**ABOUT ME AND MY FAMILY**

**1. Прочитайте и переведите текст.**

Our family is not very large. I have a father, a mother, a brother and a sister. We all live together in a new flat in one of the industrial districts of Kazan.

My father Igor Ivanovich is 45 years old. He is a tall and well-built man with short black hair and grey eyes. He works at a big industrial plant as an engineer. He likes his work and spends most of his time there. By character my father   
is a quiet man, while my mother is energetic and talkative. Her name is Olga Petrovna. She is a teacher of music and plays the piano well. She is intelligent, patient and always ready to help. I've got good relations with my mum. She is always interested in what I do, and I can always ask her for advice. I love her very much though I love my father not less.

My sister’s name is Alia. She has blue eyes and lovely fair hair. She is   
a very good-looking girl. Alia is three years younger than me. She is a pupil   
of the 9th form. She does well at school and gets only good and excellent marks. Alia has a good sense of humour and is very popular with her friends at parties.

My name is Nina. I’m 17 years old. I resemble my mother in appearance but take after my father in nature. People say I'm an easy-going person. I have many friends. They come to my place very often.

Our family is very united. We like to spend time together and help our mother about the house. In the evenings we watch TV, read books and newspapers, listen to music or just discuss everyday problems. Our parents don't always agree with us but they take into consideration our opinion. All of us like to spend our week-ends out of town. We often go to the village to see our grandparents. They are old-age pensioners now but prefer to live in the country.

I also have some other relatives: uncles, aunts, cousins and many friends. We are happy when we are together. It is really very important to have a good family where all people are tactful, helpful, tolerant and respect each other. In such families children get on well with their parents. They are confident, willingly share domestic duties, joys and difficulties, views and opinions. In happy families parents are not bossy and never dominate their children. They teach them   
to communicate with different people in different situations. It’s nice to have   
a good family.

**2. Ответьтенавопросы.**

1. How old are you?

2. Are you married?

3. Have you got a family of your own?

4. Do you live together with your parents?

5. Is your family large or small?

6. What are your parents?

7. Are you an only child in the family?

8. Is your sister (brother) older or younger than you?

9. What is your sister's (brother's) occupation?

10. Do you help your mother to keep the house?

11. Have you got grandparents?

12. Why is it important to have a good family?

13. Have you got any other close relatives?

14. Do you often see them?

15. What do you usually do in the evenings?

16. Do you spend your week-ends together with your parents?

**3. Составьте рассказ о своей семье.**

**KAZAN STATE POWER ENGINEERING UNIVERSITY**

**1. Прочитайте и переведите.**

Kazan State Power Engineering University is one of three state specialized power engineering institutions of higher learning in the Russian Federation   
(the other two being Moscow Power Engineering Institute (Technical University) and Ivanovo State Power Engineering University) and occupies one of the leading places in the region in education, availability of technical equipment   
and conditions of scientific research and study process. The university runs   
14 bachelors and masters programs, and 11 specialist-diploma programs on full time, evening and correspondence basis.

KSPEU is the educational, scientific, and research centre of Tatarstan energetics.

KSPEU is abasic higher educational establishment of training power specialists in the Republic of Tatarstan.

KSPEU has full-time (day-time), part-time (evening-time) and distant-learning (external) education versions. KSPEU includes 3 Institutes: Heat Power Engineering Institute, Institute of Electric Power Engineering and Electronics, and Institute of Economics and Digital Technologies (humanitarian specialities).

At the moment more than 10 000 students and post-graduate students from different regions of the Russian Federation, countries of CIS (The Commonwealth of Independent States) and distant foreign countries are studying at the University.

Pedagogical process and scientific work at the University are carried out by a team of highly qualified teaching staff and scientific workers. Among the University scientists there are Associate Members of RT Academy of Sciences and also academicians and Associate Members from a number of other Academies.

The University has dissertational councils on defending theses for a Doctor’s, Candidate’s and Master’s degrees in Thermal Power and Electrical Power Engineering and Physics.

The program for applicants for Doctor’s degree and the post-graduate course train scientific staff for the Volga Region enterprises and organizations.

There is the Institute preparatory centre, faculties of additional education and post-graduate professional education and International Relations Department   
in KSPEU.

The University has a publishing polygraphic complex with modern equipment for publishing books, educational literature, scientific magazines, etc.

