

SPEAKING

Карточка участника

Student 1 Set 1: The Bolshoi Theatre

Preparation – 10 minutes

Prepare to speak about the **Bolshoi Theatre (Moscow)** using the **Fact File**.

You will have to comment

on: History of the theatre

- Renovation of the theatre
- Repertoire
- The ways of getting there
- How to buy tickets

Task 1

1. Monologue. Time: 3-4 minutes.

Imagine you are a guide telling a tourist about the **Bolshoi Theatre** in Moscow. You have to

- comment on the 5 aspects mentioned above;
- remember to make an introduction and conclusion.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you are not allowed to read the notes made during the preparation time. 2. Questions / Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**, not mentioned in your presentation.

Task 2

Now you are a tourist.

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner – a guide
2. Questions / Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Ask 2 **QUESTIONS** about the **Royal Opera House** in London to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** not mentioned in the presentation.

2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

FACT FILE The Bolshoi Theatre



Home to one of the oldest, and probably the most famous, ballet, and opera companies in the world **Bolshoi Theatre** is definitely one of Moscow's major landmarks. The Bolshoi Theatre is renowned all over the world for such brilliant ballet dancers as Maya Plisetskaya, Vladimir Vasiliev, Galina Ulanova, Maris Liepa. They built the theater's reputation and boosted their careers into the dazzling heights of international success. At present time the stage is glorified by new talents.

History

The Bolshoi Theater is more than 250 years old. Its history goes back to 1776 when Empress Catherine II granted Prince Pyotr Urusov a license to establish theatrical performances in Russia. So, the theatre began its life as the private theatre, and its first name was Petrovsky. Urusov set up the theatre in collaboration with English tightrope walker Michael Maddox. Initially, it held performances in a private home, but it acquired the Petrovka Theatre and on 30 December 1780 its grand opening took place, and the theatre began producing plays and operas, thus establishing what would become the Bolshoi Theatre.

Fire destroyed the Petrovka Theatre on 8 October 1805, and the New Arbat Imperial Theatre replaced it on 13 April 1808. At that time, fires happened frequently, and the building of the Bolshoi burned down several times. A massive fire that wrecked the building took place in 1812 when Napoleon's army approached Moscow.

The first instance of the theatre was built between 1821 and 1824, designed and supervised to completion by architect Joseph Bové based upon an initial competition-winning design created by the Russian architect Andrei Mikhailov. The new building opened on 18 January 1825 as the Bolshoi Petrovsky Theatre with a performance of the ballet. Initially, it presented only Russian works, but foreign composers entered the repertoire around 1840.

In 1843 a large-scale reconstruction of the theatre took place using a design by A. Nikitin, but a fire in 1853 caused extensive damage and so a further reconstruction was carried out by Alberto Cavo, the son of the opera composer Caterino Cavo. The Bolshoi that we can see today is the fourth one. Its opening took place on August 20, 1856, during the coronation of Tsar Alexander II. On 7 December 1919 the house was renamed the State Academic Bolshoi Theatre.

Renovation

A new stage for the Bolshoi Theatre, called the New Stage, went into service on 29 November 2002, constructed to the left of the theatre's historic main stage. Together with auxiliary buildings – a restored 17th-century building, two rehearsal halls, and artists' recreation rooms – it forms a single theatre complex, the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia.

From July 2005 to October 2011 the theatre was closed for restoration. The building, whose architecture combines three different styles, was damaged and a renovation seemed to be necessary since the engineers found that more than 75% of the structure was unstable.

The renovation included restoring acoustics to the original quality (which had been lost during the Soviet Era), as well as restoring the original Imperial decor of the Bolshoi. Finally, on 28 October 2011, the Bolshoi Theatre re-opened with a concert featuring international artists and the ballet and opera companies. The first staged opera, *Ruslan and Lyudmila*, followed soon after.

Repertoire

The Bolshoi is a repertory theatre, meaning that it draws from a list of productions, any one of which may be performed on a given evening. To date, 70% of the theatre's repertoire is works by Russian composers' masterpieces of the 19th century. But a significant portion of the time is also devoted to contemporary works, as well as opera and ballet.

The Bolshoi has been associated from its beginnings with ballet. Tchaikovsky's ballet *Swan Lake* premiered at the theatre on 4 March 1877. Since the middle of the 20th century the company toured internationally and the "Bolshoi Ballet" became a well-known name in the world. They have been applauded in Paris, New York, London, Milan, Munich, Tokyo and Hong Kong amongst many other destinations.

In 2004, the Bolshoi Theatre was awarded the State Prize of Russia for the ballet *The Queen of Spades*, and fourteen times honoured with the Golden Mask award.

Location and Tickets

The Bolshoi Theatre is located at 1 Teatralnaya Ploshchad, in downtown Moscow. It's possible to walk to the site from central attractions such as Red Square, which is about 10 minutes away. The closest metro stations are Teatralnaya (Line 2) and Okhotny Ryad (Line 1), which are both just a few minutes' walk from the theater.

Ticket prices can range from 300 rubles for the cheapest location, up to around 20,000 rubles. There are discounts for students of Russian universities. Sale of tickets to the Bolshoi Theatre is done through the official website on the internet and through the box office from 11.00 am to 20.00 pm.

SPEAKING

Карточка участника

Student 1 Set 1: The Royal Opera House

Preparation – 10 minutes

Prepare to speak about the **Royal Opera House (London)** using the **Fact File**.

