

# A TALE OF TWO FROGS

By Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss

Second Grade

## **Outcome:**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the story through the use of reading, writing, and discussion.

## **Overview:**

Students will read and explore a folktale from Russia, while utilizing interdisciplinary connections in language arts, geography, social studies, and cooking.

## **Materials:**

Book, A Tale of Two Frogs

1 royal blue and 1 red crayon or broad tip marker for each student, pencil, lined paper, unlined paper  
Map or globe

Cooking materials: large bowl, spoon, refrigerator, napkins

Cooking ingredients:

- 3 cups plain low fat yogurt
- 2/3 cups sour cream
- 4 large cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cucumbers peeled, grated, and squeezed dry in paper towels
- 4 T fresh mint, chopped
- 2 T fresh cilantro, chopped
- 3 T olive oil
- pita chips

## **Assessment Tools:**

Map worksheet

Word Search worksheet

## **INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN**

### **Introduction:**

- Inform students that they will be reading a folktale from Russia.
- Ask students to locate Russia on a map or globe.
- Using map or globe as a visual aid, Teacher informs students:
  - Russia is the largest country in the world. It is twice the size of the United States.
  - Russia is so large that it spans eleven different time zones.
  - If you took the Trans-Siberian railroad from Moscow in the west to Vladivostok in the east, on the Pacific coast, the 10,000 km trip would take six days.
  - At its eastern most point, Russia is only fifty miles away from Alaska, across the Bering Strait.
  - Russia's main waterway, the Volga River is the largest river in Europe.
  - The climate in Russia is very varied. Land in the Arctic north remains permanently frozen. The southern areas have subtropical weather.

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## **Introduction cont.:**

- Students complete Map worksheet as a class or with a partner using classroom maps or globes.

Map worksheet has word bank with following words:

Arctic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, China, Finland, Sweden, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Alaska, Black Sea, Caspian Sea, Volga River, and International Dateline.

## **Reading of Story:**

- Teacher distributes book, A Tale of Two Frogs to students.
- Ask the students to read the book individually or in pairs and to stop reading after page 15.
- Teacher collects books.
- Students write an ending to this story.
- Teacher redistributes books and asks students to stop reading after page 23.
- Teacher collects books.
- Again, students write an ending to this story.
- Teacher redistributes books and the class finishes the story by reading aloud together.
- Students then share both versions of their story with classmates.

## **Discussion Questions to Assess Comprehension:**

- What is the setting of this story?
- Describe the farm. (Pond with lily pads, barn, green gardens...)
- Describe the two frogs.
- Why did the author choose frogs for this story? Would it work with any other animals? Which ones?
- How did each frog deal with being stuck in the pail?
- Folktales in other cultures almost always have a moral. Some Russian folktales have a moral. What is the moral of this story?
- The younger frog told her sister, “When you find yourself in trouble, don’t give up. It pays to keep on kicking.” How can you apply this statement to your life?
- Folktales are passed down by mouth, from generation to generation. Changes are made as the tales are passed along. Would this tale work in another setting?
- The cover of the book gives the title of the book and says, “Retold by Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss”. Why does it say retold by rather than written by?

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## Language Arts:

- Following Directions

Creating the flag of Russia

Materials: each student needs 1 sheet of unlined white paper, a royal blue and a red crayon or broad tip marker.

Teacher gives the following directions:

1. Hold your paper horizontally.
2. Fold your paper in thirds
3. Color the middle third royal blue.
4. Color the bottom third red.

- Throughout history, the colors of the Russian flags have had different meanings at different times.
  - Currently, it is believed that the white stripe symbolizes nobility, sincerity, and freedom.
  - The blue is believed to symbolize honor and truthfulness, while the red stands for courage, bravery and love.
- Ask the students to read the book individually or in pairs and to stop reading after page 15.
- Teacher collects books.

### ➤ Extension Activity:

Compare and contrast the design of flags from other European countries with the Russian flag.

- Using a world atlas or the Internet, find pictures from the following countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Liechtenstein, Poland, Croatia, Slovenia, Yugoslavia, France, Luxembourg, and Netherlands.
- How are the flags similar?
- How are they different?
- Why are they so similar to each other?

- Dialogue

An activity for differentiated learning

- Dialogue is a conversation between people. When characters in a book are speaking to each other, their words are placed in quotation marks. A direct quotation is set off from the rest of the sentence by commas or by an exclamation mark or a question mark.
- Teacher writes examples on the board.

1. Alex said, "I love the book, A Tale of Two Frogs."
2. "Can I borrow your book?" Jessie asked.
3. "It is the best book I have ever read!" said Michael.

- In the book, A Tale of Two Frogs dialogue does not begin until page 16. Using what you know about the personality of each character, write direct quotes from each character for the following pages: 1, 9, 12, 13, 14, and 15.

Group A: Complete Dialog activity as a group with the teacher.

Group B: Complete activity with a partner

Group C: Complete activity independently.

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## Language Arts cont.:

- Word Search

Directions: Find and circle all of the words from the story listed in the word bank.



Word bank: frogs, sisters, farm, pond, barn, flies, bug, swam, pad, lazy, pail, kick, cream, butter

## Social Studies:

- Russian Information Treasure Hunt

Using the Internet, Encyclopedia, or books from the library, answer the follow questions about Russia in complete sentences.

1. What is a ruble (rouble)?
2. Lapta is a Russian game like what American sport?
3. What is Durak?
4. Name some popular sports in Russia.
5. What is the capital of Russia?

