



# Geography Knowledge Organiser

**Year Group : 7**

**Topic: Prisoners of Geography**

**Half Term: Spring One**

## Suggested Reading



**Safiyyah's War**  
Hiba Noor Khan



**Oranges in No Mans Land**  
Elizabeth Laird



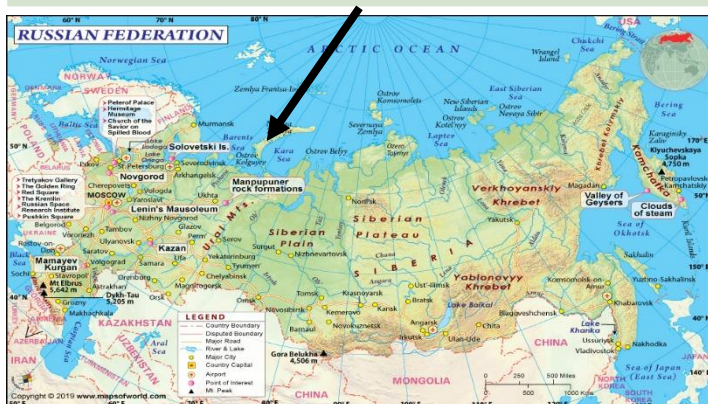
**You Don't Know What War Is**  
Yeva Skalietska

## Definition of terms

<b>Prisoners of geography</b>	When a country struggles to develop due to problems caused by physical geography.	<b>Development Gap</b>	The difference in quality of life between different countries.
<b>Physical geography</b>	Anything natural such as rainforests, deserts, oceans, climate or natural hazards.	<b>Physical Geography</b>	Anything natural such as rainforests, deserts, oceans, climate or natural hazards.
<b>Colonisation</b>	When European countries conquered other countries and created colonies that they ran and had control over.	<b>Ecosystems</b>	A natural place made up of plants and animals.
<b>Corruption</b>	When a government is corrupt they will keep money for themselves and not use it to help residents of their country.	<b>Superpower</b>	A large country that has a large population, strong economy, military power and influence over others.
<b>Landlocked</b>	When a country is surrounded by other countries and has no access to the sea.	<b>Natural Resources</b>	Materials from the land that are useful such as oil and coal.
<b>Powerhouse</b>	A country that has a lot of money, power or influence in a certain area.	<b>Trade Routes</b>	The journey cargo ships take to transport goods from one country to another.
<b>Technology</b>	Modern inventions such a planes that help us overcome physical geography.		

## WHERE IS RUSSIA?

Russia is the largest country in the world. It sits with part of it in Asia and part in Europe – this division is made by the Ural Mountains.



## RUSSIA – A PRISONER OF ITS PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY?

Ural Mountains

Divide Russia in 2 meaning the west is well developed but the east isn't as the wealth couldn't travel.

Little access to a warm water port.

Landlocked in the south meaning it can't trade easily and would face conflict in South Asia.

Northern ports freeze for 4 months.

Can't trade from its northern ports for 4 months of the year meaning it loses money and influence.

Taiga ecosystem

Can be very cold and mountainous meaning travel is difficult and people cannot live here limiting development.





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## PUTIN'S OBSESSION WITH UKRAINE AND CRIMEA

Where is Ukraine and Crimea?

Ukraine is in Eastern Europe. It borders Poland, Belarus, Romania and Russia. It used to be part of the Russian Empire and the USSR but was given independence after its collapse. Crimea is to the south of the Ukraine and was given to Ukraine in the USSR.



Ukraine's political situation

### NATO and the EU

Ukraine was to join these organisations as they promote democracy and would back them up if there was conflict. However, they have not been accepted at present due to closeness to Russia.

### RUSSIA

Russia don't want Ukraine to join as it would reduce their power. They threatened to turn off Ukraine's power if they joined the EU. In the east and south there are many Pro-Russian people who want to be part of Russia again leading to conflict.

Why does Putin want Ukraine and Crimea?

It would give Russia better military control over the Black Sea. They have a port in Crimea but have to pay a lease to Ukraine. It would also give Russia better access to Europe.

'Undeclared war' – In 2014 Russia seized Crimea and it is not under their control. This has promoted Pro-Russia uprisings in South Ukraine. Europe and the US did little to help as they get energy from Russia.

## AFRICA – A SERIOUS PRISONER OF GEOGRAPHY

Africa should be the most developed continent as it was where the first humans lived. However, it has been very unlucky in its physical geography. It seems to have several natural advantages, however...



Lots of rivers	But they don't connect and are full of waterfalls.
Plenty of coastline	Leaving it isolated from Europe and Asia.
Lovely beaches	No natural harbours for ports meaning they couldn't trade.
Sahara Desert barrier	Stopped trade with Europe and Asia.
Congo Rainforest full of resources	Created a barrier in the middle of the country to trade and stopped movement around the country.
Second biggest continent	Created 140 languages = communication is hard.
Warm climate	Diseases such as malaria and yellow fever spread.

So populations were crowded and diseases spread!

## USA – A SUPERPOWER



The USA won the physical geography lottery for a variety of reasons:

Natural harbours and fertile soils	The coastline provided lots of places for ships to dock and the land meant food could be easily grown.
The Appalachian Mountains	The mountains provided a barrier to stop attacks from the west while settlements developed.
Freedom from the British	The Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776 which meant they were freed of British rule.
The Mississippi River	The Mississippi provided great inland transport and gave access to the Gulf of Mexico increasing trade.
Alaska	Major gold and oil deposits were found in Alaska.
World War II	The British gave the USA all of their naval bases in the W. hemisphere in exchange for help in WW2.
Natural Resources	Massive reserves of oil and natural gas meaning the USA could be self sufficient.