You will have to comment on: □

History of the theatre

- Renovation of the theatre
- Repertoire
- The ways of getting there
- How to buy tickets

Task 1

1. Monologue. Time: 3-4 minutes.

Imagine you are a guide telling a tourist about the **Royal Opera House** in London.

You have to

– comment on the 5 aspects mentioned above; –
remember to make an introduction and conclusion.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you are not allowed to read the notes made during the preparation time. 2. Questions / Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**, not mentioned in your presentation.

Task 2

Now you are a tourist.

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner – a guide

2. Questions / Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Ask 2 **QUESTIONS** about the **Bolshoi Theatre** in Moscow to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** not mentioned in the presentation.

2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

FACT FILE Royal Opera House



Largely thanks to this magnificent architectural ensemble, London has become one of the centres of the world theatrical art. The large building of the **Royal Opera House** is often referred to as simply **Covent Garden**, after a previous use of the site. It is now the home of The Royal Opera, The Royal Ballet, and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House.

History

Until 1731, this territory was occupied by the city park and the buildings of the Westminster Abbey. Designed by James Shepherd and an Italian artist Jacopo Amigoni, who designed the interior, John Rich, an actor-manager, built the first theatre. At that time, the dimensions were quite impressive, the hall could accommodate 1897 spectators. The opening ceremony took place in December 1732. In 1734, the first ballet was presented. A year later, the first season of operas, by George Frideric Handel, began. Many of his operas were specifically written for Covent Garden and had their premieres there.

On September 20, 1808 the theatre was destroyed in a great fire. The construction of the second theatre began immediately under the supervision of Robert Smirk. He was a very famous architect in England, famous for the creation of many significant London buildings. The opening of the theatre was marked by Shakespeare's play *Macbeth* on September 18, 1809. The renovated hall was enlarged in size, accommodating 3000 spectators. Many famous actors of the day appeared at the theatre, including the great tragic actress Sarah Siddons.

In 1847 the Italian Opera troupe joined the cast, and Covent Garden was now called the Royal Italian Opera. Many of the greatest creations of glorious composers have been performed there. But on March 5, 1856, the theatre caught fire again, the roof collapsed after about half an hour. Only a year later, funds were raised for its restoration.

The third theatre designed by Edward M. Barry was built in the spirit of the Italian Renaissance. The renovated theatre opened on May 15, 1858. And in 1892, when the

number of operas in other languages began to be given as much as in Italian, Covent Garden was renamed the Royal Opera House.

It was only during World War I that the building was used as a warehouse. During World War II, there was a dance hall here. With great difficulties, ballet returned to the famous stage in 1946. On February 20, the theatre staged *The Sleeping Beauty* by P. Tchaikovsky.

Renovation

In 1997 the theatre was closed for renovation. This involved the demolition of almost the whole site including several adjacent buildings to make room for a major increase in the size of the complex. The new building has the same traditional horseshoe-shaped auditorium as before, but with greatly improved technical, rehearsal, office, and educational facilities. The stage has expanded, a backstage space has been added, and modern computer equipment has been installed.

Additionally, more public space was created through the inclusion of the adjacent old Floral Hall. It was originally built in 1860 by the Opera House to house a flower market (also selling fruits and vegetables), hence the name. After being used as a concert hall, it became part of the Covent Garden Market in 1887. A fire broke out in the building in 1956, after which it fell into disrepair and was used as a scenery store. The redevelopment of the Floral Hall created a new and extensive public gathering place. The venue is now claimed to be the most modern theatre facility in Europe.

Repertoire

The Royal Opera House is home to both the Royal Opera and The Royal Ballet. It plays host to ballets and operas that you will have heard of even if you aren't a regular audience member, like *Alice in Wonderland* and *Romeo and Juliet*. The theatre preserves carefully its own and the world's heritage, while constantly new and exciting productions appear. Perhaps that is why the brightest stars of the world ballet like to work and perform here. The repertoire includes all the famous classical ballets, as well as the works of modern composers and choreographers.

Location and Tickets

The Royal Opera House is located in London's Covent Garden district. When you arrive at Covent Garden tube station you will need to take a lift to reach street level. As you exit the tube station you will find yourself on James Street. Head down the sloping street towards the Covent Garden piazza. When you reach the piazza, turn left. You will find the Royal Opera House in the left hand corner of the Covent Garden piazza.

One of the main beliefs of the theatre management is that ballet and opera should be for everybody, not just the upper classes. This is why they offer a wide range of ticket prices depending on where you are sitting in the theatre (ticket prices can range from £10 to hundreds of pounds). Sale of tickets to the Royal Opera House is done through the official website on the internet and through the box office.

SPEAKING

Карточка участника

Student 3 Set 2: The Mariinsky Theatre

Preparation – 10 minutes

Prepare to speak about the **Mariinsky Theatre (Saint Petersburg)** using the **Fact File**.

You will have to comment on: □

History of the theatre

- Renovation of the theatre
- Repertoire
- The ways of getting there
- How to buy tickets

Task 1

1. Monologue. Time: 3-4 minutes.

Imagine you are a guide telling a tourist about the **Mariinsky Theatre** in Saint Petersburg. You have to

- comment on the 5 aspects mentioned above;
- remember to make an introduction and conclusion.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you are not allowed to read the notes made during the preparation time. 2. Questions / Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**, not mentioned in your presentation.

Task 2

Now you are a tourist.

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner – a guide

2. Questions / Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Ask 2 **QUESTIONS** about **the Metropolitan Opera** in New York to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** not mentioned in the presentation.

