

St Aidan's and St John Fisher Associated Sixth Form

Y11 to Y12 Transition Work

Subject: History

Topic(s): Russia, 1855 – 1964

Independent Learning Task(s) to Complete:

1. Watch Horrible Histories Russian Revolutions on the BBC iPlayer. How does the programme characterise the Tsar, the peasantry, the relationship between the Tsar and the peasantry, the role of the first world war, the revolutions of 1917, the idea of Communism, Lenin, Communist leaders.
2. Summarise the main ideas from episode 3, 'Empire of the Tsars' by Lucy Worsley
3. Read the 'Russian' chapter from 'Prisoners of Geography', which gives an overview of Russian History. What are Russia's major strengths and weaknesses?
4. Produce mini-fact files on **all** of the following individuals/groups/events: Nicholas I, the Crimean War, the Russo-Japanese War, the First World War, Alexander II, Alexander III, Nicholas II, Sergei Witte, Pyotr Stolypin, Karl Marx, Rasputin, the People's Will, the Narodniks, the Socialist Revolutionaries.
5. Create a timeline of the major events in Russian history from 1855 – 1964. You should aim to include major political events, economic events, social and cultural events.
6. Using all the above work – how would you characterise this period of Russian history, and what were the key turning points in Russian history?
7. Additional tasks: you could read/watch the following to get a feeling for Russia between 1855 – 1964: War and Peace by Tolstoy, Anna Karenina by Tolstoy or Dr Zhivago by Boris Pasternak.

How it links to the Specification:

1. Watching and summarising these ideas will provide an accessible way to begin to understand some of the key individuals and events that the course provides.
2. Watching and summarising the clips from Empire of the Tsars will give you an understanding of the key features and events in Russia from the middle of the nineteenth century to the early twentieth century, which forms the basis of our studies in Year 12.
3. Reading, and summarising the chapter from 'Prisoners of Geography' will offer a deeper understanding of Russia, whose political, social and economic development has been deeply affected by its geography. This reading will also give you an understanding of the type of academic reading you will be expected to undertake in lessons or your guided private study.
4. These fact files will encourage you to research the key individuals we will be studying in the course, and the completion of them will help to develop your independent research skills, which are much valued and needed for your non-examined assessment.
5. The Russian side of the course requires a strong thematic and chronological understanding, and creating this timeline will help you to begin to get to grips with this potentially unfamiliar country.
6. This activity should bring all of your ideas and knowledge together, and will encourage you in your analytical and evaluative skills.
7. Reading /watching some of these classic Russian pieces of literature will help you to understand some of the cultural aspects of Russia, and how it was perceived by its own people.

Resources (include any hyperlinks):

[BBC iPlayer - Horrible Histories - Series 7: 9. Revolting Russian Revolutions](#)

[BBC Four - Empire of the Tsars: Romanov Russia with Lucy Worsley, The Road to Revolution](#)

Prisoners of Geography, from googlebooks (some pages are missing, but most of the chapter is accessible)

<https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=aXTJGcAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=prisoners+of+geography&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj8lKK8m5PpAhUzmVwKHVVyCnAQ6AEIzAA#v=onepage&q=prisoners%20of%20geography&f=false>

Possible websites for mini-fact files:

<https://spartacus-educational.com/Russia.htm>

https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/

Possible websites for the timeline:

<https://www.preceden.com/timelines/77126-russia-1855-1964>

<https://www.history.com/topics/russia/russia-timeline>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17840446>

Additional Information:

Mini fact-files on key individuals should contain the following: Name, date of birth, place of birth, major achievements, major failings, their death, how historians have remembered them.

Mini fact-files on key groups should contain the following: Founding of the groups, key aims of the group, methods used by the group, successes, failings.

Mini fact-files on key individuals should contain the following: Key causes, notable events, key individuals involved, consequences and impact on Russia.

Students should also complete the British History transition work

Deadline: Start of September Term