

Russia: Chapter 15, Section 1

Landforms and Resources

NORTHERN LANDFORMS

**In general, how does the
landscape of the northern two
thirds of the region change
from west to east?**

It rises in elevation,
changing from PLAINS to
PLATEAUS and finally to
MOUNTAINS.

Which area has the richest agricultural land, the most people, and the largest cities?

- ♦ The Northern European Plain

chernozem!

- ♦ Better overall climate and fertile land
- ♦ 75% of the population lives in this region

SOUTHERN LANDFORMS

**What physical features
characterize the southern
third of Russia?**

- ♦ Towering mountains
- ♦ Barren uplands
- ♦ Semiarid grassland
- ♦ Desert areas

**What border do the Caucasus
Mtns. form?**

The border between Russia and Transcaucasia.

**What is the Turan Plain and
what's it like?**

- ◆ Located between the Caspian Sea and the mountains & uplands of Central Asia.
- ◆ It is very dry and has two large deserts.

**Why is the Turan Plain so dry?
(maps on p. 340-341)**

The Caucas Mountains
and mountains in
northern Iran prevent
moist air from coming
into the area. They act
like a rain shadow.

RIVERS AND LAKES

What is the region's largest drainage basin, and what three rivers drain into it?

- ♦ Arctic Ocean Basin
- ♦ Ob River, Yenisey River,
and Lena River

**What are the two largest lakes
in the region?**

- ◆Caspian Sea

- ◆Aral Sea

They are called “seas” because they are so massive.

Why is Lake Baikal unique?

- ♦ It's the world's deepest lake.
- ♦ Holds 20% of the world's fresh water.

Population of the Earth is @ 7 billion.
20% of 7 billion is 1.4 billion people!!

Why is the Volga River one of the region's most important rivers?

- ◆ It's the longest river in Europe.
- ◆ Carries about 60% of all of Russia's river traffic.

REGIONAL RESOURCES

**What are some of the
resources that have been
developed in Russia?**

Resources:

- ♦ Coal
- ♦ Iron ore
- ♦ Oil – some of the world's largest reserves
- ♦ Natural gas
- ♦ Timber – 20% of the world's timber resources
- ♦ Hydro-electric power

**Why might extracting and
transporting the region's
resources be difficult in
Russia?**

- ♦ Resources are located in harsh/severe climates like Siberia (tundra & subarctic)
- ♦ Rugged terrain
- ♦ Resources are located very far away from major cities so it's hard to attract workers

What are some of the costs that Russia has faced in order to get the natural resources out of the earth?

- ♦ Damage to the soil and the environment.
 - ♦ Mining
 - ♦ Oil spills
- ♦ Thermal pollution ruining plant and animal habitats.
 - ♦ Discharge from hydro-electric dams

(last slide)