

The image features a stylized background of the Russian flag, consisting of three horizontal stripes of blue, white, and red. The text "The Russian Federation" is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font across the center of the image. The text is slightly tilted upwards from left to right. The letters are thick and have a clean, modern appearance. The background is a solid color, with the blue stripe at the top, the white stripe in the middle, and the red stripe at the bottom. The text is centered horizontally and vertically within the frame.

The Russian Federation

**The Russian Federation is
the largest country in the
world.**

**There's hardly a country in
the world where such a
variety of scenery can be
found.**

Arms



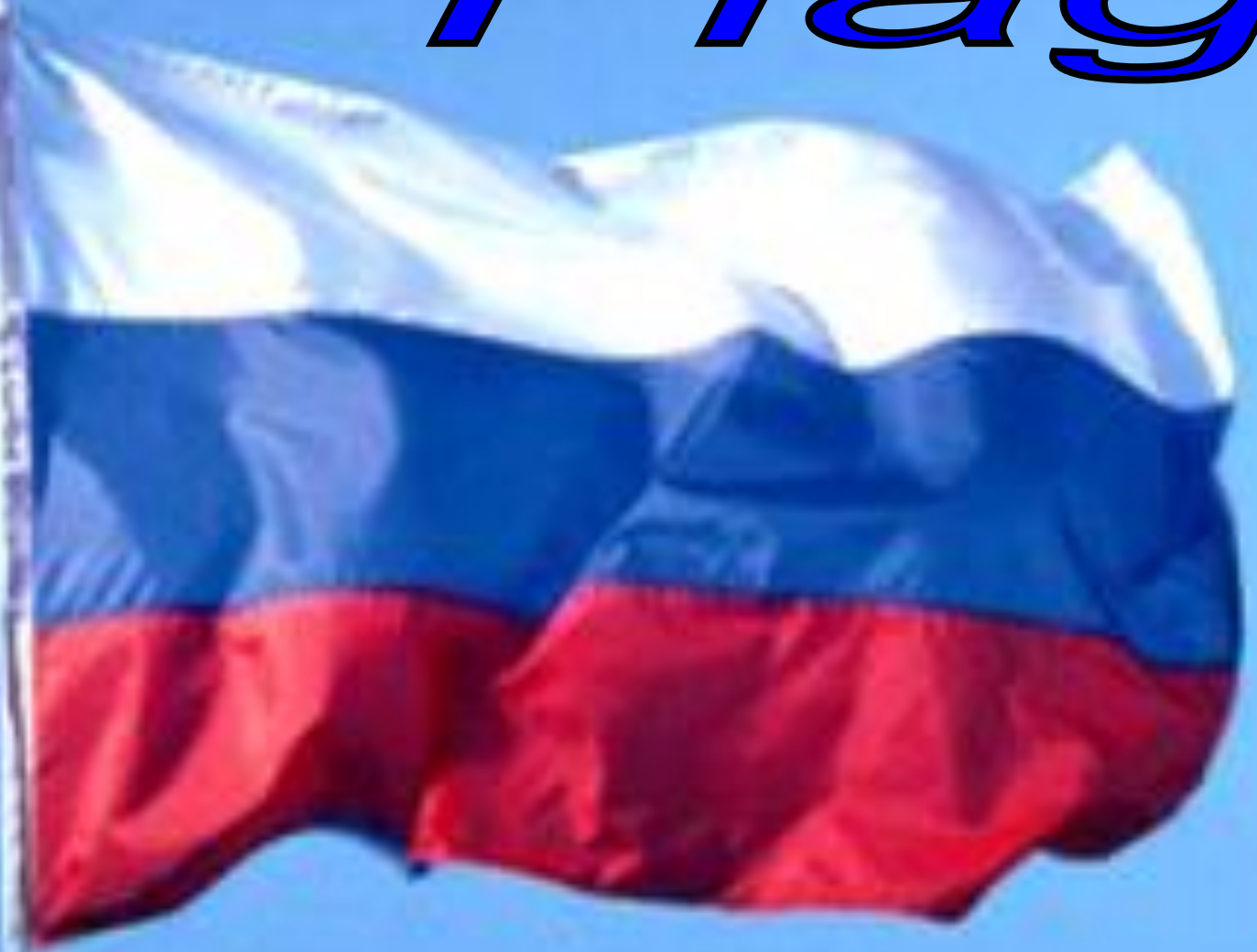
Map of Russia



**It occupies about
one-seventh of the
earth's surface.**

**Its total area is about 17
million square
kilometers.**

Flag



Choose the right item.

