



Russia, the Largest Country

Lead-in

1 Look at the map.

- a) Which seas and oceans enclose Russia?
- b) Name a river; a lake; a mountain.

2 Look at the title of the text and write two facts you expect to read. Read quickly and check.

Reading & Listening

3 Read and try to complete the gaps. Listen and check your answers.

4 Explain the words in bold. Then, in pairs, ask and answer questions based on the text.

A: What is taiga?

B: A thick forest.

Speaking

Use the map to present Russia to your classmates. Can you find the city you live in on the map?



Facts about Russia

- ◆ Russia is the largest country in the world. It takes **1)** hours to cross it by plane!
- ◆ A train journey from Moscow to Vladivostok on the Transsiberian Express takes six days!
- ◆ Russia has 10 **time zones**. When people in Kaliningrad are having **2)**, people in Vladivostok are going to bed!
- ◆ Russia **stretches** from the Baltic Sea in the West to the Pacific Ocean in the East and from the Northern Arctic Ocean to the **deserts** of Central Asia.
- ◆ Russian rivers are long. The Volga is the longest river in Europe.
- ◆ Russia has a wide range of **scenery** and climates, too. It has **harsh** winters with lots of **3)**, but the summers are quite warm. The temperature is +20° to -25° C.

in the World



- ◆ Lake Baikal is 636 km **4)** and 80 km wide. It is the world's biggest **fresh water** reservoir. The water is very **5)** You can see the bottom of the lake through 30-40 m of water.
- ◆ Mount Elbrus (18,481 ft / 5,633 m), in the Caucasus **6)** range, is the highest peak in the country.
- ◆ Steppes cover all of the south of Russia, from the Black Sea to the Altai Mountains on the Chinese border. Some of the steppes have rich **7)** soil.
- ◆ Almost **8)** per cent of Russia is tundra. There aren't any trees there. It is frozen for most of the year. Reindeer live there.
- ◆ Taiga is a thick forest with a lot of dark **pine, fir, and cedar 9)** Many **species** of **wildlife** live there.