Chapter 15.1
Russia’s Culture Notes
LG: Describe the culture of Russia
I. The People

A. As Russia expanded from the Ural Mnts. to the Pacific Ocean over hundreds of years, many *ethnic groups* came under their control.
B. **The Slavs**—ethnic group that include people from Serbia, Ukraine and others from eastern Europe
   1. These people have dominated Russia’s politics and culture

C. **The Caucasians**—These people live in the Caucasus region of southwest Russia.

D. **The Turkic**—Live in the southwestern part of Russia and in the Volga River area.
E. 80% of Russians live in **Western Russia**. This is because of the good soil, the water ways, and milder climate.

1. Most major **industrial** (factories) cities are found here

F. 20% of Russians live on the eastern side of the Ural Mountains. The land here is a much harsher environment and not suitable for farming

G. 143 Million people live in Russia
II. Culture: Language

A. 100 different languages are spoken in Russia
B. The Country’s official language is “Russian”
C. Many people are bilingual and will speak their ethnic language as well as Russian
III. Culture: Religion

A. The Soviet Government in Russia for 70 years (up until 1992) promoted **Atheism** - belief that there is no God.

B. After the soviet government fell, the new government only gave full religious liberty to **Russian Orthodoxy** (Christians), Islam, Judaism and Buddhism
IV. Culture: Education

A. Russian education is limited by money. Russia’s economy isn’t the best and schools aren’t well funded.

B. Students get a choice of different schools they can attend
V. Culture: Family Life

A. Living conditions aren’t the best in Russia—most people live in small apartments.
   ***A family of 4 people many times will live in a 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment

B. Newly married couples often live with parents until they can save up enough and move out.
VI. Culture: Leisure time

A. Concerts, the ballet and theater are popular forms of entertainment

B. Hockey, tennis, track and field, gymnastics and figure skating are popular sports