The KSPEU library is divided into several reading halls and owns the most complete literature fund in energetics field in Russia. The total library book fund is reflected in electronic catalogues of all-university computer network with free access users.

KSPEU has an aim training and work placement department for graduating students which is purposefully occupied with the university post-graduate students work arrangement.

**Student’s life.** The University Students Club organizes the students’ leasure time. Students participate in amateur art activities and sing in the choir. For several years KSPEU has been a winner of Student’s festival “Student’s spring”.

Students have great opportunities for maintaining their physical culture through sports activities. They have sport halls, tennis courts and playgrounds   
at their disposal.

**Vocabulary**

**scientific research centre –** научно-исследовательскийцентр

**establishment**– учреждение

**powerspecialiststraining**– подготовка специалистов в области энергетики

**occupy**– занимать

**equipment**– оборудование

**full-time**– дневное обучение

**part-time**– вечернееобучение

**post-graduate students**– аспиранты

**to carry out**– выполнять

**staff**–штат

**council**– совет

**thesis (pl. theses)**– диссертация

**leasuretime**– досуг

**beatsmb’sdisposal**– быть в чьем-либо распоряжении

**2. Ответьте на вопросы.**

1. What is KSPEU?

2. What positions does KSPEU occupy?

3. What type of education does it provide?

4. How many specialities and specializations are there in KSPEU?

5. How many students study at our University?

6. Is there a post-graduate course at the University?

7. Does the University have professional staff?

8. The University became the science and technology centre of power engineering specialists training, didn’t it?

9. What facilities are there in the University?

10. Who organizes the students’ leasure time?

**TATARSTAN. KAZAN**

**1. Прочитайте и переведите текст.**

Tatarstan is my homeland. The Republic of Tatarstan is situated in the Middle Volga region. The territory of Tatarstan is 68 thousand square kilometres. Its population is about 4 million.

There are many rivers, lakes and forests in our republic. The most important rivers are the Volga and the Kama.

Tatarstan is a republic of prodigious potentials. It is rich in natural resources, such as oil and gas.

Tatarstan has a powerful industry, a developed agriculture. We grow wheat, rye, oats, potatoes, sugar beet and other crops in our republic.

There are many cities and towns in Tatarstan: Kazan, Almetyevsk, Bugulma, Chistopol, Naberezhnye Chelny etc. The most important city is Kazan. It is the capital of our republic.

Kazan is my native city. It is situated on the beautiful Volga river. Kazan is a very old city with many traditions. Kazan is a political, cultural, historic and economic centre. The population of Kazan is over 1 500 000.

There are 8 Institutes, 4 Academies and 12 Universities in Kazan, where thousands of students master the professions of doctors, teachers, engineers, economists, lawyers and many others. Kazan Federal University is a very old one. It was founded in 1804.

There are many historical places in Kazan. The most interesting places are: the Kremlin with its beautiful ancient towers, the History Museum, the National Library, ancient churches, mosques and others.

Kazan is a big industrial and economic centre. Hundreds of plants and factories produce medical equipment, chemical products, planes, helicopters, clothes and food. The products of our plants and factories are delivered to different parts of our republic and abroad.

Kazan is a large transport centre: there is a river port, a railway station and 2 airports here. Many businessmen and tourists visit our republic and its capital.

Kazan is a cultural centre. There are a lot of museums, libraries, cinemas, clubs and theatres in it.

There are many parks and gardens in Kazan. In the parks, gardens and squares there are monuments to famous people. Among them are the monuments to the Tatar poet Musa Jalil and to the heroes of the World War II.

We are proud of many famous people who lived and worked in Kazan. The names of Lobachevsky, Butlerov, Tukai, Saidashev are known all over the world.

Kazan is a growing city. Old constructions stand side by side with modern buildings. Kazan becomes more and more beautiful from year to year.

