

# Passport Pals

## Russia

### Instructor Notes

#### General Notes

- The Russian Federation is formally known as the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) or the Soviet Union from 1922 - 1991.
- Russia is the world largest country by surface area. It covers 1/8 of the of land area.
- There have been a lot of boundary changes over the past 100 years.

#### Flag

- The national flag of Russia is a tricolor flag featuring three horizontal bands of white, blue and red.
- During the era of the Soviet Union, the flag used was a red with a golden hammer and sickle and the golden bordered red star on top.

#### Russia vs. US Size

- The total area of Russia is 6.6 million square miles.
- The United States is 3.8 million square miles.
- Would Russia be bigger or smaller than the United States?

#### Currency

- The Russian ruble is official currency of the Russian Federation.
- Do not have any Russian currency to show at this time.

#### Moscow International Business Center

- Also known as “Moscow City” is a commercial/ financial district that consists of several grand towers built in a futuristic style.
- *Europe's tallest building, the Federation Tower, is in the Moscow IBC. The complex also includes the second-tallest, third-tallest, fifth-tallest, sixth-tallest, and seventh-tallest buildings in Europe.*

#### The Motherland Calls

- The Motherland Calls is a statue commemorating the Battle of Stalingrad.
- It is the tallest statue in Europe and the tallest statue of a woman in the world. It is 278 feet tall.
- The Statue of Liberty is 151 feet tall.

#### Saint Basil's Cathedral

- The Saint Basil's Cathedral, is a church in the Red Square in Moscow, Russia. The building is now a museum. It is the most visited landmark in Russia.
- The church was ordered to be built by Ivan the Terrible in 1555.
- The building is shaped like giant flames reaching to the sky, but the church's iconic colors were not painted until 200 years after it was built.

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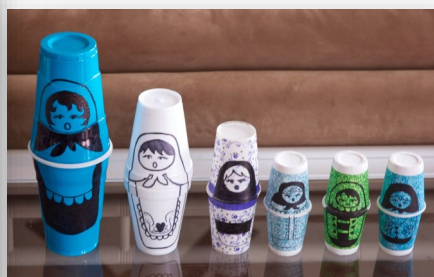
## Russia

### Instructor Notes

#### Crafts & Activities

##### DIY Nesting Dolls (Matryoshkas)

- This popular art form usually features a peasant mother in native costume with offspring nested inside.
- Nesting dolls can be created from many different materials (get creative) or can be done using traditional wood (craft set).



##### STEM with Famous Landmarks

- Give students a blocks, LEGOs, or other building materials to construct their own structure of Russia's famous landmarks.
- Make it more challenging by giving the students non-traditional building supplies such as recycled materials or food to build.
- See who can build the tallest statue!



##### Children's Game

P'yatnitsa is a popular Russian card game. It is just like the card game War. It is usually played with two players. All of the cards are dealt face down. Both players turn their top cards over, face up. Whoever has the highest-ranking card collects both cards, returning them to the bottom of their stack. The player who runs out of their cards first, loses the game.

##### Russian Food

A traditional Russian meal consists of fish, potatoes, vegetables and bread. **Borscht**, a soup made from beets, is a well-known traditional Russian food.

Tea and tea ceremonies are an important part of Russian culture. **Samovars** are Russian tea water heaters. The samovar keeps the tea water hot, and then a spout is used to pour the hot water into a tea cup. **In Russian, the word samovar means "boils itself".**

##### Ideas for presenting food preparation:

- Wafer Cake
- Paskha (Russian Cheesecake served at Easter)
- Russian pierogis (Varenyky)



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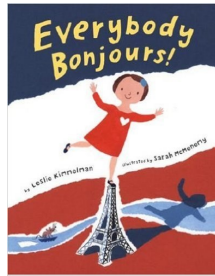
## Russia

### Book List

#### *Everybody Bonjours!*

by Leslie Kimmelman

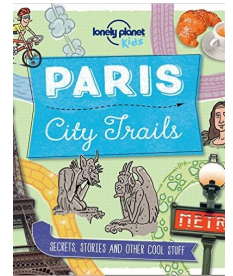
Young reader-travelers to a Paris that isn't just for artists, grown-ups, and dreamers— it's for kids!



#### *City Trails - Paris*

by Lonely Planet Kids

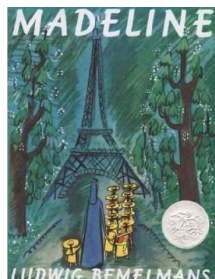
Discover Paris's best-kept secrets, amazing stories and loads of other cool stuff!



#### *Madeline*

by Ludwig Bemelmans

In an old house in Paris that was covered with vines lived twelve little girls in two straight lines...



#### *France: Enchantment of the World*

by Liz Sonneborn

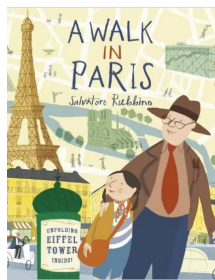
Learn about France's renowned cuisine, diverse wildlife, and amazing geographical features.



#### *A Walk in Paris*

by Salvatore Rubbino

Vive la France! Join a girl and her grandfather on a walking tour through Paris.



#### *Cooking School: French Food*

by Sara Gilbert

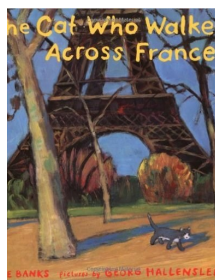
An elementary introduction to the relationship between cooking and French culture.



#### *The Cat Who Walked Across France*

by Kate Banks

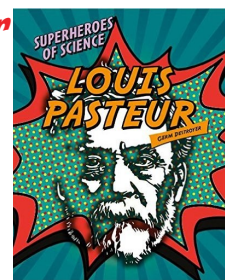
A tour of France through bustling cities, to the sparkling ports of the Mediterranean Sea.



#### *Superheros of Science Louis Pasteur*

by Nancy Dickman

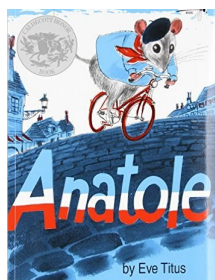
French scientist, Louis Pasteur, made a huge impact on industry, medicine, and scientific theory.



#### *Anatole*

by Eve Titus

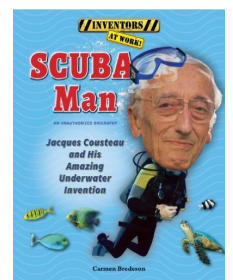
Anatole is the happiest, most contented mouse in all of Paris. Follow him on honorable adventures.



#### *Scuba Man: Jacques Cousteau*

by Carmen Bredeson

Read about his invention of the Aqua-Lung which made scuba diving possible today!





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## Russia



Here's a map overlay with Russia placed over a map of the Continental US. The total area of Russia is 6.6 million square miles. The United States is 3.8 million square miles.

Which country is bigger Russia or the United States?

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## Russia

### The Motherland Calls vs. the Statue of Liberty

The Motherland Calls Statue is 278 feet

The Statue of Liberty is 151 feet

