**Peter the Great**

**I. Introduction**



In the 1600s, Russia was isolated from Western Europe. Russia was not influenced by the Renaissance and Reformation and was still a medieval state. Russia went through a period of disorder and foreign invasions. It was not until the late 1600s that Russia returned to an orderly state. In 1682, a new **czar** (leader) came to absolute power in Russia. Peter was just ten years old when he became the czar of Russia. He did not take control of the government until 1689. Peter was not well educated, but was very curious. Peter spent hours in the “German quarter”, the Moscow suburb where many Dutch, Scottish, English, and other foreign crafts people and soldiers lived. There, Peter heard of the advanced technology that was helping Western European monarchs build powerful empires. Peter’s goal as czar was to **westernize, which means to adopt western ideas, technology, and culture,** Russia.

**DIRECTIONS: Read through the actions taken by Peter the Great to westernize Russia. Evaluate Peter the Great (E, G, S, F) and EXPLAIN the reasons for giving him that grade.**

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| **Peter the Great’s Report Card** | | |
| **ACTIONS** | **GRADE** | **REASON FOR YOUR GRADE** |
| **Autocrat & Reformer**  Peter wanted to strengthen the military, expand Russia’s borders, and wanted total power and control. Peter became an **autocratic ruler**, which means he was control of everything that went on in Russia, even the Russian Orthodox Church. He forced **boyars** (landowning nobles) to serve the state in civilian or military jobs. |  |  |
| **Serfdom**  Under Peter, **serfdom** spread in Russia, while the rest of Western Europe no longer had this. Serfdom forced peasants to work on land owned by the nobles. Serfs were forced to become soldiers or work on roads, canals, and other government projects. The serfs were not allowed to leave the land unless they had permission from their master. |  |  |
| **Social & Economic Reforms**  Peter changed Russia socially and economically ($). He brought in technology from Western European countries, improved education, and simplified the Russia alphabet. He set up schools for Russians to study math, science, and engineering. To pay for these changes, Peter used **mercantilist polices**. He also improved waterways and canals, developed mining and textile manufacturing, and backed up new trading companies. |  |  |
| **New Styles & Fashion**  Peter insisted that the landowning nobles shave their beards. He forced them to replace their old-fashioned robes with Western European robes with Western European clothes. He also worked to bring upper-class women and men together. He held parties at which women and men were expected to dance together. However, many nobles did not like the idea of having men and women socially interact in public together. |  |  |
| **Resistance to New Order**  Peter did not stand for people who did not like his new demands and changes to Russia. When elite palace guards revolted (went against) Peter’s changes, he had them tortured and executed. Peter did this to over 1,000 rebels. To show his power to people, Peter left the dead and rotting bodies outside the palace walls for months for others to see. |  |  |
| **Expansion**  In the 1700s, Peter went to war against Sweden. Sweden had the control over the Baltic region and Peter wanted to take it over. Russia was defeated by Sweden. Peter rebuilt his army and defeated the Swedes. He took over all the land along the Baltic Sea. |  |  |

**Name:**  **Band:**

**Peter the Great**

**DIRECTIONS: After learning about Peter the Great, choose to do ONE of the activities below.**

**ACTIVITY 1: POSTER**

**Create a poster arguing if Peter the Great had a positive or negative impact on Russia. Be sure to use the facts you learned today to support your answer and use KEY WORDS: autocratic ruler, westernization, serfdom, expansion, boyars.**

**ACTIVITY 2: ARGUEMENTIVE STATEMENT**

**Using the template below, argue if Peter the Great had a positive or negative impact on Russia. Be sure to use the facts you learned today to support your answer and use KEY WORDS: autocratic ruler, westernization, serfdom, expansion, boyars.**

Peter the Great had a **positive/negative (circle one)** impact on Russia. This is because of certain actions he took. Peter the Great had a **positive/negative (circle one)** impact on Russia because he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He also did \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Even though some of the actions Peter took were **positive/negative (circle the opposite from what you chose above),** for example, Peter the Great did

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| **EXCELLENT**   * Chooses to create poster or write an argumentative statement. * Argues a side * Uses relevant information in the activity that demonstrates a clear and detailed understanding of Peter the Great and connects to their argument. * Uses key words that connect to the student’s argument and displays an understanding of what the key words mean. * Product is creative, accurate, and complete. | **GOOD**   * Chooses to create poster or write an argumentative statement. * Argues a side * Uses relevant information in the activity that demonstrates a clear and somewhat detailed understanding of Peter the Great and connects to his/her argument. * Uses keywords that connect to the student’s argument. * Product is complete and creative. | **SATISFACTORY**   * Chooses to create poster or write an argumentative statement. * Does not take a position or takes a position and/or does not explain it clearly. * Not enough details and information on Peter the Great and/or information does not connect to his/her argument. * Uses one key word and/or uses key words, but does not display a clear understanding of the definition. |