

Key Terms

choropleth map – a map which uses different shading or colouring within areas, to show average values in those areas.

population density – the number of people who live in an area or land

densely populated – an area with lots of people living in it

sparsely populated – very few people living in an area

Geographical Fact File

Russia is rich in natural resources, e.g. it produces 20% of the world's natural gas.

Of the 100 coldest cities in the northern hemisphere, 85 are in Russia.

Russia accounts for 20% of the world's forest area.

Where is Russia?

Russia is in the continents of both Europe and Asia – it is the world's largest country in size.

14 countries border Russia

2 oceans border Russia – Arctic and Pacific



Climate of Russia

A continental climate.

Two main seasons: long, dark cold winters with brief, often warm summers.

Precipitation is low throughout the year.

Physical Geography Facts

The **Ural mountain range** splits Russia in two, running north-south. This forms the traditional separation between Europe and Asia.

West Siberian Plain is a huge lowland (the largest plain in the world). It is a vast frozen area in winter, and a huge marshland in summer.

The **Northern Coastline** is the longest continuous coastline of any country in the world. It touches both the Arctic and Pacific Oceans. Most of the coastline is frozen for many months of the year.

In the East part of Russia there are 70 **volcanoes on the Kamchatka Peninsula**. The island of Sakhalin experiences significant earthquake activity.

The physical landscape of Russia



Biomes in Russia

Steppe – temperate grassland, with few trees and generally fertile soil.

Temperate forests – mixture of deciduous and coniferous trees.

Most of Russia is dominated by taiga (or boreal forest) and tundra.

Taiga (or boreal forest) – coniferous forests (pines, spruces, firs and larches).

Tundra – coldest of all biomes. It is too cold for trees to grow. Winters are long and summers are short.



Where do people live in Russia?

The population of Russia is NOT evenly spread out. Despite having 145.6 million people, for its area Russia is one of the most sparsely populated countries in the world. 77% of Russia's population live in the European part of the country, west of the Ural Mountains.



Russia and the North Pole

As with other regions of the world, international law states that Arctic countries are allowed an **exclusive economic zone (EEZ)** of 200 nautical miles bordering their coastline.

There are important natural resources in the Arctic Circle.



- 1 North Pole: Russia leaves its flag on the seabed, 4,000 m (13,100 ft) beneath the surface.
- 2 Lomonosov Ridge: Russia argues that this underwater ridge is actually connected to the Russian landmass.
- 3 200-nautical mile (370 km) line: Shows how far countries agreed.
- 4 Russian-claimed territory: The bid to claim a vast area is being closely watched by other countries.

Benefits of Russia's geography on the economy

Russia has an abundance of natural resources.

Around 80% of all of Russia's exports are natural resources:

- it produces 20% of the world's natural gas
- is one of the world's leading producer of oil
- with 20% of the world's forests located in Russia, it supplies much of the world's timber.

Problems of Russia's geography on the economy

- The cold climate means only 10% of the land is suitable for farming.
- Much of the natural resources are found in the area east of the Urals, where it is very cold and remote.
- Many roads are in poor condition because of the cold, and the railroad doesn't reach the north.
- Russia's northern coastline is frozen for much of the year. This means it does not always have access to a port with direct access to the oceans.