



#10163

FAMILIES OF RUSSIA

MASTER COMMUNICATIONS, INC., 2002

Grade Level: 4-7

30 mins.

DESCRIPTION

Anya and Nicolai live in postcommunist Russia, one in a city and one on a farm. Follow each child through a typical day from morning wake-up call to breakfast, school, afternoon activities, chores, and dinner. They also reveal some historical and cultural information about their country. Shows differences and similarities between urban and rural households.



ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Geography–Human Systems

- Standard: Understands the nature and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics
 - ♦ Benchmark: Knows the similarities and differences in characteristics of culture in different regions (e.g., in terms of environment and resources, technology, food, shelter, social organization, beliefs and customs, schooling, what girls and boys are allowed to do) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1 and 2.)
 - ♦ Benchmark: Understands cultural change (in terms of, e.g., the role of women in society, the role of children in society, clothing styles, modes of transportation, food preferences, types of housing, attitudes toward the environment and resources) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1 and 2.)

Subject Area: Arts

- Standard: Understands connections among the various art forms and other disciplines
 - ♦ Benchmark: Knows ways in which the principles and subject matter of other disciplines taught in the school are interrelated with those of the arts (e.g., pattern in the arts and in science) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 3.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

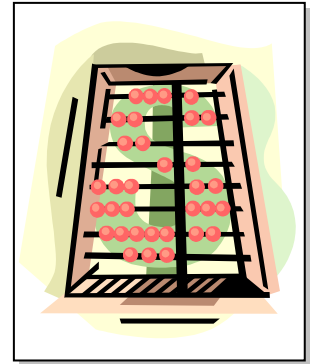
1. To present a brief overview of two Russian children in their daily lives.
2. To compare life in modern Russia of a young girl with that of a young boy.
3. To depict the Russian's love of the arts and physical activity instilled in children at a young age.

VOCABULARY

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. abacus | 8. harbor | 15. rubles |
| 2. alphabet | 9. icons | 16. sauna |
| 3. ballet | 10. lathe | 17. sausage |
| 4. cabbage | 11. medicine | 18. subway |
| 5. cafeteria | 12. metric | 19. trade school |
| 6. Communist | 13. nuclear weapons | 20. village |
| 7. gymnastics | 14. public | |

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Locate Russia on a world map. Find the towns of Novgorod and Retkino, where the two children in the video live. Also locate Moscow, Russia's capital.
2. Generate a list of daily activities that the viewers experience. Record for reference after viewing the video.



DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause the video at the names of the cities or villages where Anya and Nickolai live.
 - a. Locate them on a world map.
 - b. Predict what types of terrain, environment, and clothing the viewer might expect to see in these villages.
3. Pause at the mention of each Russian word used and defined in the video. Make a list of these words for use after viewing.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Why are most old cities in Russia built along waterways? Is the same reason true for old American cities?
2. List possible reasons why Anya's mother doesn't have a job outside the home.
3. Discuss how often the viewers' mothers or fathers go to the grocery store. Compare this with Anya's mother who shops daily.
4. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of public transportation, such as trains, buses, and subways. Contrast these forms of transportation with driving cars in a city.
5. Name types of street performers that viewers have seen in America. Estimate how much money they may make in a day. Discuss why people choose to entertain on public streets.
6. Describe why music, writing, and dancing can be referred to as art. What else could be considered art?
7. Explain how lessons become free in Russian gymnastics schools. Relate any personal experiences with gymnastics.

C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m

8. Describe meals, snacks, and drinks that Anya and Nickolai consume in a regular day.
9. What evidence in the video shows that Anya's family is wealthy, poor, or middle class? Nickolai's family?
10. Why doesn't Nickolai's family have to buy much food? Is this true for most farm families?
11. What is a trade school? What are some trade schools in this country?
12. Describe the government of a communist country.
 - a. How is it different than ours?
 - b. When did Russia change its form of government?
 - c. What are some advantages and disadvantages of this change?
13. Explain how houses in Nickolai's village are heated.
14. Anya's city was built in Russia 800 years ago. Calculate what year that was and discuss what was happening in the viewer's area at that time.
15. Recall ways in the video where Russians try to make things instead of buy them. Make a list of things the viewers have or use that could be made instead of bought.

Applications and Activities

1. Refer to the list of daily activities created in BEFORE SHOWING. Compare and contrast them with the lives of Anya and Nickolai
2. Find a sampling of the Russian Cyrillic alphabet. Practice copying some common words and compare them with the Roman alphabet.
3. Research where local water is pumped from and what steps it goes through before it reaches faucets.
4. Host a Parent Job Day. Invite several parents to come to school and speak about what they do for a living.
5. Look up the equivalence of a ruble to a dollar. Calculate how many rubles it would take to buy a loaf of bread, a jacket, or a favorite toy.
6. Research cities in the world that have subway systems. List the populations of these cities from largest to smallest.
7. Look up Tchaikovsky, Tolstoy, and Chagall. Describe their accomplishments and state some interesting facts about them.
8. Locate an abacus, and learn how to add or subtract numbers. Role-play buying items at a market. Take turns using the abacus.
9. Visit a woodshop, and observe how a lathe is used. Host a "show-and-tell" of items or furniture where a lathe was used.
10. Research the Russian Orthodox Church and why it used to be forbidden.



C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m

11. From DURING VIEWING, recall the meanings of the Russian words listed. Write a pretend journal entry or entries of Anya or Nickolai using these Russian words.

CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- [Families of Israel #10166](#)
- [Russia News Stories #9969](#)
- [Russia: Nina's World #3172](#)



World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

• CYRILLIC ALPHABET

http://www.colby.edu/library/collections/technical_services/wp/Cyrillic.html

Learn some Russian letters of the Cyrillic alphabet. This site compares Russian with Roman alphabets letter by letter and shows upper and lowercase and printed and cursive versions.

• MY KIDS PENPALS CLUB OF RUSSIA

http://www.mykids.narod.ru/detyam/klub_druzeyeng.htm

Make new friends by becoming a pen pal with a Russian boy or girl. Register your school or an individual student into this site's database free of charge.

