

# THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT



For almost eight years, there has been a **crisis** in eastern Ukraine. The crisis is about an **ongoing** conflict between Russia and Ukraine. During the last few weeks, the situation has become more **serious**.

Russia has moved its army to the Ukrainian **border**. The US and other European countries **are concerned** that a Russian **invasion** of Ukraine could begin soon. At the moment, some countries are trying to talk to Russia's President, Vladimir Putin to stop the crisis. But why is there a crisis?

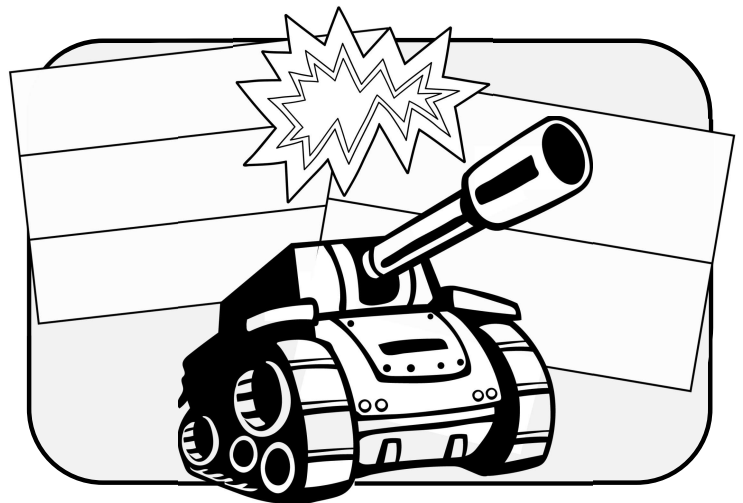
It began with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This organization was made after World War II. It is a military **alliance**. It was made to help countries with security against the Soviet Union.

In 2014, Ukraine's relationship with Russia was very bad. Protests in Ukraine made the president leave. He was Putin's friend. After that, Russia took Crimea, a large part of Ukraine.

Ukraine is not a **member** of NATO but it wants to **join**. This is a **threat** to Russia. Vladimir Putin believes that Russia will lose power if Ukraine joins NATO. That is the reason why he does not want Ukraine to become a member of NATO. He also says that Ukraine is part of Russia because of its culture and history.

Ukraine has the **support** of the US and the West. The US has sent armies to NATO countries that border Russia. The US has also said that it will make new rules for Russia if Putin starts a **war**.

The **current** situation is very difficult and **tense**. If Russia invades Ukraine, it would be the biggest war in Europe for a long time.



## VOCABULARY

crises	
ongoing	
serious	
border	
(to) be concerned	
invasion	
alliance	
member	

(to) join	
threat	
support	
war	
current	
tense	

# THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT - ANSWER SHEET

name: ..... date: ..... class: .....

## 1 Match the words with the correct meaning

1	alliance
2	(to) join
3	protest
4	war
5	support
6	army

	(to) be part of
	a fight between countries
	a group of people to fight
	help
	friendship between countries
	when people show that they don't like something

## 2 Answer the questions about the text.

1 Russia has moved its army to the Ukrainian ... ☐ country ☐ border ☐ land

2 What is NATO? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3 Ukraine is a member of NATO .      T      F

4 Crimea was taken over by Russia.      T      F

5 What happened in 2014? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6 Ukraine has the support of ... ☐ Russia      ☐ China      ☐ the US

7 What has the US done so far? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8 If Russia invades Ukraine, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 3 Complete the text with the given words.

*Europe - threat - invasion - army - power - border - Ukraine - war*

Russia has moved its ..... to the Ukrainian ..... There could be an ..... soon. Russia does not want ..... to be part of NATO. It is a ..... to Russia. Putin thinks that Russia will lose more ..... The US wants to stop a ..... It would be the biggest war in ..... for a long time.

# THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT



For almost eight years, there has been a crisis in eastern Ukraine. The crisis is about an ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. During the last few weeks, the situation has become more serious.

Russia is placing their army along the Ukrainian border and the US has warned that an invasion of Ukraine could begin at any moment. Russia has dismissed these warnings, but they say that they have begun moving military equipment. The US and Russia are holding talks to try to find a solution to the crisis. But why is there even a crisis?

Much of the trouble began with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This organization was set up after World War II and a treaty was signed in 1949. It is a military alliance. It was formed to help countries with their security against the Soviet Union.

Ukraine is not currently a member of NATO but it hopes to join. This is a threat to Russia as Putin fears Russia will lose more power. However, Russia knows that Ukraine will not be able to join NATO soon.

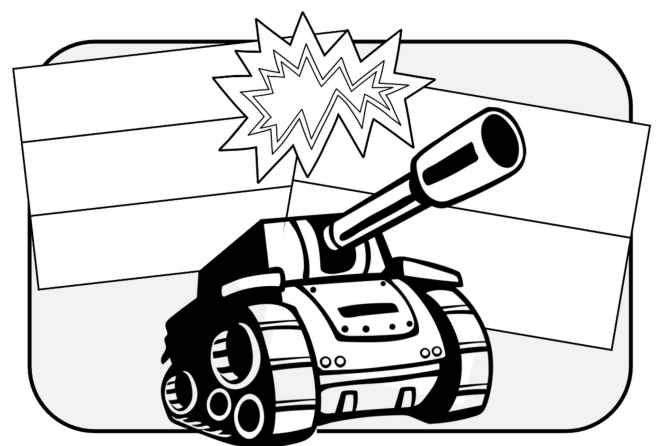
Putin has often said that Ukraine is a part of Russia, culturally and historically. It is a large country, which would help with Russia's influence in Europe. Ukraine's relationship with Russia worsened in 2014, when Ukraine protests pushed out their president who was a key ally of Putin. Afterwards, Russia quickly invaded and annexed Crimea, part of Ukraine.

Russia has presented NATO with many demands. He says that if they are met then they would ensure security in Ukraine. One demand is that Ukraine is never allowed to join NATO. These demands have been dismissed by the West.

Ukraine has the support of the US and the West. The US has increased military support in NATO countries that border Russia. An action that has threatened Russia. The US has said that it will impose sanctions on the country, in the case of an invasion. The biggest sanction would be a cut off from international banking system.

Europe has an important trade relationship with Russia and will lose a lot if the US imposes sanctions. Europe relies on Russian gas supplies.

Only time will tell if Russia invades Ukraine, but if they do it would be the biggest conflict that Europe has seen in decades.



# THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT - ANSWER SHEET

name: ..... date: ..... class: .....

## 1 Match the words with the correct meaning

1	(to) dismiss		a document with rules signed by countries
2	treaty		(to) force
3	(to) annex		war
4	(to) impose		an order to make a country keep to international law
5	sanction		(to) say something is not true
6	conflict		(to) take a country without permission

## 2 Answer the questions about the text.

1 The US and Russia are holding ... ☐ projects ☐ talks ☐ speeches

2 What is NATO? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3 Ukraine is a member of NATO . T F

4 Crimea was annexed by Russia. T F

5 What has Russia presented NATO with? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6 The US will impose ... ☐ money ☐ fines ☐ sanctions

7 What would be the biggest sanction if Russia invades? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8 Why will the EU suffer from US sanctions? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 3 Fill in the gaps with words from the text

The US has ..... that Russia could ..... Ukraine at any moment. Russia has begun moving ..... equipment and its ..... to the border. If a ..... develops then it would be the biggest in Europe in years. Russia is ..... by NATO. Putin does not want ..... to become part of .....