

Russia: Land of the Tsars (Part II)

Russia: Land of the Tsars is a four-part series about the leaders of Russia from the Vikings in 862 to the Revolution in 1918. It discusses aspects of Russian history including expansion of the monarchy, the origins of the Russian Orthodox Church, armed conflicts, the changing political climate, opposition to the Tsars, and the gradual modernization of Russian society.

Objectives:

Students will explore and analyze the history of the Russian rulers and the impact of their policies on the Russian people. They will examine complex political intrigues, the development of a nation, the process and consequences of introducing new political ideas, and the role of opposition movements in historical change.

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe what was occurring in Russia during the "Time of Troubles".
2. What did the Russians do to the Polish pretender to the crown?
3. What is serfdom?
4. Name the Tsar that instituted serfdom and explain why he did it?
5. What actions did Peter's sister Sofia take to keep Peter's family from the throne? What were the consequences of her actions?
6. Who were the Streltsy?
7. What was Sofia's role during Peter's early reign with his brother Ivan V?
8. How did Sofia communicate with Peter when he was on the throne?
9. Why didn't Sofia rule as Czarina during this period?
10. After Peter took control of the throne what did he do with Sofia?
11. Peter had a passion for ships; what obstacles blocked his maritime ambitions?
12. Describe Peter's travels in the west?
13. How did Peter try to Westernize Russia and what new ideas did he introduce?
14. What did Peter do to the Boyars and the Streltsy when he returned from the west?
15. Peter built a new city on the Baltic Sea called _____.
16. Peter the Great defeated the army of King Charles XII of _____ at the Battle of Poltava.
17. What were some of the accomplishments of Peter the Great?
18. Describe Peter's relationship with his son.
19. How did Peter the Great meet his end?
20. Why do you think Pyotr Alexeyevich Romanov was called "Peter the Great"?