Answers:

1. Ruble (rouble) - unit of currency
2. Lapta is like baseball but it is played with a flat wooden club.
3. Durak is a popular card game. It means, Russian Fool.
4. Popular sports include soccer, ice hockey, and ice-skating.
5. The capital of Russia is Moscow.

## Cooking:

A healthy Russian snack

Materials: large bowl, spoon, refrigerator, napkins

Ingredients:

- 3 cups plain low fat yogurt
- 2/3 cups sour cream
- 4 large cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cucumbers peeled, grated, and squeezed dry in paper towels,
- 4 T fresh mint chopped
- 2 T fresh cilantro, chopped
- 3 T olive oil
- pita chips

Directions: In a serving bowl, combine all ingredients. Cover and refrigerate for 6 hours to allow flavors to mix. Garnish with mint leaves. Serve with Pita Chips or triangles. Makes approximately 5 cups

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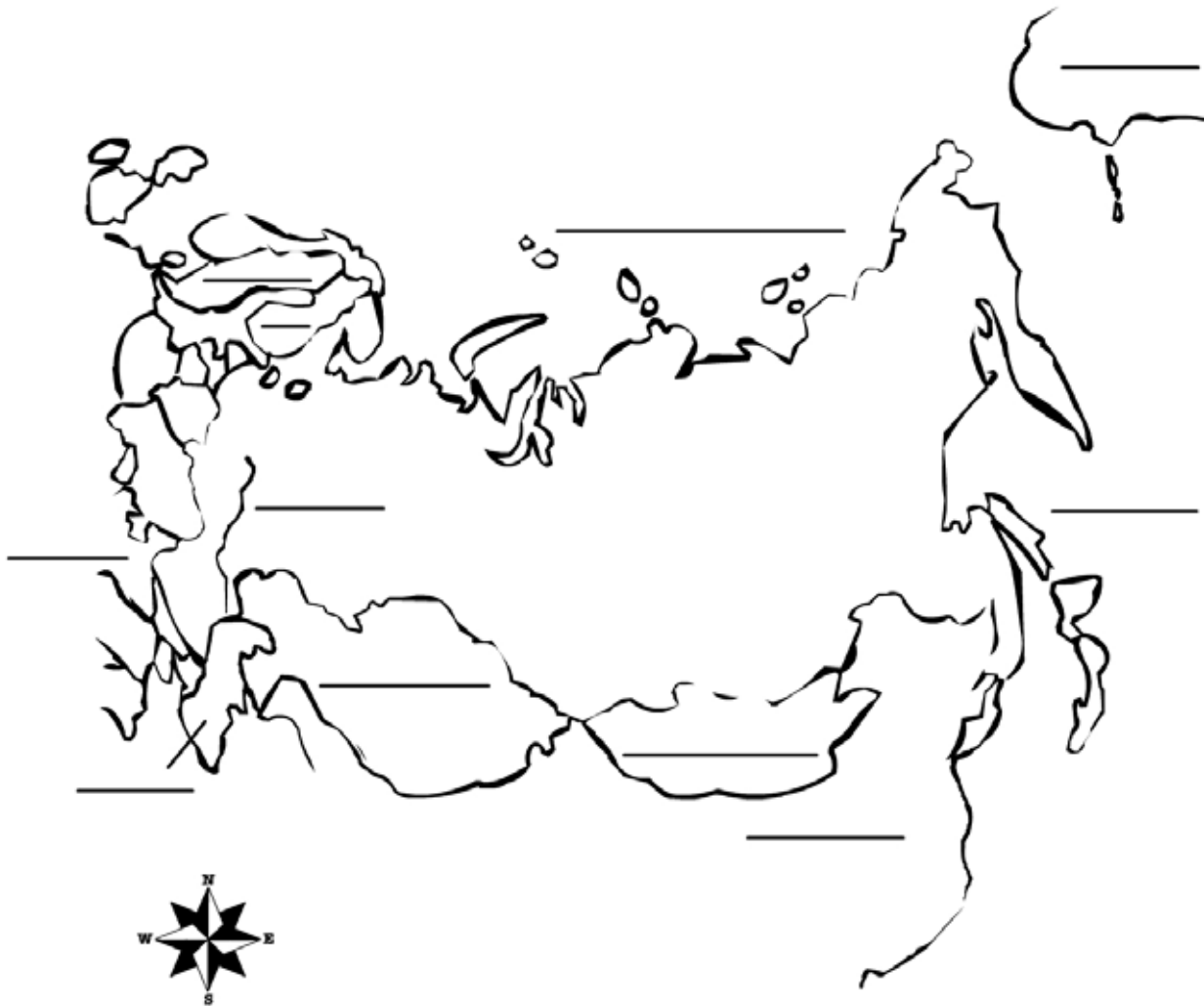
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Map

**Directions:** The map is an outline of Russia, surrounding countries, and bodies of water. Label the map using the Word Bank.



**Word Bank:** Arctic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, China, Finland, Sweden, Mongolia, Kazaknstan, Alaska, Black Sea, Caspian Sea, Volga River, and International Dateline.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Word Search

p	k	i	c	k	k	l	b	b
a	c	n	z	d	b	y	q	u
m	l	t	f	r	o	g	s	t
p	s	w	a	m	w	m	i	t
a	a	c	r	e	a	m	s	e
i	n	q	m	p	s	j	t	r
l	d	b	c	o	d	g	e	a
a	b	u	g	n	n	o	r	g
l	a	p	a	d	n	k	s	s
e	r	t	i	f	l	i	e	s
x	n	b	l	a	z	y	a	g

Word bank: frogs, sisters, farm, pond, barn, flies, bug, swam, pad, lazy, pail, kick, cream, butter