**Vocabulary**

**to be situated** – бытьрасположенным

**population**– население

**important**– важный

**prodigious potentials** – богатейший потенциал, огромные возможности

**natural resource**– природные богатства

**coal**– уголь

**powerful**– мощный

**grow**– выращивать

**wheat**– пшеница

**oat**– овес

**rye**– рожь

**sugarbeet**– сахарная свекла

**crop**– сельскохозяйственная культура

**tomaster**– овладевать чем-либо

**ancient**– древний, старый

**tower**– башня

**church**– церковь

**mosque**– мечеть

**equipment**– оборудование

**helicopter**– вертолет

**to deliver** – доставлять

**to be proud of** – гордиться чем-либо

**to stand side by side** – стоять рядом (бок о бок)

**from year to year**– из года в год

**construction**– строение, сооружение

**2. Ответьтенавопросы.**

1. Where is Tatarstan situated?

2. What is its territory and population?

3. What are the most important rivers in Tatarstan?

4. What cities and towns do you know in Tatarstan?

5. What aboutTatarstan's natural resources?

6. What can you say about Tatarstan's industry and agriculture?

7. What is the capital of our republic?

8. Where is [Kazan](https://lms.kgeu.ru/mod/url/view.php?id=47843) situated?

9. When was [Kazan](https://lms.kgeu.ru/mod/url/view.php?id=47843) University founded?

10. What historical places do you know in [Kazan](https://lms.kgeu.ru/mod/url/view.php?id=47843)?

11. What are the best monuments in our capital?

**ALFRED NOBEL – A MAN OF CONTRASTS**

**1. Прочитайте и переведите текст.**

Alfred Nobel, the great Swedish inventor and industrialist, was a man of many contrasts. He was the son of a bankrupt, but became a millionaire; a scientist with   
a love of literature, an industrialist who managed to remain an idealist.

He made a fortune but lived a simple life, and although cheerful in company he was often sad in private. A lover of mankind, he never had a wife or family to love him, a patriotic son of his native land, he died alone on foreign soil. He invented a new explosive, dynamite, to improve the peacetime industries of mining and road building, but saw it used as a weapon of war to kill and injure his fellow men. During his useful life he often felt he was useless: “Alfred Nobel”, he once wrote of himself, “ought to have been put to death by a kind doctor as soon as, with a cry, he entered life”. World-famous for his works he was never personally well known, for throughout his life he avoided publicity. “I do not see” he once said, “that I have deserved any fame and I have no taste for it”, but since his death, his name has brought fame and glory to others.

He was born in Stockholm on October 21, 1833 but moved to Russia with his parents in 1842, where his father, Immanuel, made a strong position for himself in the engineering industry. Immanuel Nobel invented the landmine and made a lot of money from government orders for it during the Crimean War, but went bankrupt soon after. Most of the family returned to Sweden in 1859, where Alfred rejoined them in 1863, beginning his own study of explosives in his father’s laboratory. He had never been to school or university but had studied privately and by the time he was twenty was a skillful chemist and excellent linguist, speaking Swedish, Russian, German, French and English.

Like his father, Alfred Nobel was imaginative and inventive but he had better luck in business and showed more financial sense. He was quick to see industrial openings for his scientific inventions and built up over 80 companies in 20 different countries. Indeed his greatness lays in his outstanding ability to combine the qualities of an original scientist with those of a forward – looking industrialist.

But Nobel’s main concern was never with making money or even with making scientific discoveries. Seldom happy he was always searching for a meaning to life and from his youth had taken a serious interest in literature and philosophy. Perhaps because he could not find ordinary human love – he never married – he came to care deeply about the whole of mankind. He was always generous to the poor: “I’d rather take care of the stomachs of the living than the glory of the dead in the form of stone memorials”, he once said. His greatest wish, however, was to see an end to wars and thus peace between nations, and he spent much time and money working for this cause until his death, in Italy in 1896.

His famous will in which he left money to provide prizes for outstanding work in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology, Medicine, Literature, Economics and World Peace is a memorial to his interests and ideals. And so, the man who felt he should have died at birth is remembered and respected long after his death.

The Nobel Prize consists of a diploma, a gold medal and money (20.000 –40.000 $). It is annually granted in Oslo.

**Vocabulary**

**inventor**– изобретатель

**industrialist**– промышленник

**cheerful**– жизнерадостный

**soil**– земля

**injure**– ранить

**useless**– бесполезный

**deserve**– заслужить

**fame**– слава

**glory**– гордость

**sense**– чувство

**concern**– цель

**generous**– щедрый

**cause**– дело

**will**– воля

**2. Ответьте на вопросы.**

1. Was Alfred Nobel the son of a millionaire?

2. How did he make a fortune?

3. What did Alfred invent?

4. Did he have a family?

5. Was Alfred personally well known?

6. When and where was he born?

7. Why did Alfred move to Russia?

8. Did Immanuel Nobel invent the landmine or dynamite?

9. What kind of person was Alfred?

10. What was his greatest wish?

**THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN   
AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

**1. Прочитайте и переведите текст.**

The official name of this country is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the UK – for short). It is situated on the British Islands and comprises England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Administratively the country is divided into 55 counties. The total territory is over 244 thousand sq. km, that is the 75th place among all other countries   
in the world.

