

III. СТРАНОВЕДЕНИЕ. КУЛЬТУРА

LESSON 18

Topic:	Countries.
Text 1:	Russia.
Text 2:	The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
Text 3:	The United States of America.
Text 4:	Canada. Australia. New Zealand.

Text 1

Russia

Russia is the largest country in the world. It covers half of Europe and the third part of Asia and is located in Eastern Europe and Northern and Central Asia. Russia borders on Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, and other countries. Russia is washed by the Pacific Ocean in the east and the Arctic Ocean in the north. The main rivers are the Volga, the Yenisey, the Ob and the Lena. The Baikal Lake, the deepest fresh water lake in the world, is in Siberia. It contains about twenty percent of the world's fresh water supply. There are several mountain chains in Russia: the Urals and the Altai. Large part of Russia is covered with forests.

On the vast territory of Russia there are four climatic zones. They are the arctic, the subarctic, the temperate, and the subtropical zones. The subtropical climate is the warmest. The central part of Russia has the moderate climate with four distinct seasons, which differ greatly in the weather. The most part of the territory of the country has continental climate.

Russia is rich in natural resources, including vast areas of fertile lands and forests, deep lakes and wide rivers. It is rich in mineral deposits, such as coal, oil, iron ore, gas, copper, lead, gold and others.

Russia has a developed industry. It has made a great progress in science and engineering.

The population of Russia is about 150 million people. It is a multinational country.

The highest legislative body of the Russian Federation is the Russian Parliament (Duma). The executive power is held by the President and the Cabinet of Ministers. The President is Head of State.

The Russian Federation is a free union of a number of regions, territories and autonomous republics, for example, Karelia, Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Mordovia and others.

EXERCISES

1. Read the geographical names and translate them into Russian (see the general list of geographical names and their transcription in the APPENDIX).

the Pacific Ocean	the Atlantic Ocean	the Urals
the Arctic Ocean	the Indian Ocean	the Altai
the Baltic Sea	the Caspian Sea	
Asia	Europe	

2. Read the following paying attention to the stressed syllables:

geography — geographical position
parliament — parliamentary monarchy
climate — climatic zone
industry — industrial centre
economy — economical centre
to export production
natural resources
political structure

3. Match the words in the columns.

deep	country
moderate	territory
climatic	lake
independent	climate
large	chain
vast	island
mountain	resources
natural	zone

4. Match the words with the opposite meaning.

deep	poor
high	dry
rich	near
far	short
wide	shallow
cold	small
damp	low
long	narrow
vast	warm

5. Fill in the blanks with prepositions. Use the word combinations in the sentences of your own.

to consist ... several parts

to border ... many countries
to be washed ... seas
to be rich ... natural resources
to be surrounded ... water
to be covered ... forests
to be divided ... three parts

6. Speak about the geographical position of Russia.

7. Speak about the climate of Russia.

8. Speak about the climate in the country/city/town you live in.

9. Retell the text.

10. Translate into English.

1. Территория России занимает почти одну шестую часть земной поверхности.

2. В России много рек.

3. Россия граничит со многими странами.

4. Россия омывается океанами на севере и на западе.

5. Самое глубокое озеро — Байкал, которое содержит около 20 % мирового запаса пресной воды.

6. В России есть несколько горных цепей.

7. Четыре климатические зоны России — это арктическая, субарктическая, умеренная и субтропическая.

8. Россия имеет большие ресурсы нефти, природного газа и других полезных ископаемых.

9. Глава государства — президент.

10. Россия, расположенная в Восточной Европе и Северной и Центральной Азии, является самой большой страной в мире.

11. Основные реки России — Обь, Енисей и Лена — расположены в Сибири.

12. В России много плодородных земель, больших лесов, глубоких озер и рек.

13. Высшим законодательным органом России является Государственная Дума.

14. В состав Российской Федерации входят области, территории и автономные республики.

Text 2

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

To the west of the continent of Europe lie two large islands. The larger of them is called Great Britain, and the smaller, Ireland. These two and 5,500 smaller islands form the British Isles.