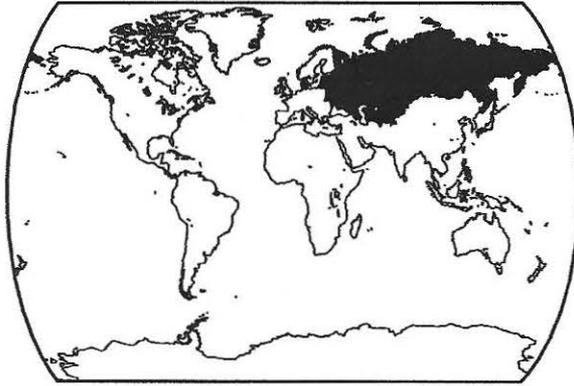
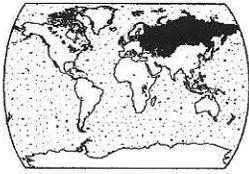


# NORTHERN EURASIA





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## NORTHERN EURASIA

## Overview

**N**ORTHERN EURASIA is a vast region that sweeps across the north of two continents. It extends from the Baltic Sea to the Pacific Ocean, from the Arctic Sea to the Caspian Sea. Yet despite its huge size, the region has one basic physical pattern. In the west and center of the region lie flat plains. To the east, the land rises up to highlands. And the southern border of the region is marked by lakes, inland seas, and mountain ranges.

Within those plains and mountains lie 15 very different countries. In them, some 200 different languages are spoken. These separate nations were one for many years: first the Russian Empire, then the Soviet Union. Then in the late twentieth century, the Soviet Union was dissolved. Once again, many separate nations emerged.

The Russian Empire began in the 800s as a Viking settlement on the Dnieper River. Over the centuries, the settlement expanded. It took over more and more territory. By the 1200s, the ruler of the expanded territory declared himself an emperor. He took the title **czar**, the Russian version of the Roman emperor “caesar.”

The czars who followed continued to expand their territory, bringing many different ethnic groups into the Russian Empire. By the beginning of the twentieth century, the empire

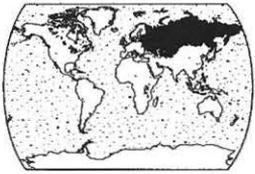
covered almost the whole region. Then, in 1917, the czar was overthrown. The Russian Empire became the Soviet Union, a communist state.

For most of the twentieth century, the Soviet Union was an important power. Then, in 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed. Many of the separate **republics** declared independence.

Today, this region consists of 15 separate countries. These nations are working to establish their own economies and places in the world. But they are all still affected by the recent past. By the time the Soviet Union fell, its economy was in ruins. The many different ethnic groups within the Soviet Union were at odds with each other. The newly independent countries must now work to reconcile these different ethnic groups, while trying to rebuild their shattered economies.

**Think About It**

One of Russia’s czars fought several wars in order to extend his territory as far as the Baltic Sea. At that time, Russia only had ports on the north—the Barents Sea, the Kara Sea, the Arctic Ocean, and so forth. Based on Russia’s geography, why would a port on the Baltic Sea be important?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*NORTHERN EURASIA*

## Word List

### ***Political Features***

#### **COUNTRIES**

Armenia  
Azerbaijan  
Belarus  
Estonia  
Georgia  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Moldova  
Russia  
Tajikistan  
Turkmenistan  
Ukraine  
Uzbekistan

#### **CAPITALS**

Ashkhabad  
Astana  
Baku  
Bishkek  
Dushanbe  
Chisinau  
Kiev  
Minsk  
Moscow

Riga  
Tallinn  
Tashkent  
Tbilisi  
Vilnius  
Yerevan

### ***Physical Features***

#### **RIVERS**

Amur River  
Dnieper River  
Dniester River  
Don River  
Irtys River  
Lena River  
Ob River  
Ural River  
Volga River  
Yenisei River

#### **OTHER WATER BODIES**

Aral Sea  
Arctic Ocean  
Baltic Sea  
Barents Sea  
Bering Sea  
Bering Strait  
Black Sea

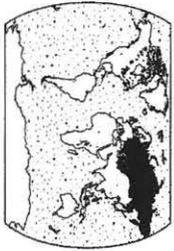
Caspian Sea  
Kara Sea  
Lake Baikal  
Lake Balkhash  
Lake Ladoga  
Laptev Sea  
Pacific Ocean  
Sea of Okhotsk  
White Sea

#### **MOUNTAINS**

Altai Mts.  
Baikal Mts.  
Caucasus Mts.  
Cherskogo Range  
Kolyma Mts.  
Mt. Elbrus  
Pamir Mts.  
Sayan Mts.  
Stanovoi Range  
Ural Mts.  
Verkhoyanski Mts.  
Yablonovy Mts.