2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

FACT FILE The Mariinsky Theatre



The Mariinsky Theatre is a historic theatre of opera and ballet in Saint Petersburg. Opened in 1860, it became the eminent music theatre of late 19th century Russia, where many of the stage masterpieces of Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, and Rimsky-Korsakov received their premieres. Today, the Mariinsky Theatre is home to the Mariinsky Ballet, Mariinsky Opera and Mariinsky Orchestra.

History

The Mariinsky Theatre can trace its history as far back as 1783, when the Bolshoi Stone Theatre was opened on Carousel Square amid great pomp on 5 October. The theatre gave the square its new name – even today it is known as Theatre Square. The Bolshoi Stone Theatre impressed the public with its size, its majestic architecture and its stage, equipped with the most up-to-date theatre equipment and machinery. The Russian Opera Company performed here in turn with the Italian and French Companies, and there were also plays and concerts of vocal and instrumental music.

In 1802-1803 Thomas de Thomon – a brilliant architect and draughtsman – undertook the capital reconstruction of the interior layout and decor of the theatre, noticeably altering its external appearance and proportions. The new, grand and majestic Bolshoi Stone Theatre became one of the architectural attractions of the capital city on the River Neva along with the Admiralty, the Stock Exchange and Kazan Cathedral. But on the night of 1 January 1811 there was a tremendous fire at the theatre that seriously damaged its façade as well as the interior.

On 3 February 1818 the restored Bolshoi Stone Theatre opened once again and its “golden age” began. The repertoire of the “post-fire” era included operas by Mozart, Rossini, Verdi and many others. One of the favourite repertoire operas was Cavo’s *Ivan Susanin*, which was performed right up until the appearance of Glinka’s opera on the same theme. It was also the birth time of the international glory of Russian ballet. It was during these years that Pushkin, who immortalised the theatre in his ageless poetry, was a regular visitor to the Bolshoi Stone Theatre in St Petersburg.

In 1859 the theatre was named the Mariinsky in honour of Empress Maria Alexandrovna, wife of Alexander II. There is a bust of the Empress in the main entrance

foyer. The theatre's name has changed throughout its history, reflecting the political climate of the time. Now it is referred to as the State Academic Mariinsky Theatre.

Renovation

The Mariinsky Theatre has undergone several reconstructions. In 1836, to improve the acoustics the architect Alberto Cavo replaced the cupola ceiling of the auditorium with a flat one. He removed the columns from the auditorium as they interfered with the view and distorted the acoustics; he also gave the auditorium its traditional horse-shoe shape and increased its length and height to seat up to two thousand people.

In 1885 the principal architect of the Imperial Theatres Viktor Schröter added a three-storey wing to the left of the building for theatre workshops, rehearsal rooms, an electricity substation and boiler room. In 1894 under Schröter's supervision, the wooden rafters were replaced with steel and concrete, the side wings extended and the audience foyers enlarged. The main façade, too, was subject to reconstruction, taking on monumental forms.

Between 1968 and 1970 the theatre underwent a major reconstruction as a result of which the left wing of the building was "stretched out" and took on the form it has today.

Repertoire

The Mariinsky Theatre secured and developed the great traditions of Russia's first musical theatre. The theatre stands out for the premieres of the most important operas in the history of Russian music like Musorgsky's *Boris Godunov*, RimskyKorsakov's *The Snow Maiden*, Borodin's *Prince Igor*, Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades* and Musorgsky's *Khovanshchina*.

Marius Petipa, who became Director of the Ballet Company in 1869, continued the traditions of his predecessors and preserved classical works such as *Giselle* subjecting them only to careful revisions. Petipa's lucky meeting with Tchaikovsky resulted in the creation of *The Sleeping Beauty*, *The Nutcracker* and *The Swan Lake*. Today along with classics from the previous century ballets of modern composers are staged at the theatre, including the works by Sergei Prokofiev, Aram Khachaturian and Dmitry Shostakovich.

Location and Tickets

The Mariinsky Theater is located to the south-west of the city center at 1 Teatralnaya square. The nearest metro stations are "Sadovaya" and "Sennaya". From the metro stations you can get to the theatre by several buses.

Tickets to performances and concerts at the Mariinsky Theatre may be purchased on the theatre's official website, at theatre box-offices and from officially licensed organisations. The ticket price depends on the performance and the place in the hall and ranges from 1,340 to 12,000 rubles.

SPEAKING

Карточка участника

Student 4 Set 2: The Metropolitan Opera

Preparation – 10 minutes

Prepare to speak about **The Metropolitan Opera (New York)** using the **Fact File**.

You will have to comment on: □

History of the theatre

- Renovation of the theatre
- Repertoire
- The ways of getting there
- How to buy tickets

Task 1

1. Monologue. Time: 3-4 minutes.

Imagine you are a guide telling a tourist about **the Metropolitan Opera** in New York. You have to

– comment on the 5 aspects mentioned above; –
remember to make an introduction and conclusion.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you are not allowed to read the notes made during the preparation time. 2. Questions / Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**, not mentioned in your presentation.

Task 2

Now you are a tourist.