1. The official name of our homeland is ...
a) Russia b) the Russian Federation c) the Republic of the Russian Federation
2. There are..... republics and 68 other regions in the Russian Federation.
a) 21 b)12 c)17
3. The National Government of Russia consists of....
a) the President and the Prime Minister b) the President and the Council of Ministers
c) the President, the Council of Ministers and the Federal Assembly
4. There areHouses in the Federal Assembly.
a) two b) three c) four
5. The lower House of the Federal Assembly is
a) the State Duma b) the Council of Ministers c) the Federal Council
6. The population of Russia is about
a) 148 000 000 b) 48000000 c) 548 000 000
7. The Head of the Republic of the Russian Federation is
a) the President b) the Prime Minister c) the Speaker of the State Duma
8. The original name of the city founded on the Neva banks by Peter the Great was
a) Petrograd b) St Petersburg c) Leningrad
9. The five ancient Russian towns which are known as Zolotoe Koltso (the Golden Ring) include Rostov Veliky, Suzdal, Vladimir, Zvenigorod and
a) Tver b) Smolensk c) Yaroslavl
10. Russia is a land of over ... nationalities.
a) 10 b) 100 c) 1000

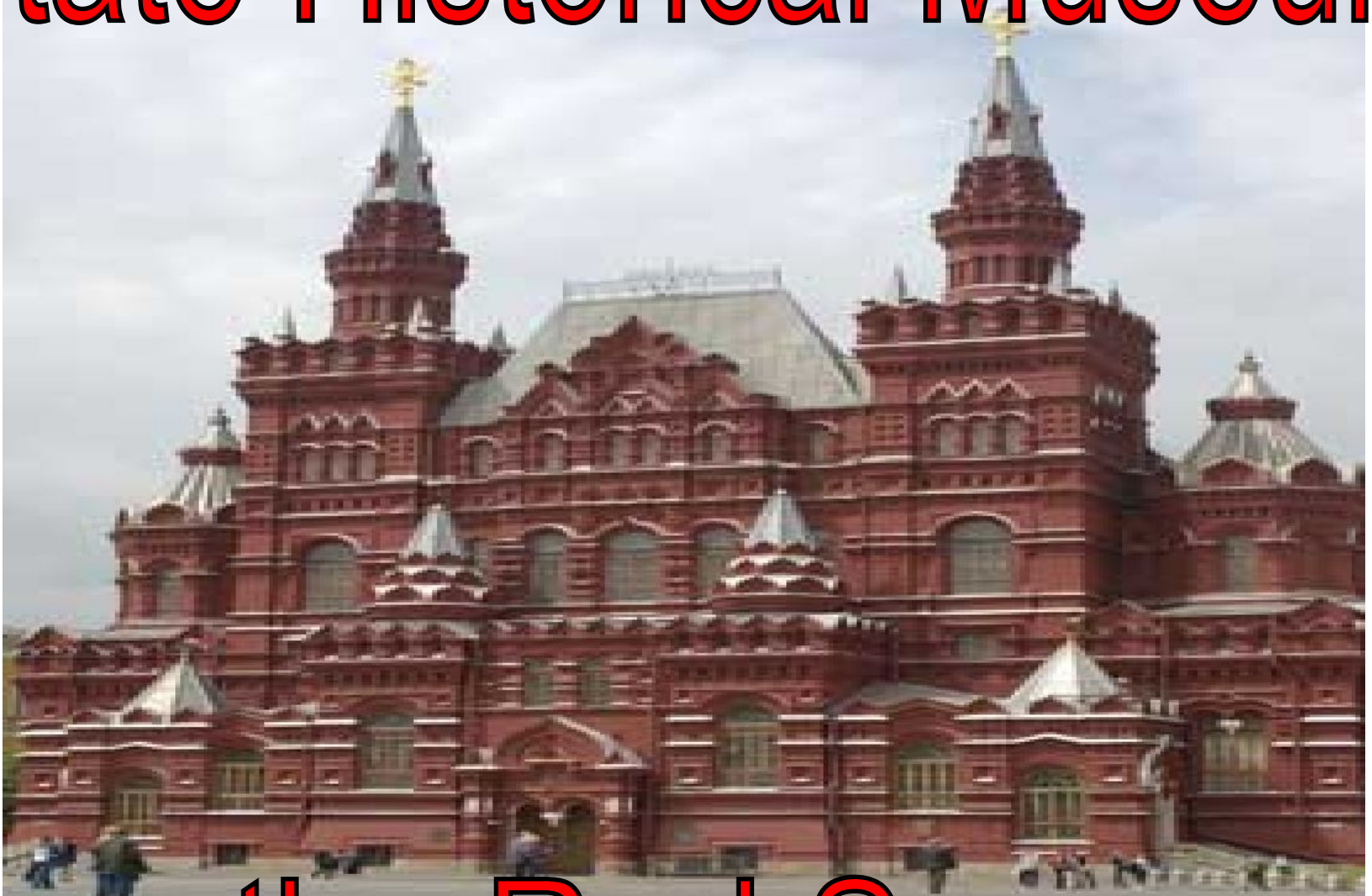
The Kremlin



The Cathedral of St. Basil

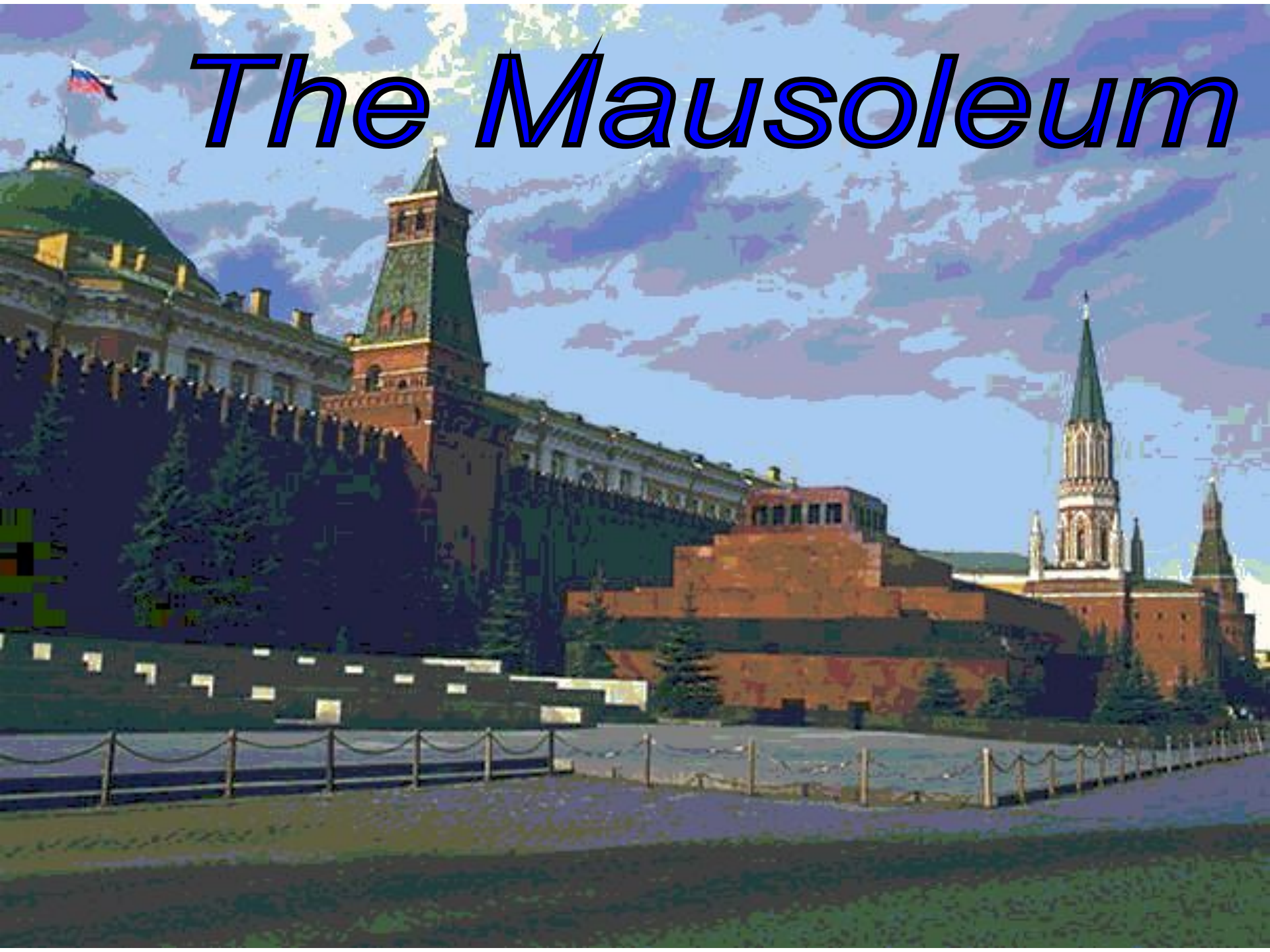


State Historical Museum

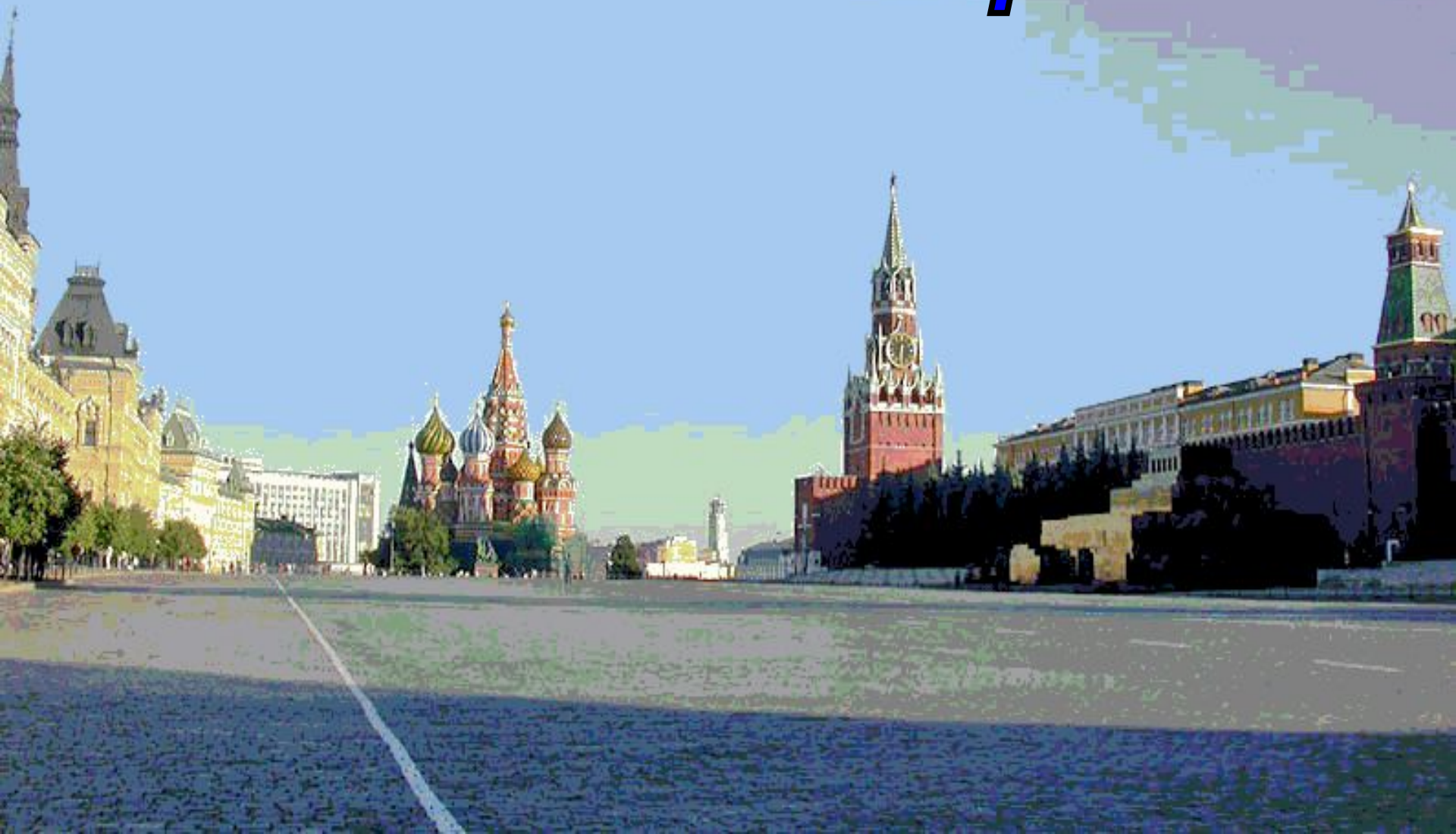


