

# Area illustrated in Russia

12

Very approximate grade level

R/1

**2** a big geographic idea  
(and a good place to study it)

## Area (Size)

is worth studying in Russia because large countries are likely to have plenty of natural resources, but transportation is hard.

Science: specific heat, continentality, and weather extremes

History: relatively late development of government in Russia

Science: earth-sun relationships: orbit, rotation, and tilt

Math: areas of squares, triangles, other regular shapes

(previous classes or collaboration with other disciplines)

Compare countries by looking at ratios of area and population

Translate size into time zones, travel time, and cost.

Locate countries inside continents, and rivers inside countries

Learn position words: inside, part of, outside (spatial hierarchies)

(map skills)

Map skill: describe distortion due to map projection

Map skill: estimate area on maps

**3** some important consequences of the big idea

Cold and sparsely populated but resource-rich Russia shares a long border with crowded China.

Soviet planners found it difficult to plan efficient use of a large, cold area.

Russia's great size and cold winters helped stop several military invasions.

Many part of Russia are still used mainly by nomadic hunters/herders.

Large land areas tend to have more extreme temperatures (continentality).

Large countries tend to have many different environments and resources.

(positioned where appropriate in the curriculum)

Large size means plenty of room, but it also means long travel times.

A discussion question:

What are some implications of resource discoveries in Central Asia (where China has long borders with sparsely populated areas in Russia and Kazakhstan)?



**1** a scaffold of thinking skills and background knowledge that supports the big idea