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner – a guide

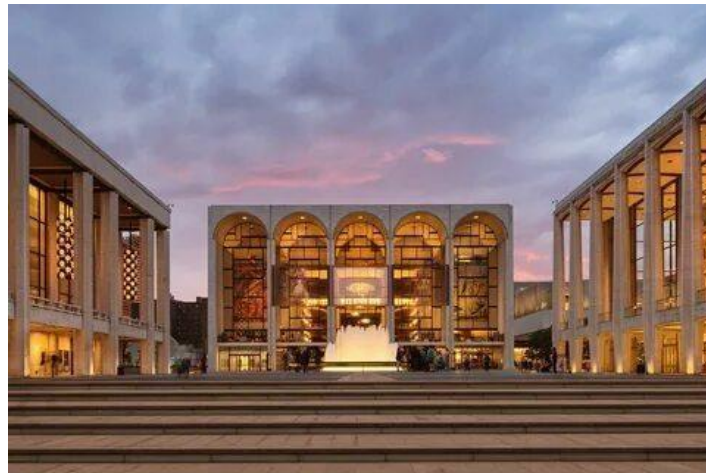
2. Questions / Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Ask 2 **QUESTIONS** about the **Mariinsky Theatre** in Saint Petersburg to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** not mentioned in the presentation.

2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

FACT FILE The Metropolitan Opera



The Metropolitan Opera (commonly known as the Met) is an American opera company based in New York City, currently resident at the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center, situated on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. The Metropolitan Opera is the largest classical music organization in North America.

History

The Metropolitan Opera was founded in 1883 by a group of businessmen who wanted their own theatre as an alternative to New York's old established Academy of Music opera house. The first building was built at the corner of Broadway and 39th Street. The new Metropolitan Opera House (the Met) opened on October 22, 1883, and was an immediate success. During the first season the artists gave 150 performances of 20 different operas by Bellini, Verdi, Wagner, Mozart, Bizet and others.

The company performed not only in the new Manhattan opera house, but also started a long tradition of touring throughout the country. In the winter and spring of 1884 the Met presented opera in theatres in Brooklyn, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Washington D.C., and Baltimore.

Another tradition of the Met is broadcasting its performances. The Met's broadcast history goes back to January 1910 when two live performances from the stage of the Met were transmitted. *Hänsel und Gretel* was the first complete opera broadcast from the Met on Christmas Day, 1931. Saturday afternoon live broadcasts quickly made the Met a permanent presence in communities throughout the United States and Canada. Since the 1970s, the Met has broadcast many performances on TV and radio, and since 2006, live broadcasts in high definition in cinemas in many countries around the world have been a huge success, enabling a very wide audience to enjoy opera.

The Metropolitan Opera has always hired the finest artists, like Enrico Caruso. He arrived in 1903, and when he died eighteen years later, he had sung more at the

Met than at all the other opera companies of the world combined. Today, the Met continues to present the finest talents and discovers and trains young artists through several different programmes.

Renovation

The theatre was noted for its elegance and excellent acoustics and it provided a glamorous home for the company. But it was obvious from the start that the 39th Street building did not have adequate stage equipment. Over the years many plans for a new opera house were explored and abandoned, including a proposal to incorporate a new Metropolitan Opera House into the construction of Rockefeller Center. However, it was only when the Metropolitan Opera joined up with other New York institutions to create the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts that a new building could be planned. The Met held a farewell gala performance for the old house on April 16, 1966. The new Metropolitan Opera, which opened in September 1966, was equipped with the finest technical equipment.

In 1995 the Met installed its own system of presenting a scripted version of opera texts designed for the particular needs of the Met and its audiences called "Met Titles". The system provides the audience with a script of the opera's text in English on individual screens which face each seat.

Repertoire

The operas in the Met's repertoire consist of a wide range of works. These operas are presented in staged productions that range in style from those with elaborate traditional decors to others that feature modern conceptual designs.

The Met was responsible for the U.S. premieres of some of the most important operas including *Boris Godunov*, *Turandot*. Five most recent works include *The Great Gatsby* by John Harbison and *An American Tragedy* by Tobias Picker. Since 1976, thirty-seven operas have premiered at the Met.

The Met's performing company consists of a large symphony orchestra, a chorus, children's choir, and many supporting and leading solo singers (both international and American artists). The company also employs numerous free-lance dancers, actors, musicians and other performers throughout the season.

Location and Tickets

The Metropolitan Opera House is located within the Lincoln Center performing arts plaza. Take the 1 Local Subway Train to 66th Street / Lincoln Center Station and go south on Broadway and a slight right on Columbus Avenue to just past 64th Street. The Metropolitan Opera House is across the plaza on your right.

Tickets to performances and concerts at the Met may be purchased on the theatre's official website, at theatre box-offices and from officially licensed organisations. The ticket price depends on the performance and the place in the hall. You can find Metropolitan Opera tickets for as low as \$57, with an average price of \$210.

SPEAKING

Карточка участника

Student 1 Set 1: Red Square

Preparation – 10 minutes

Prepare to speak **about Sergiyev Posad**, one of the cities of the Golden Ring of Russia, using Fact File 1.

You will have to comment on:

- its location
- its name and history
- its culture and economy
- notable people

Task 1

1. Monologue. Time: 3-4 minutes.

Imagine you are a participant of the international conference called “Russian History through the Cities of the Golden Ring”. You are supposed to make a presentation about **Sergiyev Posad**.

In the presentation you have to

- comment on the 4 aspects mentioned above;
- remember to make an introduction and conclusion relevant to the presentation.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you are not allowed to read the notes made during the preparation time.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**, not mentioned in your presentation.

Task 2

Now you are one of the guests at the conference.

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Ask 2 **QUESTIONS about Rostov Veliky** in Moscow to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** not mentioned in the presentation.

2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes
YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

SPEAKING

Карточка участника

Student 2 Set 2: Rostov Veliky

Preparation – 10 minutes

Prepare to speak **about Rostov Veliky** using Fact File 2.

