

Russia and the United States: Perspectives from History, Choices for today

Sixth edition. May 2023.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Begins with the creation of the Soviet Union and the Cold War.
- Covers the breakup of the Soviet Union and political and economic changes in Russia.
- Concludes with an overview of U.S.- Russia relations today, with a focus on the war in Ukraine and NATO.

STUDENT READINGS

- Profiles regional geography and the resources of Russia.
- Explains how the Soviet Union was created and subsequently broke up.
- Explores Russia and Putin's rise to power.
- Contextualizes continued tensions that simmer in the U.S.-Russia relationship following the Cold War, including the issue of nuclear weapons.
- Explores NATO and the war in Ukraine.

CENTRAL ROLE PLAY ACTIVITY

Question: What policies should the United States make to manage its relationship with Russia?

Setting: U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

SKILL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LESSONS

A short description of each lesson can be found on the unit webpage [here](#).

Students will:

- **Create** compelling and supporting questions to guide their inquiry on U.S.-Russia relations.
- **Read** maps; identify physical and human characteristics of Russia.
- **Examine** assumptions about U.S. and Soviet Cold War policy through an article by Kennan and a telegram from Novikov.
- **Compare** a portrayal of U.S. society through Soviet posters and a U.S. portrayal of the USSR in a comic book.
- **Analyze** photographs of Russian society and daily life.
- **Collaborate** to synthesize readings, lessons, and position profiles into class presentations.
- **Listen** actively and deliberate with peers on the complex viewpoints expressed.
- **Write** a coherent set of policy recommendations for U.S.-Russia relations.

LINKS FOR FURTHER CURRICULUM EVALUATION

Videos - A [video collection](#) accompanies this unit, and the videos are incorporated throughout the Digital Editions.

Print Format - This [preview](#) includes the table of contents, a reading excerpt, and a sample lesson plan.

Digital Editions Format - Interested in what the Digital Editions format looks like? Check out our web-based curriculum [here](#).