

УСТНЫЙ ТУР
Образец комплекта олимпиадных заданий для муниципального этапа
всероссийской олимпиады школьников по английскому языку
(комплект заданий для учащихся 9-11 классов)

SPEAKING
Карточка участника
The Battle of Borodino
Preparation – 10 minutes

Prepare to speak **about the Battle of Borodino** using the Fact File.

You will have to comment on:

- General information about the battle
- Historical background and key commanders
- The course of the battle and key points
- Significance and memory of the battle
- How to visit the Borodino Battlefield today

Monologue (14-16 sentences). Time: 3-4 minutes.

Imagine you are a guide at the Borodino Museum-Reserve telling a group of tourists about **the Battle of Borodino**. 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.

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

FACT FILE

The Battle of Borodino

General Information

The Battle of Borodino, fought on September 7, 1812, was the largest and bloodiest single-day battle of the Napoleonic Wars. It was a pivotal clash between the French *Grande Armée* under Emperor Napoleon I and the Russian Imperial Army under General Mikhail Kutuzov. Although the battle did not result in a decisive victory for either side, it is considered a defining moment of Russian national identity and a symbol of courage and resilience.

Historical Background and Key Commanders

The battle occurred during Napoleon's invasion of Russia. The Russian army, after a series of retreats, decided to make a stand near the village of Borodino, about 125 km west of Moscow, to block the French advance on the old capital.

- **Russian Commander:** General Mikhail Kutuzov, known for his strategic wisdom and calm demeanor.
 - **French Commander:** Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, one of history's most celebrated military leaders.
- The Russian forces constructed formidable field fortifications, including the famous **Raevsky Redoubt** and **Bagration Flèches**.

The Course of the Battle and Key Points

The battle began at dawn with a massive French artillery barrage. The main fighting centered around three key points:

1. **The Bagration Flèches:** These arrow-shaped earthworks were attacked repeatedly by French forces. They changed hands several times in ferocious close-quarters combat, resulting in huge casualties on both sides.
2. **The Raevsky Redoubt:** A large artillery fortification in the center of the Russian lines. It was the scene of some of the day's most brutal fighting and was eventually captured by the French cavalry in a late-afternoon assault.
3. **The Shevardino Redoubt:** A preliminary battle was fought for this position on September 5th, setting the stage for the main confrontation. The battle was characterized by immense intensity and staggering losses. By nightfall, both armies were exhausted. The Russian army, though battered, had not been destroyed, and Kutuzov made the strategic decision to withdraw, ceding the road to Moscow.

Significance and Memory

The Battle of Borodino is of immense historical and cultural significance for Russia:

- **A Moral Victory:** While Napoleon technically held the field, the Russian army proved its strength and shattered the myth of French invincibility. It is remembered as a heroic stand that paved the way for the eventual destruction of the *Grande Armée*.
- **Cultural Legacy:** The battle was immortalized by the poet Mikhail Lermontov in his poem "Borodino" and forms the centerpiece of Leo Tolstoy's epic novel *War and Peace*.
- **Anniversary Celebrations:** Major commemorations are held on the battlefield, especially for the 100th and 200th anniversaries, with large-scale historical reenactments involving thousands of participants.

How to visit the Borodino Battlefield today

The Borodino Field is a vast open-air museum and a national memorial.

1. **By Car:** The most flexible option. The drive from Moscow takes about 2-3 hours via the M1 highway.
2. **By Train:** Take a suburban electric train (*elektrichka*) from the Belorussky Railway Station in Moscow to the Mozhaysk station. From Mozhaysk, take a local bus or taxi to the museum-reserve (about a 20-minute ride).
3. **Organized Tours:** Many tour companies in Moscow offer day trips to Borodino, which often include guided tours and visits to the main monuments.
4. **On Site:** The battlefield features over 50 monuments dedicated to the military units that fought there, a central museum, and the Spaso-Borodinsky Monastery, founded by a widow of a fallen officer. The main monuments are located at the Raevsky Redoubt and the Bagration Flèches.
5. **Best Time to Visit:** The annual historical reenactment, usually held on the first Sunday of September, is a spectacular time to experience the history come alive.