

# Fast 5

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What is the name of the largest desert in China?

In what year was the Russian flag adopted for the whole country?

Which two continents is Russia a part of?

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6300km

What is the name of the largest desert in China?

The Gobi Desert

In what year was the Russian flag adopted for the whole country?

1917

Which two continents is Russia a part of?

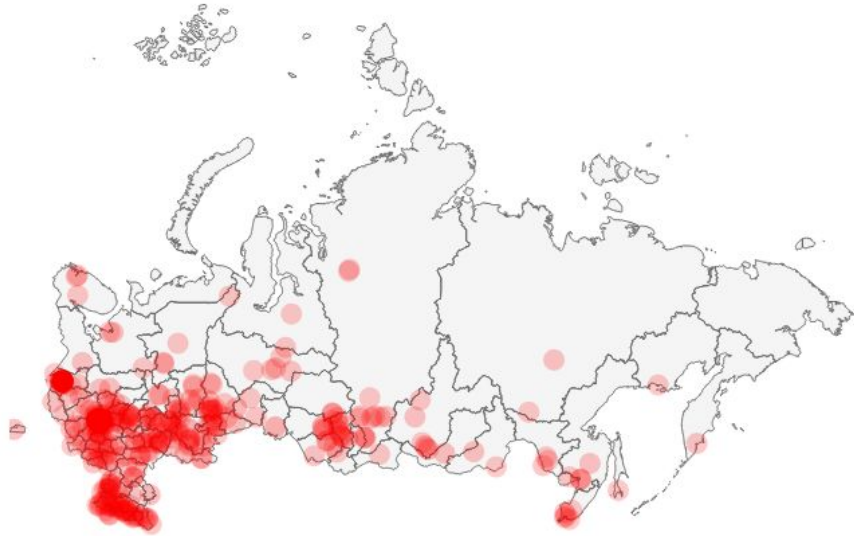
Europe and Asia

Can I explain how the size  
of Russia impacts various  
factors?



Russia is the largest country in the world. In fact, it is approximately 70 times larger than the U.K.

Russia also has a population of 146,800,000 people, over double that of the U.K



Although Russia is incredibly large, the vast majority of its population live on the European side of the country. This image shows the relative population density in Russia. Notice how the vast majority of people live on the borders to other countries and large parts of the country are essentially unpopulated.

Due to Russia's size, most Russian people live on the borders of the country. This allows for trade and movement, without having to cross a larger distance than necessary. If more people lived in the central areas of Russia, varying weather throughout the different climates could cause trade to become disrupted.

Due to Russia's immense size, there are several different climates across the country, which are part of the reason so much of the country is uninhabited.

15% of the country's landmass is referred to as "tundra"; an area which is permanently frozen and cannot sustain life.

Another 15% of the country is "boggy tundra", which means people could live there, but plants would not grow well.

These tundra alone mean that around 30% of the country's landmass is uninhabitable by people.



As you can see from this map, as well as the population map, most Russian people live in areas known as “temperate grassland”. It is easier to live here, as the ground is more appropriate for growing crops.



Due to its size, Russia has vastly diverse temperatures in different areas throughout the year. As you can see from the table above, Russia's hottest recorded day was 45.4 celsius, and its coldest recorded day was -64.5 celsius. What a difference!

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Record high °C (°F)	26.7 (80.1)	26.6 (79.9)	33.5 (92.3)	37.2 (99.0)	38.7 (101.7)	43.7 (110.7)
Record low °C (°F)	-71.2 (-96.2)	-67.8 (-90.0)	-60.6 (-77.1)	-57.2 (-71.0)	-35.8 (-32.4)	-22.2 (-8.0)

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
45.4 (113.7)	45.0 (113.0)	41.5 (106.7)	36.3 (97.3)	30.1 (86.2)	27.5 (81.5)
-9.3 (15.3)	-17.1 (1.2)	-27.6 (-17.7)	-48.7 (-55.7)	-58.5 (-73.3)	-64.5 (-84.1)

These temperatures were not recorded in the same part of Russia, but their huge difference goes to show that the size of Russia, and therefore its various climates can show the country as having a wildly varying temperature throughout the year. When we think about a smaller area, for example, the size of the U.K, the temperature variance seems far more in line with what we see in England.



Russia covers 11 climate zones, due to its size. The zones work relative to MSC, Moscow time, as Moscow is the capital city.

These zones are needed, as they allow a night and day cycle to remain normal throughout the country. If they didn't have them, 3pm in Moscow would be the same as in Pevek, where it would be night time already!