#### **OTHER PHYSICAL FEATURES**

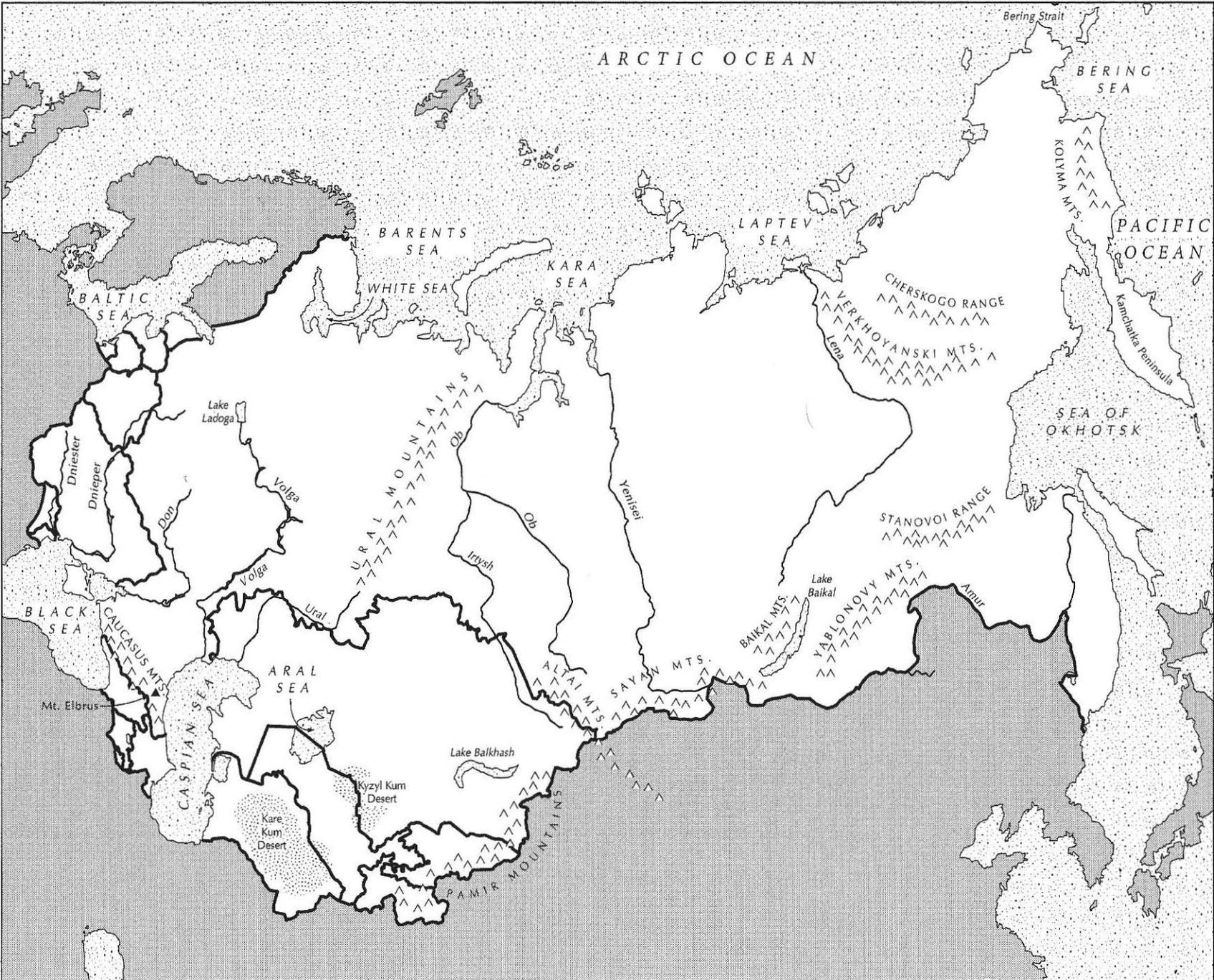
Kamchatka Peninsula  
Kara Kum Desert  
Kyzyl Kum Desert

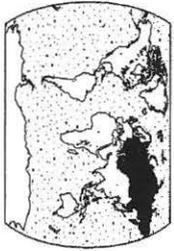


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# NORTHERN EURASIA Labeled Physical Map





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# NORTHERN EURASIA Labeled Political Map

