**Russia is my Motherland.**

When roaming Russia’s woods that glisten

At dawn amid the new-mown hay

To nature’s song of love I listen,

A song of Russia’s bright new day.

When dawn first shines on the horizon

To touch the woods with autumn’s glow,

I hear the birch, as in my childhood,

She whispers singing soft and low.

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**Moscow.**

Moscow is the capital of Russia. It is one of the biggest and most beautiful cities in the world. Moscow is a modern city now. The population of the city is about 9,5 million people. Moscow is a political center, where the government of our country works.

Yuri Dolgoruky founded Moscow in 1147. The total area of Moscow is about nine hundred square kilometers. Moscow is a port of five seas, as the Moscow – Volga Canal links Moscow with the Baltic, White, Caspian and Black seas and the Sea of Azov.

Moscow is an industrial center too. There are many factories and plants there. One of the best-known plants produces many lorries and the others one produce cars.

Moscow is a cultural center. There are 60 professional theatres, 74 museums, many institutes and libraries in Moscow. The Bolshoi Theatre is famous all over the world. If you are fond of painting you can go to the Tretyakov Art Gallery or to the Pushkin Fine Arts Museum and see a lot of interesting portraits and landscapes there. The Tretyakov Art Gallery is a treasure house of Russian art.

Young people like to visit the Central Military museum. There are many tanks, guns and war documents there. One can see the Kremlin and Red Square in the center of the city. There are many fine buildings, wide streets, green parks, large squares, churches and monuments in Moscow.

It is necessary to mention such famous monuments as monuments to the Great Russian writer Alexander Pushkin and to the first Russian printer Ivan Fedorov. A lot of foreigners from all over the world come to see these monuments, while they are visiting the capital.

One of the highest buildings in Moscow is the State Moscow University. The great scientist Mikhail Lomonosov founded it in 1755.

Transport… Moscow is a very big city and its transport must be comfortable and fast. One can see a lot of cars, buses, trolleybuses and trams in the streets of our city. The Moscow metro began to work on the 15th of May, 1935. There were 13 stations at that time. Now it has 190 stations. Our metro is a beautiful and convenient one. There are nine railway stations in Moscow and four airports around the city.

There are many stadiums in Moscow. The Central Stadium is in Luzhniki. Many competitions and football matches are held there.

**There are the things that symbolize Russia.**

The Russians are known as a hospitable people. According to old traditions, a guest should always be welcomed with the symbol of life-giving food – bread and salt.

Russians winter! These words to a Russian are lake a call to fun. The Russian winter is full of poetry and magic. And what Russian doesn’t like a fast ride in a troika, or sleigh with three horses!

Here is the heartland of Russian culture. The beauty of the ancient towns, their historical and architectural monuments, the gilded domes of the cathedrals, the autumnal gold of the forests and fields attract tourists from all over the world.

The singing of chastushkas used to be a main part of Russian rural holidays and parties. In many places they are still popular today.

**The Russian character.**

Russia is still a huge ethnic and social melting pot. They are fond of small things, of intimacy and cosines, but they may suddenly get bored and throw them aside like a toy. Russians can be surprisingly frank and also very secretive. They yearn for open spaces, yet they like things that are hidden and mysterious. There is much to be said of Russia as a land of contrasts.

Despite the flare-ups you may sometimes see, Russians are not easily excited or enraged. But when finally aroused, in love or angry, the effect is lasting.

When you get to know a Russian well, you will often find that he thinks of himself as having not just one rodina but also two – Russia as a whole and some little place of it where he was born. And he has a special word for a man from that particular place – zemlyak.

**Russian’s clothes.**

Nowadays people in Russia don’t wear very formal clothes. But before going somewhere or to parties young people do their hair, dress and then go out. You can see them putting on their best clothes before the mirror. Many teenagers like dress up to show off.

**The Russian museum**

The Russian Museum in St. Petersburg is a world “treasure house” of Russian art. It collects more than 300,000 items. The first state museum of Russian art was organized in the Mikhailovsky Palace in March 1898.

The collection of Russian art is rich. Here there are displayed tens of thousands of drawings and water-colours. The collections of the Russian Museum include almost 9,000 works of paintings of famous Russian artists. The visitors to the Museum today can see the world famous display of Russian art in its exhibited halls.