You will have to comment on:

- its location
- its name and history
- its culture and economy
- notable people

Task 1

1. Monologue. Time: 3-4 minutes.

Imagine you are a participant of the international conference called “Russian History through the Cities of the Golden Ring”. You are supposed to make a presentation about **Rostov Veliky**.

In the presentation you have to

- comment on the 4 aspects mentioned above;
- remember to make an introduction and conclusion relevant to the presentation.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you are not allowed to read the notes made during the preparation time.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, not mentioned in your presentation.

Task 2

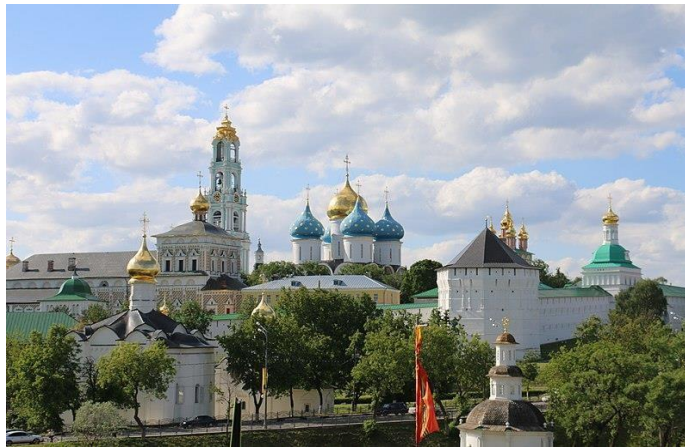
Now you are one of the guests at the conference.

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Ask 2 QUESTIONS **about Sergiyev Posad** to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in the presentation.

2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes
YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED



Sergiyev Posad

Sergiyev Posad is a city that is the administrative center of Sergiyevo-Posadsky District in Moscow Oblast, Russia. It was previously known as *Sergiyev Posad* (until 1919), *Sergiyev* (until 1930), *Zagorsk* (until 1991).

History

Sergiyev Posad is the religious center of the Moscow Region as its first monastery was founded in 1337. The monastery began as a church built by Sergius of Radonezh, made out of wood, and by 1345 was recognized as a place of religious worship. Town status was granted to Sergiyev Posad in 1742. In the 16th and 17th centuries, the religious center continued expanding into new monastery buildings, living areas, and stone walls, which withheld a Polish Siege of 1608–1610. In the 18th century, wooden monasteries were mostly destroyed and began reconstruction and settlement (roads, hotels, stable, and hospice). Lavra was closed in 1919 after the Russian Revolution. Soviet authorities changed it first to just *Sergiyev* in 1919, and then to *Zagorsk* in 1930, in memory of the revolutionary Vladimir Zagorsky. The original name was restored in 1991.

Sights

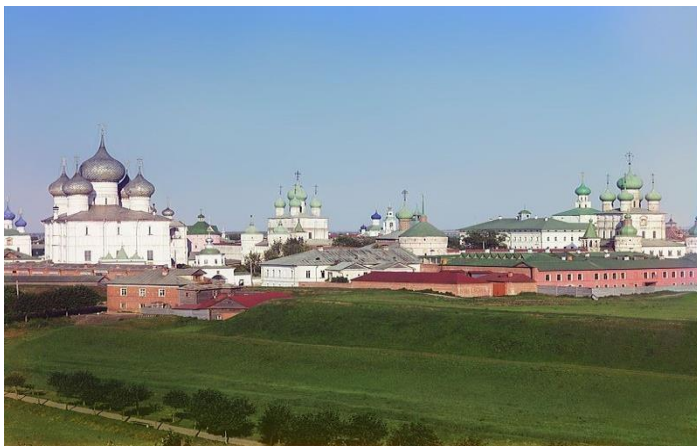
The culture of Sergiyev Posad focuses on its religious and toymaking history, as well as classical music and art. The Sergiyev Posad State History and Art Museum-Preserve contain the Lavra complex of monasteries. In addition to the Lavra monasteries, the Chernigovsky Skete was built as a men's monastery in the 19th century. Today, the Skete is quiet and peaceful, with only 10 monks coming to complete its everyday functions.

The Russian wooden toys, Matreshki, were invented there by an artist Sergey Malyutin, and are now displayed in the Toy Museum.

Economy

Tourism associated with the Golden Ring plays a role in the regional economy. There is an important toy factory and Zagorsk Optical-Mechanical Plant. **Notable people**

- Andrei Rublev, artist, Church iconography, lived in the 14-15th centuries, author of *Saint Trinity's* icon
- Pavel Florensky, Russian Orthodox theologian and researcher
- Boris Kustodiev, painter
- Mikhail Nesterov, painter



Rostov, Yaroslavl Oblast

Rostov is a town in Yaroslavl Oblast, Russia, one of the oldest in the country and a tourist center of the Golden Ring. It is located on the shores of Lake Nero. While the official name of the town is Rostov, it is popularly known to Russians as **Rostov Veliky** (*Rostov the Great*) to distinguish it from the much larger city of Rostov-on-Don.

History

Rostov was preceded by Sarskoye Gorodishche, which some scholars interpret as the capital of the Finnic Merya tribe, while others believe it was an important Viking trade enclave and fortress guarding the Volga trade route. First mentioned in documents in the year 862 as an already important settlement, by the 10th century Rostov became the capital city of VladimirSuzdal, one of the most prominent principalities in Rus'.

Ravaged by the Mongols in the 13th and 14th centuries the Poles in 1608, Rostov survived as a medium-sized town. **Main sights**

The architecture of the city shows many examples of early Russian Orthodox architecture. The central town square of Rostov is occupied by the Assumption Cathedral. Its bells are among the largest and most famous in Russia - each has its own name. The largest bell is named Sysoy to honor the city's founding father.

