Европа	
Asia - Азия	the West Siberian Lowland - Западно-Сибирская низменность
the Pacific Ocean - Тихий океан	the Urals - Уральские горы
the Arctic Ocean - Северный Ледовитый океан	the Caucasus - Кавказ
the Atlantic Ocean - Атлантический океан	the Altai - Алтай
China - Китай	the Volga - Волга
Mongolia - Монголия	the Caspian Sea - Каспийское море
Korea - Корея	the Yenisei - Енисей
Kazakhstan - Казахстан	the Amur - Амур
Georgia - Грузия	Lake Baikal - озеро Байкал
Azerbaijan - Азербайджан	the Baltic Sea - Балтийское море
Norway - Норвегия	Siberia - Сибирь
Finland - Финляндия	the Far East - Дальний Восток
the Baltic States - Прибалтийские государства	The Ob - Обь
Belarus - Беларусь	
Ukraine - Украина	

### *Vocabulary*

to occupy - занимать  
surface - поверхность  
Eastern - восточный  
Northern - северный  
total area - общая площадь  
square - квадратный  
to wash - омыывать  
to border on - граничить с  
sea-border - морская граница  
There is hardly a country in the world... - Едва ли найдется страна...  
variety - разнообразие, множество  
scenery - пейзаж, ландшафт  
vegetation - растительность  
steppe - степь  
plain - равнина  
midland - средняя полоса  
tundra - тундра  
taiga - тайга  
highland - нагорье, высокогорная местность  
desert - пустыня  
chain - цепь  
to separate - разделять  
to flow - впадать  
Siberian - сибирский  
to count - считать  
bottom - дно  
to concentrate - сосредотачиваться, концентрироваться  
vast - обширный  
various - различный  
arctic - арктический  
subtropical - субтропический  
temperate - умеренный  
continental - континентальный  
oil - нефть  
coal - уголь  
iron ore - железная руда  
copper - медь  
mineral resources - полезные ископаемые  
parliamentary - парламентский  
head of state - глава государства  
legislative - законодательный  
powers - полномочия  
to exercise - осуществлять, выполнять  
scientific - научный

complicated - сложный, запутанный  
to decrease - снижаться, падать  
constantly - постоянно  
the rate of inflation - уровень инфляции  
to go bankrupt - обанкротиться  
in spite of - несмотря на  
the younger generation - молодое поколение

**Ex.1. Ответьте на вопросы:**

1. Where is the Russian Federation situated?
2. What is the total area of the country?
3. What countries does Russia border on?
4. What mountain chain separates Europe from Asia?
5. How many rivers are there in Russia?
6. Which is the longest river in Europe?
7. What do you know about Lake Baikal?
8. Do you know what strait separates Russia from America?
9. What mineral resources is the Russian Federation rich in?
10. What is the climate like in Russia?
11. What can you say about the Russian economy?
12. What great Russians do you know?

**Ex.2. Переведите на русский язык слова и словосочетания:**

Occupy; earth's surface; cover; border on; a variety of scenery; mountain chains; flow into; various types of climate; subtropical; in the middle; temperate; iron ore; natural gas; parliamentary republic; legislative powers; exercise; complicated; decrease; rise; the rate of inflation; lose jobs; in spite of; opportunities.

**Ex.3. Найдите в тексте английские эквиваленты следующих слов и выражений:**

Самая большая горная цепь; отделять; сосредотачиваться; занимать поверхность; несколько горных цепей; минеральные ресурсы; законодательная власть; промышленный центр; промышленное производство снижается; возможности.

**Ex.4. Закончите предложения:**

1. The country is washed by ...
2. Its total area is about ...
3. The largest mountain chain, the Urals, separates ... ..
4. Russia is very rich in ...
5. Russia is a ... ..
6. The industrial production is ...

**Ex.5. Поставьте следующие предложения в вопросительную и отрицательную форму:**

1. The Russian Federation is the largest country in the world.
2. The country is washed by 12 seas of 3 oceans.
3. It has a sea-border with the USA.
4. There are two Great Plains in Russia.
5. Russia is a parliamentary republic.
6. The legislative powers are exercised by the Duma.

**Ex.6. Составьте предложения, используя данные слова и словосочетания:**

1. Surface; occupies; one-seventh; about; it; of the; earth's.
2. Covers; the eastern part; Europe; of; it; and; of Asia; the northern; part.
3. The USA; it; has; with; also; a sea-border.
4. Of the country; there are; chains; several; mountain; on the territory.
5. The Duma; by; the legislative; are; powers; exercised.

**Ex.7. Соответствуют ли данные предложения содержанию текста:**

1. The Russian Federation is situated in the western part of Europe and the southern part of Asia.
2. Its total area is about 20 million square kilometers.
3. There are two Great Plains in Russia.
4. There are over five million rivers in Russia.
5. Europe's biggest river, the Lena, flows into the Caspian Sea.
6. Russia is a constitution monarchy.
7. The head of State is the king.

**Ex.8. Переведите слова в скобках:**

1. The Russian Federation (занимает) about one-seventh of the earth's surface.
2. The country (омывается) by 12 seas of 3 oceans.
3. There are (две великие равнины) in Russia.
4. The largest mountain chain, the Urals, (отделяет) Europe from Asia.
5. Europe's biggest river, the Volga, (впадает) into the Caspian Sea.
6. Russia is a (президентская) republic.

**Ex.9. Перескажите текст, используя план:**

1. Geographical position.
2. A variety of scenery and vegetation.
3. Rivers and lakes in Russia.
4. Various resources.
5. Political and economic situation.