

# Timeline of Moscow History

- \_\_\_ 1147 Two local warlords meet in tents near the Moskva River.
- \_\_\_ 1156 People build a wooden wall to protect their growing town.
- \_\_\_ 1237 Mongols burn the town and kill all of the inhabitants who didn't run away.
- \_\_\_ 1283 People rebuild the town as the center of the Grand Duchy of Moscow Territory.
- \_\_\_ 1300s Area around Moscow attracts refugees from other wars.
- \_\_\_ 1367 People build the Moscow Kremlin (fort) to protect themselves from attack.
- \_\_\_ 1352 First wave of Plague hits Moscow; many thousands die.
- \_\_\_ 1369 The Mongol Horde besieges the city but is not able to capture it.
- \_\_\_ 1382 Tatars invade the region and sack Moscow.
- \_\_\_ 1425 Vasily II becomes Crown Prince; Russian Orthodox Church is established in Moscow as Golden Horde loses power and Constantinople (center of older Eastern Orthodox Church) falls to Turks.
- \_\_\_ 1471 Novgorod armies invade area, but are defeated and pushed back.
- \_\_\_ 1480 City gains independence from Tatars.
- \_\_\_ 1507 Crimean army invades Russia from the southwest.
- \_\_\_ 1521 Khan army invades from the southeast and pillages countryside around Moscow.
- \_\_\_ 1533 Ivan the Terrible becomes Grand Prince of Moscow.
- \_\_\_ 1537 Crimeans invade again, supported by Ottomans and Lithuanians, and burn Moscow.
- \_\_\_ 1547 Moscow becomes capital of Grand Duchy of Russia.
- \_\_\_ 1555-71 Armies from Crimea, the Ottoman Empire, and Sweden invade five times.  
They finally set fire to the suburbs; fire spreads through Moscow; 80,000 Russians are killed, 150,000 captured.
- \_\_\_ 1591 Another Crimean invasion reaches area near Moscow; many farms are destroyed.
- \_\_\_ 1601 Famine kills one third of Moscow's population (>125,000 are buried in a mass grave).
- \_\_\_ 1611-2 Polish-Lithuanian army captures Moscow.
- \_\_\_ 1623-33 Tatars frequently raid the region around Moscow.
- \_\_\_ 1654-6 Plague sweeps through the city, about 200,000 die.
- \_\_\_ 1666-7 Russian armies successfully resist invasion by Polish and Lithuanian armies.
- \_\_\_ 1682 Moscow uprising leads to civil war after sudden death of Tsar Feodor.
- \_\_\_ 1698 Streltsy uprising starts another civil war. 1200 are tortured and executed afterwards.
- \_\_\_ 1712 Peter unifies Russia and makes St Petersburg the capital.
- \_\_\_ 1728 Capital is moved back to Moscow.
- \_\_\_ 1732 Capital moved back to St Petersburg.
- \_\_\_ 1739, 1742, 1753 Fires sweep through Moscow, destroying more than half of the buildings.
- \_\_\_ 1771 Plague comes again. 100,000 out of 300,000 people die, 20,000 in one month,.
- \_\_\_ 1812 Napoleon's army captures city and burns most businesses and 6500 of 9000 houses.
- \_\_\_ 1849 Grand Kremlin palace is built.
- \_\_\_ 1905 Moscow Uprising of 1905 is defeated after a short struggle.
- \_\_\_ 1917 Bolshevik Uprising finally succeeds after a long struggle.
- \_\_\_ 1918 Soviets make Moscow the capital of the Soviet Union.
- \_\_\_ 1941 Nazis invade and reach the edge of Moscow; battle for the city rages for three months.
- \_\_\_ 1993 After collapse of the Soviet Union, Moscow becomes capital of Russia.
- \_\_\_ 1995 City becomes headquarters of Russian oil companies.  
Much of the profit, however, goes to London, New York, cities in Switzerland, and the Cayman Islands.

## Critical Reading of a History Timeline

**Background:** The city of Moscow had a long and complicated history.

Moscow is located on a bend in the Moskva River. This river winds through a large, flat plain that was originally covered with trees. Trees grow slowly there, because the area has a cold continental climate (it has a lot of sudden weather changes in spring and fall, between a short, warm summer and a long, cold winter).

Under these conditions, people could run farms in the area around Moscow, but the land could not support a large population of farmers. This, in turn, meant that Moscow had to import a lot of food from other regions in order to support a large population.

Compared with cities in the United States, Moscow is an old city - it was started nearly 900 years ago. Compared with cities in other parts of Asia and Europe, however, Moscow is quite young. Some cities in China, India, and Southwest Asia are more than 3000 years old. Even so, Moscow has had a number of boom times, when the population grew rapidly. It also had times when the population went way down.

**Reading:** Critically read each line on the Timeline of Moscow History. Try to decide if that was a time of population growth or decline.

1. Put a large G on the line in front of each date when you think the conditions were right for rapid population GROWTH - when many people might have moved to Moscow from other places.
2. Put a small g by each date when you think the population might have grown a little.
3. Put a small l by each date when Moscow's population might have gone down a little.
4. Put a capital L on the line in front of each date when you think Moscow might have LOST a lot of its population (at least 1/4 of the people died or left the city).
5. Put a ? on the line next to a date when you really cannot decide whether the population might grow or decline at that time.

(Try not to have too many ?'s. Here's an important fact about critical reading: there is almost always a little uncertainty about your decisions, BUT the process of trying to make a decision can help you understand the meaning of a text better!)

**Adding it up:** When you have made a decision about each time period, count the total number of dates that you put in each group. Write the totals here:

G's \_\_\_\_\_ g's \_\_\_\_\_ l's \_\_\_\_\_ L's \_\_\_\_\_ ?'s \_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion:** Write a one-sentence generalization about the history of Moscow:

**Discussion question:** How does the history of Moscow help us understand this quotation from a famous Russian novel (and Oscar-winning movie) called Dr. Zhivago?

"War would have ended years ago, but for Russians' cursed ability to endure suffering."