The population of Great Britain is over 60 million. The United Kingdom   
is one of the most densely populated countries. The majority of the UK population (almost 92 %) lives in cities and towns.

The country is washed by the North and Irish seas and by the Arctic   
and Atlantic Oceans. The English Channel (La Manche) separates the country from the European continent. North and west of the country are highlands, south   
and east – lowlands. The highest mountain of the country Ben Nevis is in Scotland.

Britain has several rivers, but they are not very long. The longest river is the Severn, but the deepest and the most important one is the Thames. The Clyde,   
the Avon, the Trent and the Cam are also among the country’s longest rivers. There are also many beautiful lakes in the country.

The country’s climate is mild due to the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf Stream’s warm waters and the mountains. The country weather often changes, being one of the most favorite topics of conversation in Britain.

The UK is one of the most highly developed industrial powers in the world. It holds one of the leading places among the European states. The country isn't rich in mineral resources. That's why it has to import some goods, raw materials, gas and oil.

Great Britain is known now as one of the world's largest producers and exporters of electronics and machinery, chemicals and textile, various aircraft and navigation equipment. The main industrial branches comprise coal mining, metallurgical, automobile, aircraft, ship-building, textile, chemical and some others.

The sea is vital to the British trade. Fishing plays an important role. Agriculture is highly mechanized and is one of the most important sectors of the country’s national economy.

The capital of the country is London. It is the largest political, cultural and industrial center of the country, as well as one of the largest sea ports in the world. Among the largest cities of the UK there are also Glasgow, Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham, Belfast, Manchester, Cardiff and Edinburgh.

Britain is a country with old cultural traditions and customs. The official languages of the state are English, Welsh, Scottish and Gaelic. The national symbol of the country is the Union Jack – the National Flag having 3 red and white crosses on the dark blue field. The weave of these crosses symbolizes the country’s power and might.

The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy. Officially the head   
of the state is the Queen. Of course, she has certain political rights, but her power is not absolute, it is limited by the Parliament. In other words, the Queen reigns   
but doesn’t rule.

The British Parliament is one of the oldest Parliaments in the world. It was founded in the XIII century and consists of 2 chambers: the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The House of Commons is the center of the parliamentary power. It comprises 651 elected MPs (members of Parliament) who represent local constituencies. The House of Lords is made up of 1, 185 hereditary and life peers and peeresses, as well as 2 archbishops and 24 most senior bishops of the establi-shed Church of England.

The British monarch appoints the leader of the party, having the majority   
in the House of Commons, as the country Prime Minister. The Prime Minister forms his/her Cabinet and is responsible for the policy conducted by the British Parliament.

There are several political parties in the country. The largest and most influencial of them are the Conservative (the Tory), the Liberal (the Whigs)   
and the Labour parties.

**2. Ответьте на вопросы.**

1. Give the official name of Great Britain.

2. Where is this country situated?

3. What does it consist of?

4. How large is the territory of the United Kingdom?

5. It is one of the most densely populated countries, isn't it?

6. How large is the population of Great Britain?

7. What is the highest mountain in the UK?

8. Name the longest rivers of the country.

9. The UK is one of the most developed industrial powers, isn't it?

10. Name the main branches of its industries.

11. Is English the only official language of the state?

12. What is the national symbol of the country?

13. Describe the state flag of the United Kingdom.

14. Who is the formal / real head of the state?

15. Who heads the country government?

16. Who can occupy the post of the Prime Minister?

17. How many chambers does the British Parliament have?

18. What are the largest political parties of the UK?

**THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**1. Прочитайте и переведите текст.**

The United States of Americais the fourth largest country in the world after Russia, Canada and China. It was formed in 1776.

The country consists of three parts: the continental part – in the center   
of the North American continent, the Hawaii and Alaska. Its total area is over   
9 million sq. km. The US borders on Canada in the north and on Mexico   
in the south. It also has a sea border with Russia.

The USA is washed by 3 oceans – the Arctic, the Pacific and the Atlantic. There are many rivers in this country. The longest of them are the Mississippi,   
the Missouri, the Columbia and some others. The USA has also many lakes, with the Great Lakes included.

