

Teacher Guide for CALLIOPE, Russia's Catherine the Great

May/June 2009

Betty Lou Askin, a retired educator who lives in Toronto Ontario, prepared this guide.

Objectives:

- **Students will gain a further historical perspective**
- **Students will increase their knowledge of Catherine the Great**

Materials:

- **Map of Russia today**
- **Map of Russia from pages 24&25**
- **Chart paper**
- **Markers**

A Foreigner Is Crowned (pages 2-3)

Read the article out loud.

Discussion questions:

- Explain how Catherine became a Russian bride.
- Name something that helped Catherine prepare to be a ruler.
- Do you think that Catherine had the right to overthrow Karl Peter? Explain your choice.

Catherine as Ruler (pages 4-9)

There are 4 sections to this article. One suggestion for use with this material would be to use a **co-operative** strategy, such as a **Jigsaw** or a **Literacy Circle**. Divide the class into 4 (or 8) groups. Each group would be assigned one section of the article. They would be responsible to read the section and summarize the information using chart paper. Once they have completed their work, the groups will present their information to the rest of the class. They should also design a series of questions to ask the class after the presentation.

Questions that might help their reading might be the following:

- Describe some of Catherine's first strategies.
- What was the Enlightenment?
- How did Catherine propose to implement the ideals of the Enlightenment?
- Explain why Catherine was faced with financial difficulties.
- How did she propose to reform administration throughout the land?

Catherine's Russia (pages 10-11)

- What were the social and political levels in Russia in 1729?
- Do you think that **serfdom** meant slavery? Explain your answer.

Minerva of the North (pages 12-14)

- On chart paper ask the students to list reasons why Catherine was up-to-date in her thinking.
- Catherine was modern for her time. Explain this statement.

- Should it suit your curriculum, you might ask the students to do research on Minerva.
- Why was Catherine an educational leader?

The Bronze Horseman (page 15-17)

- Why did Catherine erect a monument to Peter the Great?
- How and why did she connect Peter to Rome?
- Write a newspaper report describing how the statue of Peter the Great came to be erected.

A Tough Act to Follow (pages 18-19)

- How did Peter plan to make Russia into a world power?
- Why was Peter often at war?
- On chart paper ask the students to list the legacies that Peter left upon his death.

Building a Nation (pages 24-26)

- Peter the Great had a wide range of interests and he was creative. Make a list of his interests and achievements.
- Compare a current Map of Russia with the one found on pages 24-25.

A Passion for Architecture (pages 27-29)

Have the students read the article silently. Then complete the following:

- In what way did Catherine continue to enhance the work that Peter had begun on St. Petersburg?
- Write an essay entitled- "Catherine the Builder".
- What style of building did Catherine prefer?

Killing a Deadly Disease (pages 30-31)

Read this article with the students and discuss the following:

- Explain why Catherine was enlightened.
- Who was Dr. T. Dimsdale?

At Home with the Empress (pages 32-34)

- Catherine the Great was a fun-loving empress. In several paragraphs explain this statement.
- Catherine successfully managed a balancing act. Explain how she did this.
- Describe various ways that Catherine found to relax.

Up Close and Personal (pages 35-37)

- How do you know that Catherine loved children and dogs?
- Explain why Catherine was a busy bee.
- Catherine enjoyed writing. Record her various types of writing.

Reading Catherine's Portraits (pages 38-40)

- Describe the messages that are given by Catherine's portrait on the horse.

- What do we learn about Catherine from her portrait as a lawgiver?
- What do we learn about Catherine from her third portrait?

A Memorable Life (page 41)

- Why do you think that Catherine wrote her memoirs?
- Tell why her memoirs were not published in Russia until 1907?

Death of the Empress (pages 42-44)

- Describe some of Catherine's achievements.
- A) Based on Catherine's epitaph, what did she think of herself?
B) Explain why you agree or disagree.

A Magnificent Collection (pages 48-49)

- Catherine liked to surround herself with beauty. Explain this statement.
- Most of the time Catherine purchased art unseen. Describe how you feel about this habit of hers.
- Catherine did not want the rest of the world to think that Russia was a backward country. Make a list of her activities that brought respect and honor to Russia.

Culminating Activities:

- Write an essay to show that Catherine deserved the title "Great". Use the information found in this magazine to prove your point. Also, try to include ideas of your own.
- Catherine did not believe in slavery. Write an essay to explain why she continued to allow serfdom in Russia.