

A Geographic Profile of Russia and the Near Abroad

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which country in this region has the lowest population growth rate?
 - a. Ukraine
 - b. Russia
 - c. Moldova
 - d. Georgia
2. The most populated nation in Central Asia is:
 - a. Kazakhstan
 - b. Uzbekistan
 - c. Tajikistan
 - d. Kyrgyzstan
3. Most of _____ is characterized by a Mediterranean climate.
 - a. Belarus
 - b. Moldova
 - c. Armenia
 - d. Turkmenistan
4. Why do buildings have to be erected on pilings in the high Arctic?
 - a. To lift them above the tremendous amount of snow that falls in winter
 - b. To protect the buildings from flooding during the spring thaws
 - c. So the permafrost below the buildings will not melt and cause the foundations to tilt
 - d. To protect the small farms used to feed families during the long winters from the elements
5. Which of the following statements is true?
 - a. The lowest temperature ever recorded in the Northern Hemisphere was -68° F recorded at Verkhoyansk, Russia
 - b. Mollisols found in a belt from Ukraine to Kazakhstan are among the best soils to be found anywhere
 - c. Wheat is the most important crop grown along the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers
 - d. Sakhalin Island is mostly tundra, except at the southern tip
6. The agriculture of northeastern Siberia is generally:
 - a. Forestry
 - b. Nomadic herding
 - c. Dairy farming
 - d. Subsistence farming
7. Which of these rivers is not in Siberia?
 - a. Ob
 - b. Lena
 - c. Yenisey
 - d. Ural
8. The Volga-Don Canal connects these two important rivers in the vicinity of:
 - a. Moscow
 - b. Volgograd
 - c. Rostov
 - d. Astrakhan

9. The _____ is a large land area with elevations generally below sea level.
 - a. Fergana Valley
 - b. Caspian Depression
 - c. North Siberian Lowland
 - d. Turan Plain
10. Which of these is not a mountain range?
 - a. Verkhoyansk
 - b. Altai
 - c. Pamir
 - d. Irtysh
11. Which sea lies between Sakhalin and Kamchatka?
 - a. Kara Sea
 - b. White Sea
 - c. East Siberian Sea
 - d. Sea of Okhotsk
12. Murmansk is located north of Moscow on the _____ Peninsula.
 - a. Kola
 - b. Kamchatka
 - c. Taymyr
 - d. Chukchi
13. Most of European Russia lies in which physical feature?
 - a. Volga Hills
 - b. Ural Mountains
 - c. Caspian Depression
 - d. Russian Plain
14. Which river empties into the Caspian Sea?
 - a. Don
 - b. Darya
 - c. Dneister
 - d. Volga
15. The Great Volga Scheme created:
 - a. Intense silting and desertification near the Volga's mouth
 - b. The world's largest irrigation network across European Russia
 - c. Canals linking the Volga to the Don, Ural, and Moscow Rivers
 - d. Vast reservoirs created behind numerous dams for easier navigation
16. The _____ is a vast, waterlogged area underlain by permafrost and subject to tremendous flooding in the spring.
 - a. Kamchatka Peninsula
 - b. North Siberian Lowland
 - c. West Siberian Plain
 - d. Central Yakutsk Lowland
17. In which country do people speak a Romance language?
 - a. Belarus
 - b. Ukraine
 - c. Moldova
 - d. Georgia

18. In which Central Asian country is an Iranian language spoken?
 - a. Kazakhstan
 - b. Uzbekistan
 - c. Turkmenistan
 - d. Tajikistan
19. How were Russia and later the Soviet Union able to repeatedly triumph over powerful invaders?
 - a. By being willing to suffer enormous casualties in defense of their homeland
 - b. By using scorched earth strategies to deny crops and infrastructure to the enemy
 - c. By having an enormous land area only loosely connected by poor roads
 - d. All of the above

True-False Questions

20. The Commonwealth of Independent States is an economic association of all the former Soviet republics.
21. Ivan the Terrible gave Russia control over the entire Volga River by conquering the Tatars.
22. Boris Yeltsin began pushing for radical economic reforms for the Soviet Union after the unsuccessful coup attempt in 1991.
23. For a time in the early 2000s Russia was the world's leading oil producer.
24. The five "stan" nations created a supranational organization called the United States of Central Asia.
25. If the Caspian Sea is legally recognized as a sea instead of a lake, Russia gets the largest share of oil under the Caspian.
26. Four of the five Central Asian nations used to be part of Turkey before being incorporated into the Soviet Union, hence the collective name "Turkestan" for the area.

1. A, 2. B, 3. C, 4. C, 5. B, 6. B, 7. D, 8. B, 9. B, 10. D, 11. D, 12. A, 13. D, 14. D, 15. D, 16. C, 17. C, 18. D, 19. D, 20. F, 21. T, 22. F, 23. T, 24. T, 25. F, 26. F