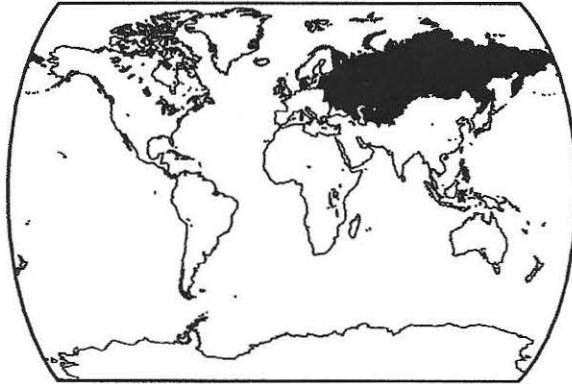
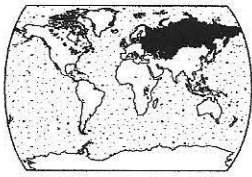


NORTHERN EURASIA





Name: _____

Date: _____

NORTHERN EURASIA

Overview

NORTHERN 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

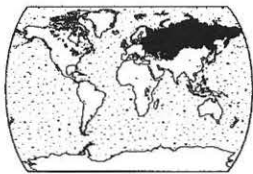
covered almost the whole region. Then, in 1917, the czar was overthrown. The Russian Empire became the Soviet Union, a communist state.

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

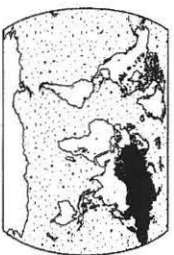
White Sea

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

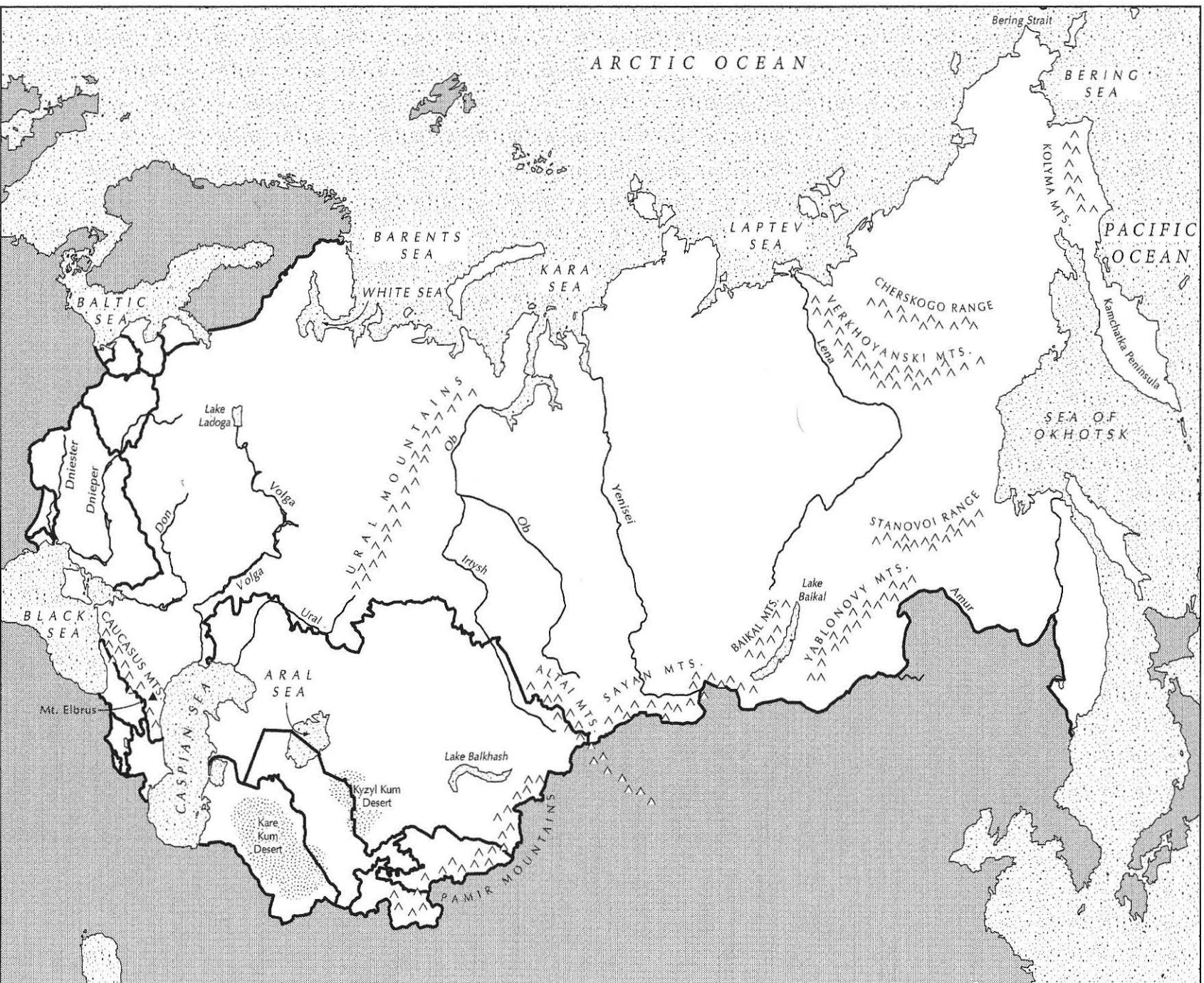
Kamchatka Peninsula
Kara Kum Desert
Kyzyl Kum Desert

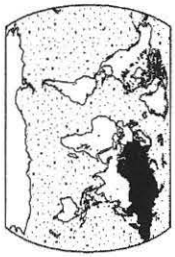


Name: _____

Date: _____

NORTHERN EURASIA Labeled Physical Map





Name: _____

Date: _____

NORTHERN EURASIA Labeled Political Map

