

Suggested topics:

Kievan Princes in the *Primary Chronicle*: Historical and/or Legendary Figures.

Analyzing the Historical Validity of Different Passages from the Primary Chronicle

Politics of Russian Princes during the Yoke (1237 – 1480): Collaborators or Heroes?

The Rise of Moscow (Ivan Kalita, Dmitri Donskoi) and End of the Yoke.

Early Russian Architecture: Style and Influences.

The Cathedrals of the Kremlin: their Functions and their Builders.

The Architecture of the Imperial Period: Styles and Influences.

Russian Icon Painters and Schools (choose one or give an overview).

Russian Icons as Protectors and Miracle Workers.

Russian Fairy Tales and the Theory of Vladimir Propp.

Role of *Boyars* in Times of Kievan Rus, Ivan the Terrible and Peter the Great (choose one period or give an overview).

Russia's Female Rulers: Anna of Russia, Elisabeth, and Catherine the Great (choose one or give an overview).

Historical Events Reproduced and Transformed in Pushkin's "Boris Godunov"

"Boris Godunov" in Poetry by Pushkin and on Film.

Was Ivan the Terrible Really so Terrible?

Reforms of Ivan IV.

Reforms of Peter the Great: Creation of the Table of Ranks (meritocracy), Restructuring the Russian Orthodox Church, Administrative Changes, Army and Navy Developments, Calendar and Alphabet Reforms (choose one or give an overview).

Moscow and Petersburg: Describe their Literary Portrayals and Historical Associations. How Do You Understand the Concept of Two Capitals?

Close reading of *Fathers and Sons*: The Arguments and Ideological Debates of Nikolai Kirsanov, Pavel Kirsanov, and Bazarov

*Fathers and Sons* (any specific topic of your choice).

*The Cherry Orchard* (any specific topic of your choice).

Analyze the Effects of Serfdom on Russian Progress and Culture

Peasants and Landowners in Imperial Russia.

The Proponents, Development, and Debates between Slavophiles and Westernizers in the 19th Century

Significance of the Russo-Japanese War and How it Relates to the Revolution of 1905

The Old Believers: Why They were Important, What were the Reasons for the Schism, What were Its Results?

Historical Events Compared to their Cinematic Portrayal (e.g. Sergei Eisenstein and Soviet Themes in Historical Movies)

Comparisons and Contrasts: Pick a Russian Epic and Compare it to Another National Tradition (Greek epics: Homer, Latin epics: Virgil, Anglo-Saxon: Beowulf, Celtic: The Tain, Nordic, etc.)

Reforms of Alexander II: Abolition of Serfdom, Education, Judicial (choose one or give an overview).

Analyze the Patterns of Liberalism (Reforming) Followed by Conservative (Reactionary) Emperors, Especially after Peter the Great

The differences between Cyrillic Script and Latin Script, why Different Countries/Languages Use the Alphabet they Do

How Russia's Geography has Helped Shape its Culture/History (climate, different peoples, the differences between Asian Russia and European Russia, etc.).

The Effects of the Mongol Conquest on Rus Culture and Living Standards

Russian Folklore in Russian Literature and/or Art.

Common Russian Folklore Themes/Stories that Show up in other Cultures/Have been Adapted to Other Cultures

Select Two of Russia's Famous Rulers (Ivan IV, Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, Alexander II, etc.) and Argue Which One had the Most Impact on Russia