

# Moscow

1. Moscow is the capital of Russia, its political, economic, commercial and cultural centre. It was founded by Prince Yuri Dolgoruky in 1147.

It is one of the largest cities in Europe. Its total area is about nine hundred square kilometres. The population of Moscow is about 12 million. The entire city of Moscow is headed by a mayor. It is divided into ten administrative okrugs and 123 districts.

2. Moscow is the seat of the Russian Parliament (the Duma) and the centre of the political life of the country.

3. It is home to many scientific and educational institutions, as well as numerous sport facilities.

Moscow has the oldest Russian university, founded in 1755 by Lomonosov. Its new building was opened in 1953. It is 32 storeys high.

4. The city possesses a complex transport system, that includes 3 international airports, 9 railroad terminals, and the world's second busiest (after Tokyo) metro system which is famous for its architecture.

5. The heart of Moscow is Red Square with St. Basil's cathedral, the monument to Minin and Pozharsky, and the Kremlin with Spassky Tower, the Czar-cannon and the Czar-bell.

6. Moscow is also remarkable for its beautiful palaces, cathedrals, churches, museums, theatres, the best-known of them is the Bolshoi Opera House.

# The Russian Federation

I.

1. The Russian Federation is the largest country in the world with an area of over 17 million square kilometers. 143 million people live there.

2. It is washed by twelve seas and three oceans. The country shares land borders with 14 countries and maritime borders with 5 countries.

3. The country accommodates a great variety of landscapes and climates. Most of Russia is in zones of a continental and Arctic climate. Plain is clad in tundra, coniferous forest (taiga), mixed and broad-leaf forests, grassland (steppe), and semi-desert.

4. Russia has the world's greatest reserves of mineral and energy resources, its lakes contain about one-quarter of the world's unfrozen fresh water.

II.

1. Under the Constitution Russia is a federal presidential republic comprising 83 federal subjects.

2. The federal government consists of three branches: legislative, executive and judicial. Each of them is checked and balanced by the President.

3. 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.

## The Russian Federation

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

5. 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.

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

### III.

1 The flag of Russia is a tricolor of three equal horizontal fields, white on the top, blue in the middle and red on the bottom.

2. A new State Emblem of the Russian Federation consists of a black two-headed eagle crowned with imperial crowns.

# The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

1. The United Kingdom is - situated on the British Isles;
  - separated from Europe by the English Channel;
  - washed by the North Sea in the East and the Atlantic Ocean in the West.
2. The territory of the UK is divided into four parts: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
3. The United Kingdom covers over 244,000 square kilometres. Its population amounts to more than 60 million people.
4. The capital of the UK is London, in England.
5. The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy, a monarch is its Head of State. The monarch can reign only with the support of the Parliament. The British government comprises all the three powers: legislative, executive and judicial.

The legislative power belongs to the Parliament. The UK Parliament is divided into two chambers, the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

## The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

There are few political parties in Britain. The main ones are: the Conservative Party, the Labour Party.

The party which wins the most seats in Parliament forms the Government; its leader becomes the Prime Minister.

6. The functions of the House of Commons are legislation. The House of Commons is presided over by the Speaker.

It's in the House of Commons that new bills are introduced and debated.

7. The House of Lords is presided by the Lord Chancellor. The House of Lords has no real power.

8. Parliament is responsible for British national policy. Local governments are responsible for organizing of education, police and many others.

## The United States of America

1. The United States of America was founded in 1776.

It is the fourth largest country in the world after Russia, Canada and China. It occupies the southern part of North America and stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans.

The total area of the country is about nine and a half million square kilometres.

2. The USA It is made up of 50 states and the District of Columbia, a special federal area where the capital of the country, Washington, is situated. The population of the country is about 239 million.

3. The Constitution of the USA was adopted in 1787.

Since then more than 25 amendments to the Constitution have been made. The first ten amendments are known as the Bill of Rights.

The Constitution defines a federal system of government.

## The United States of America

4. At present the United States of America is a federal republic, consisting of fifty states each of which has its own state government, its own police and its own laws.
5. The President is the head of the country and the commander-in-chief of the armed forces; he appoints the ministers and the members of his cabinet forming the executive power.

The legislative power is vested in the Congress, consisting of two chambers: the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Members of the House of Representatives are called Congressmen and Congresswomen. Members of the Senate are called Senators.