

Featuring the Moscow String Quartet: *Strings*

Study Guide: History

Objective: To learn about Russian history and culture.

Standard: Grades 3-5 FL Social Studies Standards: Benchmark The student understands Western and Eastern civilization since the Renaissance. (SS.A.3.2); The student understands music in relation to culture and history. (MU.C.1.2)

Time: 45 minutes – 1 hour

Materials: Paper, pencil, computer and speakers, Russian facts handout, blank outlined map of Russia

Activity:

1. Teacher introduces the lesson by asking if anyone has heard of Russia. Students take turns sharing what they know, or have heard, about Russia.
2. Teacher hands students an information sheet about Russia and goes over facts with them.
3. In the concert by The Moscow String Quartet, all the pieces that will be played are by Russian composers. Have students listen to a piece by Borodin by clicking on the link below. Computer should be set up with speakers.
4. Students will label a blank map of Russia using a detailed political map displayed either in the front of the room or in a book. A blank map can be found at the website listed in the resources section. Students will label the **capital, major mountain ranges, major cities, and major rivers.**
5. Class will discuss findings after allotted time period is over.

Assessment: Map activity, Discussion

Resources: <http://www.classicalarchives.com/work/5415.html> (String Quartet No. 2 in D Major by Borodin)
<http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/europe.html> (maps)
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia>
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/1102275.stm
<http://www.factmonster.com/ce6/world/A0860835.html>
<http://z.about.com/d/geography/1/0/Y/I/russia.jpg> (map of Russia)
<http://worldinfozone.com/facts.php?country=Russia>