on the Red Square

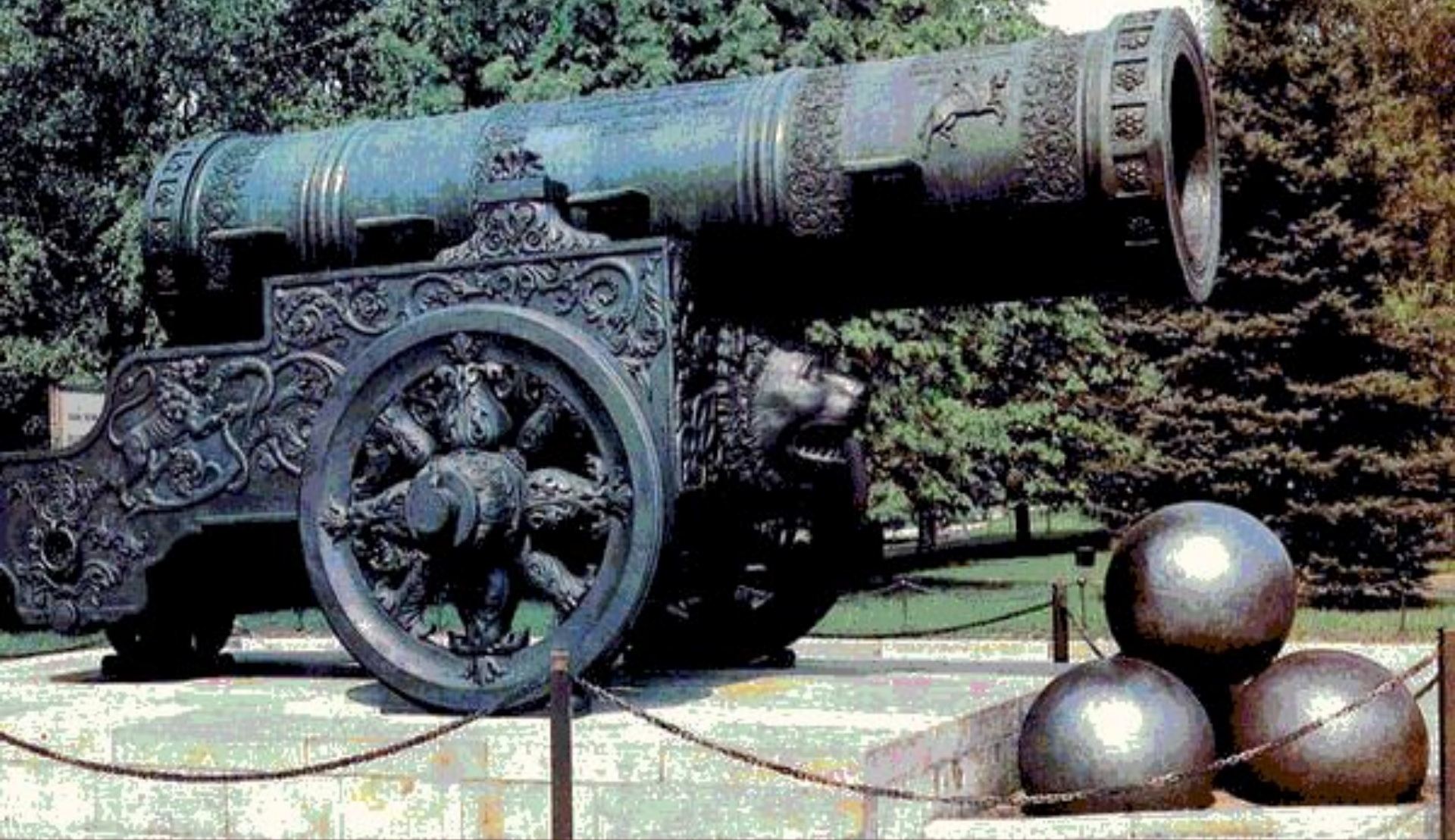
The Mausoleum



The Red Square



The Tzar-Cannon

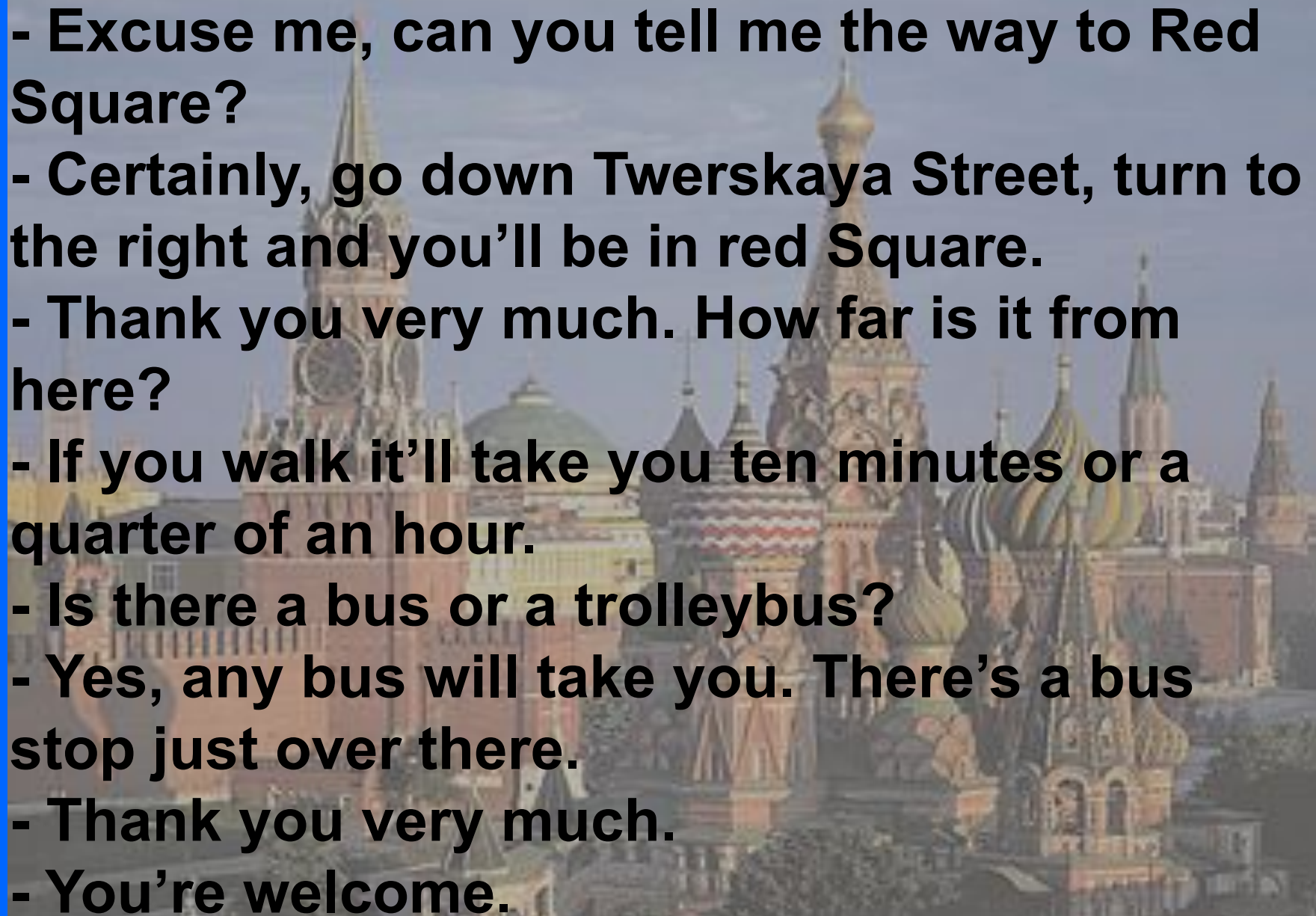




The Tsar-Bell

The Red Square

**The Cathedral of Basil the Blessed
The monument to Minin and Pozharsky
the Lenin's Mausoleum
the Historical Museum
the Cathedral of Assumption
the Cathedral of Annunciation
the Cathedral of Archangels
Oruzheynaya Palata
the Granovitaya Palata
the Spasskaya Tower
the Bell Tower of Ivan the Great
the Tzar-Cannon
the Tzar-Bell**

- 
- Excuse me, can you tell me the way to Red Square?
 - Certainly, go down Twerskaya Street, turn to the right and you'll be in red Square.
 - Thank you very much. How far is it from here?
 - If you walk it'll take you ten minutes or a quarter of an hour.
 - Is there a bus or a trolleybus?
 - Yes, any bus will take you. There's a bus stop just over there.
 - Thank you very much.
 - You're welcome.