The highest mountains are the Rocky Mountains, the Cordillera,   
the Appalachians and the Sierra Nevada. The highest pick, Mount McKinley,   
is in Alaska. Due to the large territory, the climate conditions are rather different.

The USA is rich in various mineral resources: oil, gas, coal, and different metals. It is one of the most highly developed industrial powers in the world.   
The US main industrial branches comprise aircraft, rocket, automobile, radio-engineering, textile, electronics, chemical and others. The country’s agriculture   
is highly mechanized.

Americans are made up from nearly all nations and races of the world.   
Due to immigrants the US population is now over 300 million. The majority   
of the country population lives in cities and towns.

The official language of the state is English. The main national symbols   
of the country are its national flag “Stars and Stripes”, having 50 white stars   
on the dark blue field and 13 white and red stripes, and the Bald Eagle.

Officially the country comprises 50 states and one District – Columbia.   
Of course, the states differ in size, population and economic development. Each state has its own capital. The capital of the USA is Washington. It is situated   
in the Federal District of Columbia.

There are many large cities in the country: New York (the country's largest city called “A Big Apple”), Chicago, San-Francisco, Los-Angeles, Boston, Philadelphia, Detroit and some others.

The USA is a federal state headed by the President. According to the US Constitution, the powers of the Government are divided into three branches: legislative, executive and judicial.

The legislative power belongs to the Congress consisting of two chambers: the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate represents the states   
and the House of Representatives – the population. The executive power belongs   
to the President and his Administration – the Vice President and the Cabinet   
of Ministers. The judicial power belongs to the Supreme Court and the system   
of the Federal courts.

There are several political parties in the USA. The largest and most influential of them are the Republican Party, symbolized by a donkey, and the Democratic Party, symbolized by an elephant.

Nowadays the USA is one of the leading powers in the world due to its great economic, political and military influence in the world.

**2. Выскажите свое мнение относительно следующих утверждений.**

1. The USA is the largest English-speaking country.

2. It occupies the whole North American continent.

3. The country borders on Russia, Canada and Mexico.

4. The US territory is over 9 million sq. km., isn't it?

5. There are many rivers and lakes in this country.

6. This country climate is rather different.

7. The USA is one of the most backward countries on the Globe.

8. The country population mainly consists of the Americans and African Americans.

9. There are two official languages in the USA – English and French.

10. The national symbol of this country is the Union Jack.

11. New York is the capital of the United States and its largest city.

12. The official head of the state is the British Queen.

13. The legislative power belongs to the Congress.

14. The US Congress has only one chamber – the Senate.

15. The executive power belongs to the President and his Administration.

16. There are some political parties in the country.

17. The Republican and the Democratic Parties are the largest ones.

**RUSSIA**

**1. Прочитайте и переведите текст.**

The word “Motherland” comes from two words – “mother” and “land”.   
It is the dearest place to all of us, the place where we were born and live.

The official name of our Motherland is the Russian Federation. It is the largest country in the world. No other country equals it in size. Our country is situated both in Europe and Asia. It occupies the eastern part of Europe, the northern and central parts of Asia. Its total area is over 17 million square kilometers.

Our land is washed by 12 seas, most of which are the seas of the Arctic,   
the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans. In the south and in the west our country borders on 14 states. It also has sea borders with the USA and Japan.

The country has a great variety of flora and fauna. There are numerous forests, endless plains and steppes, taiga and tundra, highlands and deserts on the Russian territory. The country's highest mountains are the Caucasus, the Altai   
and the Urals.

In the Russian Federation there are over 2 million rivers. The longest   
of them are the Volga, the Lena, the Yenisei, the Ob, the Amur and some others. Our land is also rich in lakes (over 200 000 lakes), with the deepest, oldest   
and unique lake of sweet (fresh) water in the world, the Baikal, included.

On the Russian territory there are 11 time zones. Due to the vast territory, the climate conditions are rather different: from arctic and mild to continental   
and subtropical.

Russia is one of the richest in the natural resources countries in the world: oil, gas, coal, different ores, ferrous and non-ferrous metals and other minerals.   
It is also one of the highly developed agro-industrial powers in the world.   
The main industrial branches comprise aerospace, aircraft, atomic, machine building, ship building, automobile, chemical, coal-mining, metallurgical, electrical-engineering, textile, food and some others.

