

# Teacher's Guide for FACES

January 2014: SIBERIA

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All codes listed in parentheses refer to Common Core Standards.

## Getting Started

Show a world map. Ask volunteers to locate Siberia. Estimate the size of Siberia. How does it compare to America?

## High Five

(RL7) Look at the illustration of the bridge on pages 2&3. What does the bridge symbolize? How does the idea of a bridge help us make connections between a place like Siberia and where we live?

## At a Glance

(RI1) What do you notice about the location of Siberia's major cities?

(RL1) Locate the three major geographic regions.

(RL9) Choose 2 aspects listed on page 4. Compare/contrast these to where you live.

## Siberian Tigers: The World's Largest and Strongest Cats

(RL1)

- Use a world map or the map on pages 4&5 to locate the habitat of the Siberian tiger.
- What is the purpose of the tiger's stripes?
- Find 4 reasons these tigers are endangered.
- What steps are being taken to protect them?

(RI1) Why do Siberian tigers have such a different life span when in captivity?

(W1) Point of View exercise: Assume you are a hunter living in Siberia. Write a paragraph supporting the right to hunt tigers. OR Assume you are a conservationist. Write a paragraph supporting the ban on hunting Siberian tigers.

Use facts mentioned in the article to support your position.

## Siberia: Vast and Spectacular

(RL4) Define: tundra, permafrost, biome, taiga, steppes, chernozem, highlands

(RL7) Look at each photo illustration accompanying this article. Which ones represent the *people* of Siberia? Which ones represent the *places* in Siberia? Which ones represent the *culture* of Siberia?

(RL1) Each geographic region of Siberia is distinct. How do people make a living in each region?

## Following the Reindeer: The Lives of Siberia's Eveny People

(SL2) Listen to an interview of *Life Among 'The Reindeer People'* author Piers Vitebsky at:

[www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5199713](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5199713)

Evaluate the author's knowledge of his book's subject.

(RL9) What group of Native Americans depended on one animal? (Plains-buffalo) Compare and contrast the Native Americans and the Eveny throughout the article.

(SL1) The Eveny people are very resourceful. Do you feel Americans are resourceful? Why/why not? Provide examples. What can we learn from the Eveny people?

(RL8) Find evidence that life for Eveny children is quite different than life for the average American child.

(SL5) Illustrate the "Meeting of the Sun" festival based on details in the article. Present your illustration to the class.

### **Siberia, Land of Wilderness**

(RL7) How do the photos help you understand and remember the important aspects of Siberian cuisine?

(L5) There is an expression: "Variety is the spice of life." What does it mean? Apply this meaning to Siberian cuisine.

What is the meaning of the closing sentence?

(RL1)

- Why is arctic cooking such a mixture of different foods and flavors?
- How did the Tran-Siberian Railroad change life for Siberians?

(W7) Conduct short research on one of the following: Ivan the Terrible, Tran-Siberian Railroad.

### **Time to Party and You're Invited!**

Watch footage from New Year's Eve 2013 at

[www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/9772591/New-Years-Eve-celebrations-around-the-world-as-it-happened.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/9772591/New-Years-Eve-celebrations-around-the-world-as-it-happened.html)

(RI1) What is the importance of a worldwide New Year's celebration? What does a New Year represent?

(RL3) Compare and contrast the Siberian celebration with your own.

### **The Pearl of Siberia: Lake Baikal**

(RL4) Define: closed ecosystem, microclimate, endemic

Watch a video about Lake Baikal at:

[www.whc.unesco.org/en/list/754/video](http://www.whc.unesco.org/en/list/754/video)

(W7) Conduct short research on the animals of Lake Baikal:  
Baikal seal, sculpins, golomyanka

(W3) Pretend you are fishing on Lake Baikal and you see something dark and mysterious. Write about your experience with the lake monster of Lake Baikal.

### **Riding the Tran-Siberian Railway**

Watch a video taken by a tourist on board the Tran-Siberian Railway at:

[vimeo.com/47351117](http://vimeo.com/47351117)

(W7) Research: What is a Tsar? What happened to that system of government?  
Research: What contributions has the Trans-Siberian Railway made to history?

(W1) Where have you traveled? Have you met any interesting people? Write an opinion piece stating why all children should be given equal opportunity to travel and/or study abroad. Support your opinion with details and examples.

### **Running Hot and Cold in Yakutsk**

(RL/RI1)

- What distinction does Yakutsk hold? How does this connect to the title of the article?
- Why do they have special building codes?
- What might happen if they do not abide by the building codes?
- Why was the Permafrost Research Institute established?
- What is the importance of the Sakha Republic?
- Make a prediction about the future of Yakutsk.

(RL9) Compare and contrast Yakutsk and the Sakha Republic with Alaska.

### **Prehistoric Popsicle: The Cold Case of the Woolly Mammoth**

(RL7) How does the illustration on pages 34 & 35 represent size?

(RL8) Evaluate the evidence chart on the bottom of page 36. By looking at the evidence and conclusions listed, what can you say about Dr. Fisher's findings?

(SL1) Discussion/Debate: Is it a good idea to try to bring back the woolly mammoth? (This may be familiar to children if they have heard of or seen the movie: Jurassic Park.) Discuss both sides of this issue. What implications are there?

For more on this issue see: [www.theguardian.com/science/2013/jul/31/woolly-mammoth-dna-cloning](http://www.theguardian.com/science/2013/jul/31/woolly-mammoth-dna-cloning)

### **How the Sun was Rescued**

(RL3) Describe the characteristics of each animal. What characteristics do the animals point out about each other?

(RL5) Describe and/or illustrate the two different scenes. Who are the main characters in each scene?

(SL1) Do you see any symbolism in the Owl? Is she the leader? Or is Raven the leader? Support your position with examples from the folktale.

### **Wrap Up**

Make a list of Siberia's intriguing aspects. How many key terms/topics are on your list?

(W2) Use the list to write a paragraph summarizing what you learned about Siberia.