**Match these important dates in the history of Russia
with the events.**

1147	Napoleon tries to conquer Russia
1237	the USSR enters World War II
1613	Alexander II writes the decree abolishing serfdom
1703	Khan Batyi of the Golden Horde conquers Moscow, the Tartar yoke which lasted until the 16th century begins
1812	Peter the Great founds St Petersburg on 16 May
1861	the USSR breaks up
1917	Moscow hosts the XX Olympic Games
1941	Mikhail Romanov is elected Tsar of all Russia, the Romanov dynasty begins
1980	the October Revolution takes place
1991	Yuri Dolgoruky founds Moscow

Make sure that you know the Russian national holidays and festivals and match the names of the holidays, the dates and their descriptions.

1 January	1) Russian Independence Day
7 January	2) Orthodox Christmas
February/March	3) Constitution Day
23 February	4) Maslenitsa
8 March	5) New Year's Day
March/April	6) Victory Day
1 May	7) Day of Reconciliation and Harmony
9 May	8) Easter (Paskha)
12 June	9) Women's Day
7 November	10) Day of Spring and Labour
12 December	11) Country Defendant's Day

Palace Bridge



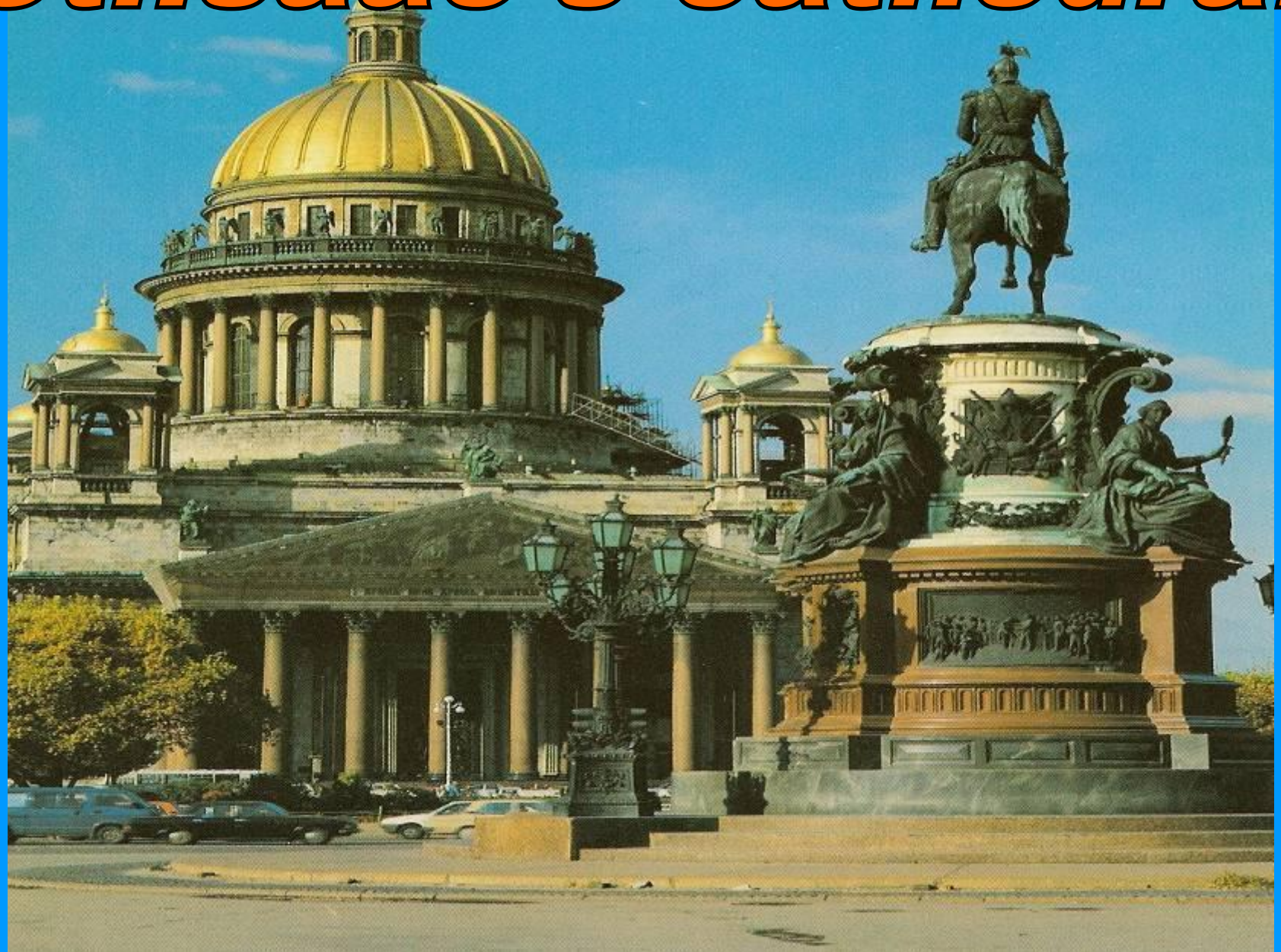
The Hermitage



Kazan cathedral



St. Isaac's cathedral



Presidents of Russia



Boris Yeltsin was the first president



Vladimir Putin was the second president



Medvedev is the third president of the Russian Federation



Did you know that...

.....Moscow, the capital of Russia was named after the River Moskva on which it stands? The name of the river has many possible origins. For example a) from Slavonic *moskva* = “wet, swampy”; b) from Slavonic *most-kva* = “bridge water”; c) from’ *mosca* = “river, water”

....St Isaak’s Cathedral in St Petersburg is decorated with 112 granite columns? About half a million people from different parts of Russia took part in its building.

....there are 93 rivers and streams, 20 canals, and more than 100 lakes in St Petersburg?

...the State Museum of Revolution in Moscow used to be the famous English Club which rich people visited?

....Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited Russia in October 1994? It was the first visit to Russia by a reigning British monarch. She visited Moscow and St Petersburg.

.....the Romanov tsars are blood relatives to the Windsors? Tsar Nicholas II was a cousin of the Queen’s grandfather. His wife, Alexandra grew up at the court of her grandmother Queen Victoria.