The Russian Federation is a constitutional state headed by the President.   
It comprises over 80 subjects: three cities of the federal status (Moscow,   
St. Petersburg and Sevastopol), several autonomous republics, provinces (krais), regions (oblasts) and some autonomous districts (okrugs), each having equal rights.

The state powers are divided among the legislative, executive and judicial branches which are independent of one another.

The legislative power belongs to the Russian Parliament, called the Federal Assembly, consisting of two Chambers: the Council of the Federation (the Upper Chamber) and the State Duma (the Lower Chamber). Each Chamber is headed   
by the Speaker.

The executive power belongs to the President and our country’s Government (the Cabinet of Ministers) headed by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister   
is appointed by the President and approved by the State Duma.

The judicial power belongs to the system of courts: the Supreme Court,   
the Constitutional Court, as well as federal and regional courts.

The state language of the Russian Federation is Russian. The national symbols of our country are the white-blue-red Flag (Tricolour) and the Golden Two-Headed (or Bicephalous) Eagle.

Russia is a multinational state. It is a unique country hosting a great variety (over 150) of nationalities, nations, ethnic groups, cultures and epochs. It ranks sixth in the world in population after China, India, the USA, Indonesia and Brazil. According to the last census, our country population is about 150 million. There are also more than 10–15 million immigrants in our country.

Moscow is the capital of our Motherland. It is our country’s largest political, cultural, scientific and industrial center and one of the most beautiful cities   
on the Globe.

Our country has a multiparty system. The most influential and largest political parties are the United Russia, the Liberal Democratic, the Communist   
and some others.

The foreign policy of the Russian Federation is that of international cooperation, peace and friendship with all the nations of the Globe, irrespective   
of their political and social systems.

The role of the Russian Federation in today's world is extremely significant. Being the major source of raw materials for many countries of the Globe, Russia   
is also an important mechanism of developing these countries' economies.

In addition, due to its immense territory, our unique country is a bridge connecting Europe and Asia. It is able to provide more than 7 % of the world’s transport corridor to transit various cargoes from Europe to Asia and backwards.

**2. Прокомментируйте следующие утверждения.**

1. The Russian Federation is one of the largest countries in the world.

2. It occupies the whole continent of Euro-Asia.

3. Our land is washed by the seas of three oceans.

4. The country's flora and fauna are rather poor.

5. There are many rivers and lakes in Russia.

6. Russia is one of the most densely populated countries on the Globe.

7. St. Petersburg is the capital of our Fatherland.

8. Our country possesses rich mineral resources.

9. The Russian Federation is one of the world's highly developed powers.

10. It is a constitutional state headed by the Prime Minister.

11. The country President controls all branches of the government.

12. The Russian Parliament is called the Federal Assembly.

13. There are many political parties in Russia and almost all of them   
are represented in the State Duma.

14. Our state carries on the constructive foreign policy aimed at establishing friendly relations with various nations and international cooperation.

15. The role of our unique country in today's world is extremely significant.

**3. Переведите вопросы.**

1. Как называется наша страна официально?

2. Где она расположена?

3. Россия – самая большая страна в мире, не так ли?

4. Какова ее территория?

5. С какими государствами она граничит?

6. Какие моря и океаны омывают нашу страну?

7. Знаете ли вы, сколько рек и озер в России?

8. Назовите крупнейшие реки нашей страны.

9. А где находится самое глубокое озеро в мире?

10. Докажите, что территория нашей страны огромна.

11. Какими природными ресурсами богата Россия?

12. Россия – развитая промышленная и аграрная страна, не так ли?

13. Расскажите о составе РФ.

14. Кто является главой государства?

15. Сколько ветвей в Правительстве РФ?

16. Кому принадлежит законодательная, исполнительная и судебная власть?

17. Сколько палат имеет российский парламент?

18. Что вы знаете о партийной системе в нашей стране?

19. Назовите крупнейшие политические партии.

20. Расскажите о внешней политике нашего государства.

21. Какова роль России в мире сегодня?

**ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS**

**1. Прочитайте и переведите текст.**

Nowadays great attention is paid to the problems of preserving, protecting and improving the environment. They are the most important issues of our civili-zation because nature is the major factor of our life.

Since ancient times nature has served people and they lived in harmony   
with it. Today the situation has greatly changed. Scientific and technological progress caused serious environmental problems.