The Kremlin is flanked by two monasteries, both facing the Lake Nero. To the right from the Kremlin stands the Abraham monastery, founded in the 11th century and one of the oldest in Russia. Its cathedral, commissioned by Ivan the Terrible in 1553 to commemorate the conquest of Kazan, inspired numerous churches in the region, particularly in Yaroslavl. Spaso-Yakovlevsky Monastery, situated to the left from the Kremlin on the town's outskirts, has been venerated as the shrine of St. Dmitry of Rostov. Most of the monastery structures were built in the late 18th and early 19th centuries in the fine neoclassical style.

The vicinity of Rostov is rich in old architecture. For example, an old wooden church (1687–1689) may be seen in Ishnya. One of the best preserved monasteries in Russia, named after the saints Boris and Gleb, is situated in Borisoglebsky. The monastery was favored by Ivan the Terrible, who personally supervised the construction of towered walls and bell-tower around an even more ancient cathedral.

Notable people

- Vasilko Konstantinovich (1209–1238), the first Prince of Rostov
- Lev Naumov (1925–2005), Russian classical pianist, composer and educator
- Yuri Alexandrovich Bilibin (1901–1952), geologist

SPEAKING

Карточка участника

Set 1 Student 1: TATYANA TARASOVA

Preparation – 15 minutes

Prepare to speak about **TATYANA TARASOVA** using the Fact File.

You will have to comment on:

- her biography;
- sporting career;
- coaching career;
- interesting facts.

Task 1

1. Monologue. Time: 3-4 minutes.

Your English School Club is participating in the contest for the best name of the new Sports Centre in your town. Your candidate is **TATYANA TARASOVA**. You have to present the information about this athlete and coach at the Club meeting. You need to

- comment on the 4 aspects mentioned above;
- persuade your fellow students that your candidate would be the best choice;
- remember to make an introduction and conclusion.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you **are not allowed to read them** when you answer.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**, not mentioned in your presentation.

Task 2

Now your fellow student is presenting his/her candidate.

1. Listen to your partner's presentation.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Ask 2 **QUESTIONS about TATYANA POKROVSKAYA** to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** not mentioned in the presentation.

2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

Fact File

Set 1. Student 1. TATYANA TARASOVA



Tatyana Tarasova is a world-leading figure skating coach, who has coached more world and Olympic champions than any other coach has.

Biography

Tatyana Anatolyevna Tarasova was born **on February 13, 1947**, in Moscow into the family of Anatoly Tarasov, a legendary coach of the CSKA hockey club. At the age of four Tatyana started learning to skate. From the age of six, she went to classes on her own. Every morning Tanya and her sister Galya did exercises and ran for half an hour in any weather. Tatyana also played hockey with boys and had a sports category in diving. In 1979, Tarasova graduated from the Institute of Physical Education. She has been married three times. Her third husband, a musician and pianist - Vladimir Krainev, supported his wife in every possible way and helped with programmes for competitions. Unfortunately, the couple didn't have children.

Sporting career

Tarasova competed in pair skating with Aleksandr Tikhomirov and Georgi Proskurin. For a short period of time Elena Tchaikovskaya, a famous Soviet figure skating coach, trained Tarasova and Proskurin and they became two-time Soviet national medalists. They were 7th at the 1965 World Championship and 4th at the 1966 European Championship. Finally, they won the Winter Universiade of 1966. However, at the age of 18, Tarasova sustained a career-ending injury.

Coaching career

At the age of 19 Tarasova started coaching at her father's insistence. Among Tatyana's first skaters, there were such pairs as Zharkova-Karponosov and Moiseeva-Minenkov. In 1975, Irina Moiseeva and Andrei Minenkov sensationally won the World Championship. After that, Tatyana Anatolyevna was given the title of Honoured Trainer of the USSR, becoming the youngest one to be awarded it. A dedicated and talented coach, she has managed to train athletes capable of winning the most prestigious awards in the world of figure skating. Tarasova's skaters have 41

gold medals of the World and European Championships and seven gold medals of the Olympic Games.

In the late 90s, Tarasova had to leave Russia for the USA. She coached skaters for ten years at the International Skating Center of Connecticut and had a hand in the success of athletes of different nationalities. In 2006, after announcing her retirement from full-time coaching, Tatyana Anatolyevna moved back to Russia and headed the jury of popular competitions: “Stars on Ice” and “Ice Age”. In 2008, she was inducted into the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame. **Interesting facts**

In 1993, Tatyana Tarasova and Elena Tchaikovskaya created the All Stars ice theatre, which toured the world (with a cast of famous figure skaters) for 14 years. Tarasova was the director of such performances as “The Nutcracker”, “The Snow Queen” and the ice musical “Sleeping Beauty”. In 2002, Tarasova’s autobiographical book “Beauty and the Beast” was released. She dedicated it to behind-the-scenes secrets of sports and show business. In this book she thanked her parents, who had helped her to choose the profession.

Together with her husband, Vladimir Krainev, a musician, Tatyana Anatolyevna created music for 18 programmes for her students.

Set 2 Student 2: TATYANA POKROVSKAYA

Preparation – 15 minutes

Prepare to speak about **TATYANA POKROVSKAYA** using the Fact File.

You will have to comment on:

- her biography;
- sporting career;
- coaching career;
- interesting facts.

