

Name Greg

# Absolute Location in the CIS


Many locations in the *Commonwealth of Independent States* are historically important.

- Russia is the largest country in the world. Also the largest country in the CIS, it crosses 11 time zones. Among its many historic locations, Russia is famous for *St. Basil's Cathedral* in Moscow, and *Lake Baikal*, the oldest and deepest lake in the world. The lake holds one fifth of the world's fresh water.
- Recent conflicts between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the *Nagorno-Karabakh* have made the news. *Mount Ararat*, near Armenia's capital of *Yerevan*, is where Noah's ark was said to have rested.
- *Joseph Stalin*, a tyrannical dictator who ruled (and terrorized) the USSR from 1929-1953, was from the country of Georgia. The leader of the Georgian *Orthodox Church* resides in *Tbilisi*, the capital of Georgia.
- Kazakhstan is Asia's fourth largest nation. It shares the *Aral Sea* with Uzbekistan. The cities of *Bukhoro*, *Samarquand*, and *Toshkent* in Uzbekistan are situated along the historic *Silk Road* that linked Europe to China.
- The headquarters of the CIS is located in *Minsk*, the capital of Belarus.
- Latvia's capital, *Riga*, is called "Paris of the Baltic" because of its *medieval* importance in culture and trade.
- Most of the world's valuable amber comes from *Palanga* in Lithuania.
- The world's largest irrigation and shipping canal, *Kara Kum Canal*, is located in Turkmenistan.
- *Ukraine* is famous for the 1986 nuclear disaster in *Chernobyl*.
- Moldova is important for its wine industry.
- Hot springs keep *Lake Ysyk-Kol*, one of the world's largest mountain lakes, unfrozen in Kyrgyzstan.
- Estonia's capital, *Tallinn*, hosts a huge dance and music festival every four years.
- Tajikistan's highest peaks, the *Pamirs*, are also Central Asia's highest peaks.

Using an atlas, identify the absolute location for each of the following:

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Yerevan _____   | 8. Minsk _____           |
| 2. Tallinn _____   | 9. Tbilisi _____         |
| 3. Aral Sea _____  | 10. Lake Ysyk-Kol _____  |
| 4. Riga _____      | 11. Palanga _____        |
| 5. Moscow _____    | 12. Lake Baikal _____    |
| 6. Pamirs _____    | 13. Kara Kum Canal _____ |
| 7. Chernobyl _____ | 14. Samarquand _____     |

Design a rebus for two of these absolute locations. Syllables, sounds, pictures, single letters, sets of two or three letters, or punctuation marks are used to create a rebus. Place the absolute location on the reverse side of the rebus puzzle. Exchange your designs with a partner and decode each other's puzzles.

Moss - s +  = Moscow



## Relative Location in the CIS

The Commonwealth of Independent States extends almost halfway around the world. When the sun rises over *Ukraine*, it is setting over eastern *Siberia*. The longest coastline in the world is in the Commonwealth. This entire region is north of 35°N latitude. The chart below gives the land area (in square miles) and the size rank in the world for each of the countries included in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Country	Area (square miles)	Global Rank
Armenia	11,500	133
Azerbaijan	33,400	111
Belarus	80,200	84
Kazakhstan	1,049,200	9
Kyrgyzstan	75,642	85
Moldova	13,012	130
Russia	6,592,800	1
Tajikistan	55,300	93
Turkmenistan	188,417	51
Ukraine	233,100	43
Uzbekistan	172,700	55

Using an atlas and the information above, answer the following questions.

- Which is the smallest of the nations in the CIS? \_\_\_\_\_
- If *European Russia* is approximately 1,747,112 square miles, how much area does *Asian Russia* cover? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which countries in the Commonwealth are among the world's ten largest? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which CIS nation is closest to the *Tropic of Cancer*? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which Commonwealth country is crossed by the *Arctic Circle*? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which country in the Commonwealth is closest to the *International Date Line*? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which countries in the CIS border the *Caspian Sea*, the lowest point in Europe? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Parts of Russia, Kazakhstan, Georgia, and Azerbaijan are European. Which CIS nations are completely Asian? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Mount Elbrus* in Russia is the highest point in Europe at 18,510 feet above sea level. What mountain range contains this peak? \_\_\_\_\_