**Moscow**

Moscow was first mentioned in 1147. So it was founded more than nine hundred years ago by Prince Yuri Dolgoruky. In the 16th century, under Ivan III, Moscow became the capital of the State of Moscovy.

Now Moscow is the capital of Russia, its political, economic, commercial and cultural centre, one of the largest cities in Europe. Its total area is about nine hundred square kilometers. The population of the city is over 15 million. Moscow is the seat of the Duma.

Moscow is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. The heart of Moscow is Red Square. It has more historic associations than any other places in Moscow. The Kremlin and St. Basil’s Cathedral are masterpieces of ancient Russian architecture. The main Kremlin tower, the Spasskaya Tower, has become the symbol of the country.

There are a lot of magnificent palaces, old mansions, gorgeous cathedrals, churches and impressive monuments in Moscow. Now Moscow is being reconstructed and we all hope that in a few years the city will become even more beautiful.

There are more than 80 museums in Moscow. The largest museums are the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts and the State Tretyakov Gallery.

Moscow is famous for its theatres. The best known of them is the Bolshoi Opera House.

Moscow is a city of students. There are over 80 higher educational establishments. The most prominent one is Moscow State University