Task 1

1. Monologue. Time: 3-4 minutes.

Your English School Club is participating in the contest for the best name of the new Sports Centre in your town. Your candidate is **TATYANA POKROVSKAYA**. You have to present the information about this athlete and coach at the Club meeting. You need to

- comment on the 4 aspects mentioned above;
- persuade your fellow students that your candidate would be the best choice;
- remember to make an introduction and conclusion.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you **are not allowed to read them** when you answer.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**, not mentioned in your presentation.

Task 2

Now your fellow student is presenting his/her candidate.

3. Listen to your partner's presentation.

4. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Ask 2 **QUESTIONS about TATYANA TARASOVA** to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** not mentioned in the presentation.

2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

Fact File Set 2. Student 2. TATYANA POKROVSKAYA



Tatyana Pokrovskaya is a Soviet and Russian coach, Head coach of the Russian synchronized swimming team (since 1998) and Vice-President of the Russian Synchronized Swimming Federation.

Biography

Tatiana Nikolaevna Pokrovskaya was born **on June 5, 1950** into an army officer's family. At that time, her parents lived in Arkhangelsk Region. When the girl was 8, her family moved to Magnitogorsk.

After school, Tatiana decided to dedicate her efforts solely to artistic gymnastics. She entered the State Central Lenin Order Institute of Physical Culture. In 1971, she got married, graduated from the institute with honours, and began working as a physical education teacher in Moldova. In 1972, her daughter, Ekaterina, was born and the family moved to Elektrostal, Moscow region, where Tatyana Nikolaevna worked as an artistic gymnastics coach. But in 1981, she started training the USSR team and then the Russian synchronized swimming team. In 1991, she was appointed Head coach of the national team. However, after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Pokrovskaya left for Spain and then Brazil where she stayed for almost five years. In 1996, she came back to Russia and took her rightful place as Head coach of the Russian synchronized swimming team.

Sporting career

Tanya dreamt of becoming a ballerina from an early age. In Magnitogorsk she took up artistic gymnastics and a year later she joined a ballet studio. Later, on the advice of her ballet studio teacher, her parents sent Tatiana to the Perm Ballet School. But studying far from home turned out to be too challenging. The girl returned home and resumed doing artistic gymnastics. In the 7th form, she became a candidate for Master of Sports and competed for the Chelyabinsk region team. While studying at institute Tatiana competed for the Moscow team and had excellent prospects. However, after the marriage she chose to move to Moldova, where her husband served.

Coaching career

Under Pokrovskaya's guidance, the Russian team has become winners at the Olympic Games six times since 2000.

In the World Cups, the Russian team won gold medals in 1999 in Korea (duet, team and solo events) and in 2002 in Switzerland (duet and team events). In 2006 in Japan and in 2010 in China, the team won awards in all events.

Since 2007 Tatiana Pokrovskaya's swimmers have become winners in all events in the World Championships in Australia, Japan, Spain, Canada, Italy and China (six times).

There are also many gold and silver medals in FINA Trophy competitions and in Universiades.

Interesting facts

In 2013, in the memory of her beloved husband and granddaughter, Tatiana Pokrovskaya staged the penetrating composition "Prayer," which allowed her swimmers to win gold medals at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. The spectators were stunned.

Pokrovskaya's favourite pet was a dog, Yorkshire terrier, Daniel. The home favourite did not miss a single training session. Now the dog is the symbol of the Russian national team in synchronized swimming.

Set 3 Student 1: IRINA VINER

Preparation – 15 minutes

Prepare to speak about **IRINA VINER** using the Fact File.

You will have to comment on:

- her biography;
- sporting career;
- coaching career;
- interesting facts.

Task 1

1. Monologue. Time: 3-4 minutes.

Your English School Club is participating in the contest for the best name of the new Sports Centre in your town. Your candidate is **IRINA VINER**. You have to present the information about this athlete and coach at the Club meeting.

You need to

- comment on the 4 aspects mentioned above;
- persuade your fellow students that your candidate would be the best choice;
- remember to make an introduction and conclusion.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you **are not allowed to read them** when you answer.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, not mentioned in your presentation.

Task 2

Now your fellow student is presenting his/her candidate.

5. Listen to your partner's presentation.

6. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Ask 2 QUESTIONS about **ETERI TUTBERIDZE** to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in the presentation.

2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

Fact File Set 3. Student 1. IRINA VINER



Irina Viner is Head Trainer of the Russian team, Head of the Russian Rhythmic Gymnastics **Federation** and widely seen as a leading power broker in Russian sports.

Biography

Irina Alexandrovna Viner was born in Samarkand, Soviet Union, on **July 30, 1948**. Her father was a renowned painter, and her mother was a doctor. As a young girl, Viner aspired to become a ballet dancer but was discouraged from pursuing a career in dancing. Instead, she took up gymnastics at the age of 11. She graduated from the Uzbek State Institute of Physical Culture. Viner has a son, Anton, from her first marriage. He was born in 1973 and is now a businessman, president of the development company *Khimki Groups*. **Sporting career**

Irina Viner's personal sports achievements in rhythmic gymnastics are remarkable. As a young gymnast, Viner quickly rose to prominence and became a three-time champion of the Uzbek SSR. Her talent and dedication led her to excel in the sport, showcasing her incredible skills and artistry. Viner's performances captivated audiences and established her as a trailblazer in rhythmic gymnastics.