.....the Bolshoi Theatre is the oldest theatre in Moscow? It was founded on 28 March, 1776. But the theatre got its beautiful building so familiar to any Muscovite only in 1915.

.....Russian people say “Neither fur nor feather” before beginning something important? But English-speaking people (mostly actors) say “Break a leg”.



Alexander Pushkin (1799-1837),

the greatest poet and writer

- born in Moscow into a family belonging to the “cream” of Moscow society
- received his early education at home
- at the age of eight composed his first poem
- published his first poem “*Ruslan and Lyudmila*” in 1820 and became famous
- created literary Russian, wrote a lot of poems
- had political views close to the “Decembrists”
- died after a duel
- buried in Svyatogorsk Monastery near his family estate Mikhailovskoye
- the best known work is “*Eugene Onegin*” (1823-1831)



Peter Tchaikovsky (1840-1893),

a Russian composer

- was born in a village near modern Izhevsk
- composed a lot of symphonies, created beautiful music for operas and ballets
- his most famous operas — *“Eugene Onegin”* (1878), *“Iolanta”* (1891), *“The Queen of Spades”* (1890); his famous ballets — *“Swan Lake”*, *“The Sleeping Beauty”*, *“The Nutcracker”*
- the Tchaikovsky House Museum in Klin was opened in 1894
- the International Tchaikovsky Music Competition started in 1958 in Moscow



Georgy Zhukov (1896-1974),

**a famous Russian officer,
marshal of the USSR**

- was born into the family of a poor shoemaker
- at the age of 11 went to Moscow to find some job
- took part in World War I
- in 1940 became a general of the Soviet Army
- took part in many battles during World War II
- was at the head of the armies in Moscow, Stalingrad, Leningrad, Kursk battles
- in 1969 wrote a book about his life
- was four times the Hero of the country



Yuri Gagarin (1934-1968),

the first Russian cosmonaut

- was born in a village near Smolensk
- spent his childhood in a big family, had a sister and two brothers
- in 1951 finished a vocational school, then a school of aviation and an Airforce Academy in Moscow
- 12.04.1961 made a space flight on board the spaceship “Vostok”
- made a tour around the Earth that lasted 1 hour 48 minutes
- was the first man on Earth to fly into space