

Solutions to all puzzles...

A Big Theatre Mistake: Solution

The theatre in question is, of course, the Bolshoi. This is the most famous theatre in Moscow, and is also clued by the title of the mini-puzzle ("bolshoi" literally means "big").

The Bolshoi's website (<https://www.bolshoi.ru/en/performances/ballet/>) lists their ballet repertoire. Each plot element is drawn from one of these ballet, and the first step is to identify the ballets.

- 1 (S) - SWANLAKE
- 2 (U) - RUSSIANSEASONS
- 3 (U) - ETUDES
- 4 (B) - THEBRIGHTSTREAM
- 5 (Y) - LABAYADERE
- 6 (L) - THE GOLDEN AGE
- 7 (D) - RAYMONDA
- 8 (D) - ROMEOANDJULIET
- 9 (E) - NUTCRACKER

The next step is to index into each ballet by its position in the list, which gives the letters listed on the left.

The result is SUUBYLDDE, which unscrambles to **SUBDUEDLY**. As clued in the flavor text, we certainly hope the dancers' performance is not subdued!

Subway: Solution

The first step is to solve the clues for each of the lines. Then match the clues to lines. (The colors might provide a clue!)

grey: WREST
orange: AFIRE
red: ARTERY
green: A FEED
purple: SITES
dark blue: ARE IR
light blue: RA

Finally, fill the letters into the lines, with one letter on each intersection:



Taking line 5 from Novoslobodskaya to Oktyabrskaya, as directed by the flavor text, gives the solution, TEARS AWAY / **TEARSAWAY**.

Rushin' Through VDNH: Solution

VDNH has buildings devoted to various aspects of the Russian economy. In every set of three pictures, two correspond to buildings that are close to each other (that you can visit given your time constraints). Take the first letters of those two pictures (as clued by the flavor test: seeing only the fronts of the exhibits) to get the result for each set.

Set 1

The pictures clue:

(G)iant's house (pavilion 55)

Saccharin (an invention by Russian chemists, pavilion 6 - though you won't need to know this)

(E)lectrification of Russia (also pavilion 55!)

The Giant's House and the Electrification Pavilion are the closest, and thus you should visit this pair for the most efficient trip.

Result: GE

Set 2

The pictures clue:

(A)rapaima (a fish found in the "Moskvarium" aquarium, pavilion 23);

Butterfly (from the "Butterflarium", pavilion 519);

(R)osneft (a Russian oil company).

The aquarium (pavilion 23) and the oil industry (pavilion 25) are the closest.

Result: AR

Set 3

The pictures clue:

(E)gg (from “Ptitsevodstvo” / the pavilion of poultry at pavilion 37);

“Friendship of the people” fountain;

The (D)awns Here Are Quiet (Soviet film, on display at the Museum of Film at pavilion 36).

The film museum and the poultry pavilion are the closest.

Result: ED

Set 4

The pictures clue:

The game of chess (which arguably falls under Russian culture);

(U) / Y, a Cyrillic letter (written y but transliterated “u”).

(P)eter I / Peter the Great, ruler of Russia and prominent figure of Russian history.

The “Slovo” center for Slavic writing (pavilion 58) and the “Russia is my history” Russian history museum (pavilion 57) are the closest.

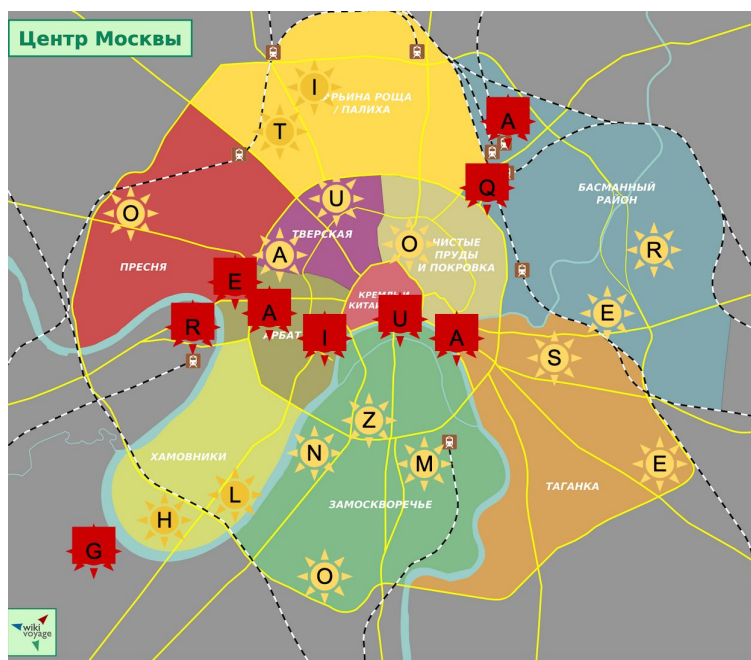
Result: UP

Putting all the results together — leaving in the space, as clued by the flavor text — we get **GEARED*UP**.

Скульпурелл: Solution

The title and the flavor text clue the “seven sisters”, a group of seven skyscrapers in Moscow constructed by Stalin. The “imaginary friends” are two other skyscrapers that were supposed to be constructed but never were.

Find the locations of all nine sites on the map. The letters corresponding to them, once unscrambled, spell out **AQUAREGIA** — which is sure to “melt” any heart of gold!



Meta: Solution

The answers to the four mini-puzzles are all nine-letter phrases:

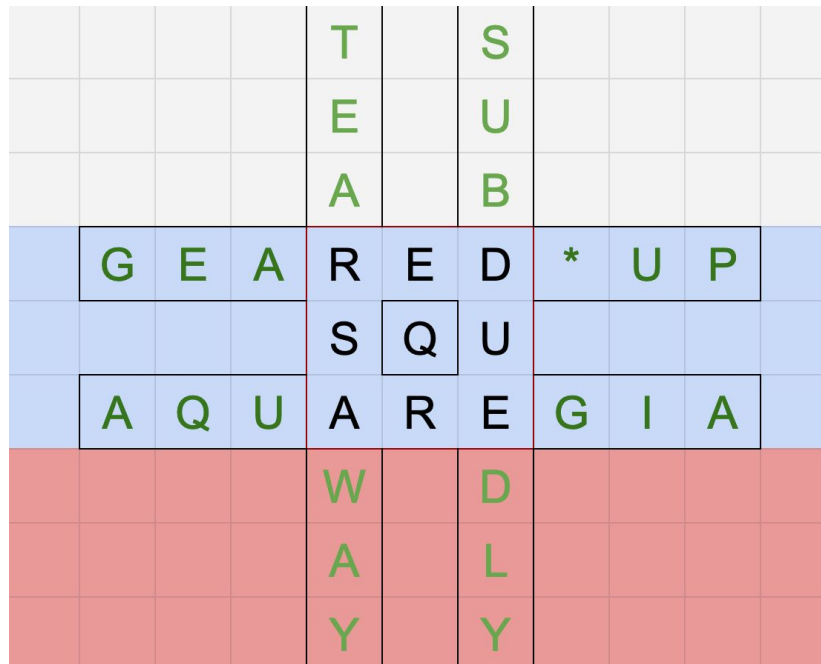
SUBDUELY

AQUAREGIA

GEARED*UP

TEARSAWAY

Place them on the grid, filling in the missing pieces of the flag. The central eight letters (outlined in red), plus a ninth that's easy to fill in, form a final phrase: **REDSQUARE**, a well-known site in Moscow and the answer to the puzzle.



Moscow's Red Square.