Coaching career

Viner's career as a coach is nothing short of extraordinary. She is known for her talent to grow up Olympic champions. Viner's coaching journey began in Tashkent, where she worked as a coach of the national team in rhythmic gymnastics. Under her tutelage, Venera Zaripova became her first successful gymnast. In 1990, Viner briefly moved to Great Britain to coach the British national team. However, she eventually settled in Moscow and joined the Moscow City Sports Association (MCSA). In 2001, she was appointed Head Coach of the Russian National Team. Her dedication and expertise led to her appointment as President of the Russian Rhythmic Gymnastics Federation in 2008. Her pupils have achieved remarkable success in rhythmic gymnastics, with five of the last six Olympic all-around champions being trained by her. These champions include Margarita Mamun, Evgeniya

Kanaeva, Alina Kabaeva, and Yulia Barsukova. Viner's coaching talent has also produced numerous Olympic, World, European, and World Cup medal winners.

Irina Viner's impact on rhythmic gymnastics is unparalleled. Her dedication, expertise, and ability to guide her pupils to glory have solidified her status as one of the most successful gymnastics coaches of all time. As President of the Russian Rhythmic Gymnastics Federation and head trainer of the Russian team, Viner continues to shape the future of this captivating sport.

Interesting facts

Viner's contributions to the world of gymnastics have not gone unnoticed. In 2015, she was awarded the Olympic Order, becoming the first gymnastics coach in history to receive this prestigious award. The Olympic Order was presented to her by Thomas Bach, the President of the International Olympic Committee.

In addition to her coaching accomplishments, Viner has also made appearances in the media. She was featured in the 2017 documentary "Over the Limit," which followed her training of Margarita Mamun in preparation for the 2016 Olympics.

She has always been fond of music. While at school, she played in the school theatre and enjoyed ballet dancing.

Set 4 Student 2: ETERI TUTBERIDZE

Preparation – 15 minutes

Prepare to speak about **ETERI TUTBERIDZE** using the Fact File.

You will have to comment on:

- her biography;
- sporting career;
- coaching career;
- interesting facts.

Task 1

1. Monologue. Time: 3-4 minutes.

Your English School Club is participating in the contest for the best name of the new Sports Centre in your town. Your candidate is **ETERI TUTBERIDZE**. You have to present the information about this athlete and coach at the Club meeting. You need to

- comment on the 4 aspects mentioned above;
- persuade your fellow students that your candidate would be the best choice;
- remember to make an introduction and conclusion.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you **are not allowed to read them** when you answer.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, not mentioned in your presentation.

Task 2

Now your fellow student is presenting his/her candidate.

7. Listen to your partner's presentation.

8. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Ask 2 QUESTIONS about **IRINA VINER** to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in the presentation.

2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

Fact File Set 4. Student 2. ETERI TUTBERIDZE



Eteri Tutberidze is a Georgian-Russian figure skating coach who works mainly with female single skaters. She is head coach at the Sambo 70 skating club in Moscow.

Biography

Eteri Georgievna Tutberidze was born 24 February 1974 in Moscow. The youngest of five children, she is half-Georgian, a quarter Russian, and a quarter Armenian. Her mother was a senior engineer at the Ministry of Agricultural Construction and her father worked at the Likhachev plant's foundry and as a taxi driver.

Tutberidze studied at the Academy of Physical Education and received a degree in choreography from the Institute of Contemporary Art. She worked in ice shows in the US for six years in the 1990s. She is the mother of figure skater Diana Davis. Diana had been coached by her mother as a single skater until 2016 when, at the insistence of her mother, she opted for ice dance.

Sporting career

Tutberidze began skating at the age of four and a half. After sustaining a spinal fracture and growing 22 cm, she switched from singles to ice dancing. She was coached by Lidia Kabanova for two years and then joined Elena Tchaikovskaya, who paired her with Vyacheslav Chichekin. Tutberidze then switched to Gennady Akkerman, her coach for the next three years. She skated with Alexei Kiliakov until he emigrated to the United States.

During the 1991–1992 season, Tutberidze trained under Tatiana Tarasova before deciding to perform in ice shows. Appearing as an adagio pair skater with Nikolai Apter, she toured with Ice Capades for several years. She worked in ice shows in the US for six years in the 1990s, including the show in Oklahoma at the time of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, for which she received compensation as a survivor. She decided to return to Russia and start from scratch.

Coaching career

Tutberidze started her career as a skating coach in San Antonio, Texas. After returning to Russia, she coached at several Moscow rinks, including a hockey rink *Serebrianyi*, where ice time was limited for figure skaters. She then moved to Sambo 70, a children's and youth sports school in Moscow. She is now head coach at this skating club. She has coached several Russian skaters to success in international competitions, including Olympic and World champion Anna Shcherbakova, Olympic silver medalist Alexandra Trusova, Olympic Team champion Kamila

Valieva, European Champion Alena Kostornaia, Olympic and World champion Alina Zagitova, two-time World champion and two-time Olympic silver medalist Evgenia Medvedeva, and Olympic Team champion Yulia Lipnitskaya.

The aphorism of Russian generalissimus Alexander Suvorov “Hard training makes battles easy” perfectly illustrates the rules installed by Tutberidze on the ‘Khrustalny’ rink: be two heads above your opponent and you will never get unfairly judged by the jury.

Interesting facts

The best coach at the ISU (International Skating Union) in 2020 and the woman behind a number of champion titles for her charges, Eteri Tutberidze is an indomitable fighter. She had to quit the sport because of an injury, but she came back triumphantly as a coach.

A good half of her students’ iconic programmes are her personal revelations. Medvedeva’s ‘Hear/Don’t Hear’ programme is a story about Eteri’s daughter Diana Davis, who lost her hearing as a result of side-effects from taking antibiotics.