NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

So what is Russia Today? Virtual Trip

Objective: To gather data on contemporary Russia using statistics, U.S. government analysis, and observation of Russian cities.

Assignment: This assignment has four components:

1. Use the CIA World Factbook entry on Russia to learn statistical and background information on contemporary Russia, and make generalizations on the United State’s view of contemporary Russia.
2. Use Google Earth to “visit” Moscow and Krasnodar, observing important historical landmarks and day to day life in Russia.
3. View the photographs on my website for further visual evidence.
4. Journal reflection of your virtual trip.

Part I: Using a search engine, go to the CIA World Factbook entry for Russia, click to “expand all” and begin reading the background entry. After you read over the facts and information, using your own words, complete the following questions.

**For each of the following, make a generalization regarding the significance of these factors on Contemporary Russia. In other words, how do these factors impact Russia today?**

* Government:
* Size, borders:
* Resources, land, environment:
* Population, birthrate, life expectancy:
* Ethnicity, religion:
* Media:

**In summary, how does the CIA World Factbook characterize the political situation in Russia? In your own words, how would this source answer the question, “so what is Russia Today politically?”**

**In summary, how does the CIA World Factbook characterize the economic situation in Russia? In your own words, how would this source answer the question, “so what is Russia Today economically?”**

Part II: Open Google Earth and type in Moscow, Russia. As you explore the sites and the surrounding city, the blue icons are still photographs with information, and the red are 360 degree panorama shots that you can enter and see the site from the ground level. You may begin to explore the city on your own, but it may help to begin by typing in one of the following sites.

Moscow:

* Red Square: Lenin’s Mausoleum, St. Basil’s Cathedral, Gum (the fabulous state department store).
* The Moscow Kremlin: Cathedral Square (the oldest square in Moscow)
* Cathedral of Christ the Savior
* Arbat Street or Novy Arbat

**As you explore, please jot down notes/web things that are of interest to you/surprise you or things you’d like to know more about.**

After you’ve explored Moscow, type in Krasnodar, Russia. Krasnodar is a city in Southern Russia of 744,900 people. It is situated in a very fertile farming area, and has a much milder climate than that of Moscow. It is a growing city, one that is gaining new population as well as economic development. It will give you an idea of what a smaller but fairly prosperous Russian city is like.

* Because Krasnodar is much smaller, there are fewer place marks on Google Earth. Krasnaya Street is a good starting point, and then just explore from there.

**Again, please jot down notes regarding things you notice in Krasnodar.**

Part III: Go to my homepage, available from the Grosse Pointe North main page (under teacher websites) and click on the Russia Fulbright-Hayes tab. You will find a link to view photos from my trip to Russia. Scroll through the photos—some may be familiar sites from your exploration of Google Earth, with captions to give you more historical background. As you look through my photos, continue to jot down information above.

Part IV: Journal. In the space provided, free-write a response that reflects on what you saw today—what surprised you or didn’t, what overall seemed interesting or remarkable, and what, if anything changed about your perception of Russia.

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Homework (DUE: ): On the same page as my Russia photos, read the article posted and write five discussion producing questions on topics in the article that you are interested in or would like to know more about.