The contradictions between people and nature are now dramatic. Forests   
are cut down, birds and animals are killed, some species of plants disappear, rivers and lakes dry up, mineral resources are being exhausted.

Industrial enterprises and transport daily emit into the atmosphere billions   
of tons of toxic gases and harmful substances which cause acid rains, green-house effect and ozone depletion.

Polluted air is a community problem. Air becomes polluted in many ways. Cars, trucks, buses and air-planes are among the worst polluters. They send partly burned gases into the air. Air can be also polluted by smoke and gases from factories; some of harmful gases that pour into the air are in­visible. Dirt, smoke, and gases in the air may be carried away by wind and by air currents, or settle over as a blanket of smog.

Air pollution can cause, or make worse diseases. They usually affect older people. But everyone may feel uncomfortable and lack energy when air isn't clean. Advanced technologies used by people produce great deal of chemical and radioactive waste. They pollute the air we breath, the water we drink, and the land we live on.

What do people do to cut down on air pollution?

Today, many factories use devices to reduce the smoke, dust, or harmful gases.

Special kind of gasoline for cars can help reduce air pollution. More efficient engines can help too.

Water pollution is caused by dumping wastes into lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water. Harmful wastes may also get into the soil or drain off fields that have been sprayed with pesticides. Pesticides are often used to kill insects and weeds in cities or on farms. Polluted water can spread many diseases.

Every day people throw away amazing amounts of garbage and trash. What happens to these wastes after they are picked up by garbage trucks? Trucks take the garbage to the out-of-the way places. Sometimes the trash is burned, causing air pollution. But a more healthy way to get rid of solid wastes is to spread them over the land and pack them down. After that a thick layer of earth can be put down over the garbage and trees and grass can be planted.

Chernobyl proved that nuclear power, though being cheap, is very dangerous to people. Nuclear tests and weapons can destroy our planet.

Intensive development of the world economics, its globalization put the problems of the environment protection beyond the limits of separate countries. Only joint efforts of the globe nations can improve the situation. Mankind should realize how serious the environmental problems are and stop polluting our planet before it is too late.

It is very important to remember that the Earth is our common and only home in the Universe, and it is very fragile. That's why we must take care of it. Otherwise, nobody will survive.

Numerous progressive organizations, such as: the Greens, the Living Planet, the Kedr (Cedar), the Friends of Nature, Greenpeace, the Rainbow Keepers and others work hard to improve the environment. They hold different conferences and rallies, organize public discussions, peace demonstrations and strikes. They speak much about ecological problems on TV, over the radio and in press. They call the governments of various countries, ecologists, experts and all volunteers for more active measures to protect the environment.

We, people of the Earth, are to support them. We should do our best to keep our land, water and air clean, we should protect the wildlife and flora. We should grow a lot of plants, flowers and trees, purify toxic wastes, organize numerous campaigns to clean up our surroundings and take other actions within   
the ecological program of the UN.

And, of course, we should always bear in mind that our main mission on the Earth is to save our planet both for ourselves and for the generations to come.   
“If we don’t think about our future, we’ll not have it.” – wrote John Galsworthy.

**Vocabulary**

**pollution**– загрязнение

**certain**– определенный

**to breathe** – дышать

**pure water** – чистаявода

**Housing** – жилье

**to shelter** – датьприют, укрытие

**community**– общество

**burnedgas**– отработанный газ, выхлопной газ

**harmful**– вредный

**invisible**– невидимый

**tocarryaway**– относить в сторону

**current**– поток,течение

**to settle over** – накрывать

**disease**– болезнь

**toaffect**– влиять, воздействовать

**lack**– недостаток

**to cut down** – сокращать

**to reduce** – уменьшать

**efficient**– рациональный, эффективный

**todump**– сбрасывать, сваливать

**waste**– отходы

**soil**– почва

**todrain**– стекать

**to spray** – распылять

**weeds**– сорняки

**garbage and trash** – мусор и хлам

**to pick up** – подбирать

**to get rid of** – освободиться

**to spread over** – распределить слоем

**to pack down** – утрамбовать

**a thick layer**– толстый слой

**2. Ответьте на вопросы.**

1. What pollutes the air we breathe?

2. How can air pollution affect our health?

3. What can be done to help cut down on air pollution?

4. How does water get polluted?

5. What is wrong with dumping garbage in open dumps?

6. What are some healthy ways to get rid of solid wastes?

7. What can you say about environment problems in our country?

8. What do you do to solve environment problems?