

# Exploring Russia



## Overview

Students will explore the country of Russia by transitioning through 5 hands-on stations. Students will have the opportunity to see some of Moscow's most vibrant city buildings, taste a Russian favorite entrée, smell some spices used in Russian cuisine, and learn instruments used in traditional Russian music. Students will journey through the rich culture of Russia, while completing their Travel Journals.

## Education Standards

### Social Studies

**3.4(E)** identify and compare the human characteristics of various regions

**3.13(A)** explain the significance of various ethnic and/or cultural celebrations in the local community and other communities

**3.13(B)** compare ethnic and/or cultural celebrations in the local community with other communities

**3.16(B)** identify the impact of scientific breakthroughs and new technology in computers, pasteurization, and medical vaccines on various communities

# Materials Needed

## For Station 1: The Sound of Russia

- Internet link or QR code to view a video of the instruments
- <https://youtu.be/CjcWRuF1lps?list=LLVvVo6777IYoRGL9vksdVw>
- Vocabulary Cards: Russian Instruments

## For Station 2: The Scent of Russia

- The following ground spices: Horseradish, Dill, Cloves, and Pepper
- Vocabulary Cards: Scents of Russia

## For Station 3: The Taste of Russia

- Recipe to make Beef Stroganoff
- Recipe to make Blini-Russian pancakes
- 2 boxes of Hamburger Helper Beef Stroganoff
- Menu: Russian Cuisine

## For Station 4: The Sights of Russia

- A 360° Virtual Tour Link or QR code for it
- Link for the tour of Moscow:  
[https://youtu.be/bC\\_Pa-7Nite?list=LLVvVo6777IYoRGL9vksdVw](https://youtu.be/bC_Pa-7Nite?list=LLVvVo6777IYoRGL9vksdVw)

## For Station 5: The Geography of Russia

- Link for geography facts
- <https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/russia-facts.html>

## Every Station will need:

- A Travel Journal- 1 per student. They will take their journal to each station and log their responses to each activity.

# Vocabulary

**Culture** a pattern of behavior shared by a society, or group of people. These things include food, language, clothing, tools, music, arts, customs, beliefs, and religion.

## Student Objectives

1. Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity by transitioning through hands-on stations.
2. Students will use their 5 senses to explore the country of Russia.
3. Students will acquire authentic experiences of Russia as they learn about the culture.

## Activity

1. **Set the Stage for the Students:** Teacher will read the Mission and Preparation of the trip to Russia. Teacher will explain that before a team can go into an unknown country, they must get to know the culture and explore the vast regions, looking for necessities, such as food, clothing, and other resources.
2. Teacher will explain to students that they will be transitioning through 5 stations to complete their Travel Journal. Booklets will be taken from station to station.

Each station will be 8 minutes (5 minutes to explore, 3 minutes to record responses in their **Travel Journal**). Teacher will divide the class into 5 groups of 4-5 students each, prior to starting the lessons.

## Setting Up the Stations

### **Station 1: The Sound of Russia**

Students will have the opportunity to learn about 9 traditional Russian instruments. They will compare the sounds and design of each instrument. Students will use the QR code or link to view a video on YouTube. Students view how these instruments look, sound, and how they are played. Students will read about each instrument using their Sound of Russia cards and will answer questions in their Travel Journal.

### **Station 2: The Smell of Russia**

Students will use their sense of smell to explore the following ground spices:

horseradish, dill, cloves, pepper

Students will use the spice cards to get information about each spice. Students will record their answers in their booklet. Place spices and **Scents of Russian Cards** on the table.

### **Station 3: The Taste of Russia** (optional food tasting station or send with students as a "Home Connection")

*This station is meant to give students a taste of some of the most common foods found around Russia. Students are encouraged to make connections to foods they have had. If teachers choose to prepare food or provide store bought food, please be sure to check for food restrictions or food allergies in your class. If teachers prefer to opt-out of this station, it can be replaced with pictures of food items and have students share their experiences.*

**Optional:** Students will taste a favorite Russian dish called Beef Stroganoff. (It can be prepared by the teacher the night before; the mix for this entrée can be bought at HEB or Walmart). Teachers can decide if they want to make the recipe for Russian Pancakes or have students review the recipe. Students will get to take home a recipe for Beef Stroganoff and Russian Pancakes to share with their families. Students can discuss which food item they like best.

*\*\*Please make sure you know your students' food restrictions or food allergies.\*\**

#### **Station 4: The Sights of Russia**

Students will take a virtual tour through Russia's most profound cities by using their iPads. Students will navigate through the tour by manipulating the screen to see a 360° view of each area. If students are using an Ipad, make sure to have them move it around. If students have a laptop, make sure that they position the cursor to move the screen setting around. The link should be provided through a QR code. If iPads or laptops are not available, the teacher can set it up as a viewing station only and students can watch it on a screen.

#### **Station 5: The Geography of Russia**

Students will learn about geographic facts about Russia by visting the following website <https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/russia-facts.html> (QR code provided for easier access). Students will have an opportunity to explore the sight, however, will complete their Travel Journals using the facts from the website. There is a map to print out to help answer the map questions in their Travel Journals.

#### **Think, Pair, Share**

Students will partner up with another student to discuss their favorite station. Ask students to share what they learned at that station.

## **Extension**

Students can plan a trip to Russia. What would you need to take and where would you go? Students could use the travel guide website of facts to help plan for this trip.