

Name: _____

Date: _____

Peter the Great

In the 1600s, Russia was still a medieval state. Separate from Western Europe, it had not gone through the Renaissance and Reformation. The country had experienced years of disorder and foreign invaders. In 1682, a new czar took the throne. By 1689, he had absolute power over Russia. Peter the Great brought Russia into modern times.

A few years after Peter became czar, he went on a trip to Western Europe.

Upon arriving home, he decided to make

Russia more like the West. Peter wanted to use Western European technology to make his army and navy strong. Then, Russia could become a great military power. Peter thought that Westernizing Russia would help Russia become a great European state. He introduced Western customs and manners to Russia. The czar even had a book of etiquette written to teach Western manners.

Because Westerners did not wear beards or long coats, beards of Russian men were shaved and coats were shortened. At the royal court, Peter shaved off the nobles' beards himself. Outside the court, barbers and tailors were placed at city gates. They cut the beards and coats of those who entered. Before Peter's rule, Russian women had to wear veils and hide themselves from society. To become more like the West, Peter said that Russian women should take off their veils. He held parties where men and women were forced to dance together.

Russian nobles, or *boyars*, did not like the changes Peter made. Peter had no mercy for those who stood up against his rules. He gave vicious punishments, like beating, impaling, and roasting. When palace guards revolted, Peter had over 1,000 of the rebels tortured and executed. To show his power, he left their rotting corpses outside the palace walls for months.

Peter's goals were to strengthen the military, expand Russia's borders, and centralize royal powers. He brought everything in Russia under his control, including the Russian Orthodox Church. The czar forced *boyars* to serve the state in civilian and military jobs. Peter used terror to enforce his power.

Under Peter, Russia fought a war with Sweden to get control of the Baltic Sea. Then he moved the capital of Russia from Moscow to a new capital he built in St. Petersburg. Russia became a great military power. By the time Peter died in 1725, Russia was an important European state. It was no longer isolated from the Western world.



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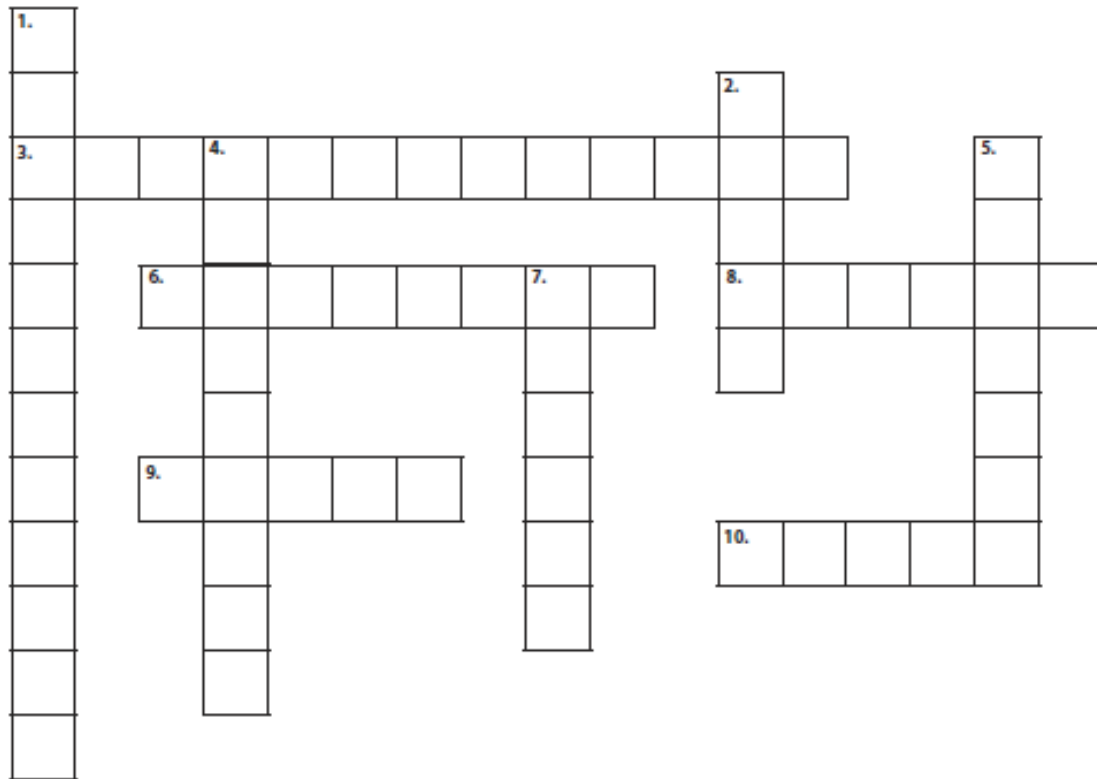
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Peter the Great

Crossword Puzzle

Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

3. By the time _____ died in 1725, Russia was an important European state.
6. Peter the Great wanted Russia to become a great _____ power.
8. Peter brought everything in Russia under his control, including the _____.
9. Peter the Great had no _____ for people who stood up against his rules.
10. Before Peter the Great took power, women had to wear _____.

DOWN

1. The new capital of Russia was _____.
2. Men and women were forced to _____ together at Peter the Great's parties.
4. Peter the Great had a book of _____ written to teach Western manners.
5. Peter liked giving _____ punishments, like beating, impaling, and roasting.
7. _____ was separate from Western Europe and had not gone through the Renaissance and Reformation.