

Geography Year 5 Spring 1 — Russia

Key knowledge to know and use

As the world's largest country, Russia occupies one-tenth of all the land on Earth. It spans 11 time zones across two continents (Europe and Asia) and has shores on three oceans (the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Ocean). It is a transcontinental country.

Time zones exist because the Earth is round and they allow everyone to have sunrise in the early morning and sunset at night. **All time zones are measured from a starting point centred at England's Greenwich Observatory. This is called Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) or Universal Time.**

Russia has 4 main climate zones - Arctic, subarctic, temperate and subtropical.— it is mostly in the temperate zone.

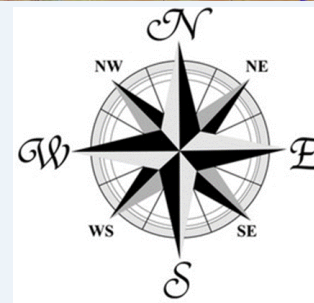
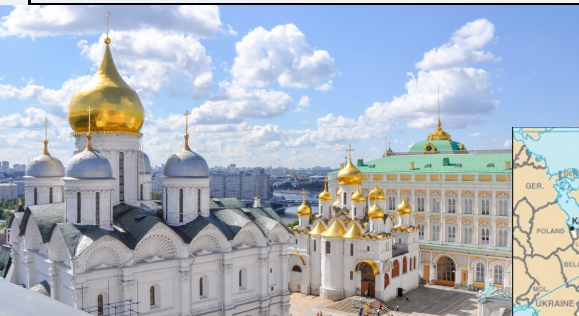
Russia has around 100,000 rivers, including some of the longest and most powerful in the world. **The Lena River is the longest** with a total length of 4400km.

Lake Baikal is the largest lake in Russia and in the world based on volume, which means it contains more water than any other lake in the world.

Russia has nine major mountain ranges. In general, the eastern half of the country is much more mountainous than the western half. At a height of 5642m, **Mount Elbrus in the Caucasus Mountains is the highest mountain in Russia.**

European Russia has two major mountain chains, the Caucasus, which marks the south western border between Asia and Europe, and the Ural Mountains, which also lie on the Asia-Europe border as well (see the map).

Moscow (Russian language: Москва, Moskva) **is the capital city of Russia (see map below).** In the middle of the city, there is an ancient walled city called the Kremlin, where important government buildings, museums and churches are (see picture below).



Key vocabulary to remember and use in your learning

Word	Definition
longitude	An imaginary line that runs north to south.
Prime Meridian	The imaginary line that divides the earth into 2 equal parts: the Eastern hemisphere and the Western hemisphere
subarctic	An area immediately south of the Arctic Circle.
subtropical	An area bordering the tropics to the north or south.
temperate zone	A zone that lies between the tropics and the polar regions.
time zone	A geographical region within which the same standard time used.
transcontinental country	A state which is situated in more than one continent.