SECTION 5

Set a Purpose
- Explain how Peter the Great tried to make Russia into a modern state.
- Identify the steps Peter took to expand Russia’s borders.
- Describe how Catherine the Great strengthened Russia.

Prepare to Read

Build Background Knowledge
- Ask students to recall what they know about the tsars, boyars, and serfs of Russia. Ask them to predict whether Russia’s rulers during this time would act similarly to or differently from absolute monarchs elsewhere in Europe.

Set a Purpose
- **WITNESS HISTORY** Read the selection aloud or play the audio.
- Ask students to think about what they learned about the Tsars, boyars, and serfs of Russia.

Preview
- **WITNESS HISTORY** Ask students to predict whether Russia’s rulers during this time would act similarly to or differently from absolute monarchs elsewhere in Europe.

Note Taking
- Have students read the section using the Guided Questioning strategy (TE, p. 720). As they read, have students fill in the Venn diagram with details about the reigns of Peter the Great and Catherine the Great.

Objectives
- Explain how Peter the Great tried to make Russia into a modern state.
- Identify the steps Peter took to expand Russia’s borders.
- Describe how Catherine the Great strengthened Russia.

Terms, People, and Places
- Peter the Great
- westernization
- autocratic
- Catherine the Great
- boyar
- partition
- St. Petersburg
- warm-water port
- Western ideas
- Russian traditions
- Enlightenment

Focus Point Out the Section Focus Question and write it on the board. Tell students to refer to this question as they read. (Answer appears with Section 5 Assessment answers.)

Reading and Note Taking
- **Vocabulary Builder** Use the information below and the following resources to teach the high-use word from this section.

High-Use Word
- **stipulated** (stip-uh-lish-uhd) v. to make a specific demand

Definition and Sample Sentence
- The contract stipulated that the buyer had to pay in cash.

Witness History Audio CD
- A Foreign Princess Takes the Throne
- The Age of Absolutism

Witness History
- **Absolve Monarchy in Russia**

Peter the Great Modernizes Russia
- Peter, just 10 years old when he took the throne in 1682, did not take control of the government until 1689. Although he was not well educated, the young tsar was immensely curious. He spent hours walking the streets of European cities, noting the manners and homes of the people. He visited factories and art galleries, learned anatomy from a doctor, and even had a dentist teach him how to pull teeth. In England, Peter was impressed by Parliament. "It is good," he said, "to hear subjects speaking truthfully and openly to their king."

Peter the Great
- modernizes Russia
- introduces Western ideas
- marine academy
- St. Petersburg

Catherine the Great
- Russian traditions
- enlightened
- strengthening Russia
- expanding borders
- enlightened
- foreign policy

The Age of Absolutism
- In the early 1600s, Russia was still a medieval state, untouched by the Renaissance or Reformation and largely isolated from Western Europe. As you have read, the “Time of Troubles” had plunged the country into a period of disorder and foreign invasions. The reign of the first Romanov tsar in 1613 restored a measure of order. Not until the end of the century, however, did a tsar emerge who was strong enough to regain the absolute power of earlier tsars. Peter the Great, as he came to be called, used his power to put Russia on the road to becoming a great modern power.

Peter, 10 years old when he took the throne in 1682, did not take control of the government until 1689. Although he was not well educated, the young tsar was immensely curious. He spent hours walking the streets of European cities, noting the manners and homes of the people. He visited factories and art galleries, learned anatomy from a doctor, and even had a dentist teach him how to pull teeth. In England, Peter was impressed by Parliament. “It is good,” he said, “to hear subjects speaking truthfully and openly to their king.”
Peter brought to Russia a group of technical experts, teachers, and soldiers he had recruited in Europe. He then embarked on a policy of westernization, that is, the adoption of Western ideas, technology, and culture. But persuading fellow Russians to change their way of life proved difficult. To impose his will, Peter became the most autocratic of Europe's absolute monarchs, meaning that he ruled with unlimited authority.

Controlling the Church and the Nobles Peter pursued several related goals. He wanted to strengthen the military, expand Russian borders, and centralize royal power. To achieve his ends, he brought all Russian institutions under his control, including the Russian Orthodox Church. He also forced the grand boyars, or landowning nobles, to serve the state in civilian or military positions.

Some change had a symbolic meaning. For example, after returning from the West, Peter stipulated that boyars should shave their beards. He also forced them to replace their old-fashioned robes with Western-style clothes. To end the practice of isolating upper-class women in separate quarters, he held grand parties at which women and men were expected to dance together. Russian nobles opposed this radical mixing of the sexes in public, but they had to comply.

Peter knew that nobles would serve the state only if their own interests were protected. Therefore, he passed laws ensuring that nobles retained control over their lands, including the serfs on those lands. In doing so, Peter strengthened serfdom. Under his rule serfdom spread in Russia, long after it had died out in Western Europe. Further, he forced some serfs to become soldiers or to work as laborers on roads, canals, and other government projects.

Modernizing With Force Using autocratic methods, Peter pushed through social and economic reforms. He imported Western technology, improved education, simplified the Russian alphabet, and set up academies for the study of mathematics, science, and engineering. To pay for his sweeping reforms, Peter adopted mercantilist policies, such as encouraging exports. He improved waterways and canals, developed mining and textile manufacturing, and backed new trading companies.

Peter had no mercy for any who resisted the new order. When elite palace guards revolted, he had over 1,000 of the rebels tortured and executed. Then, as an example of his power, he left their rotting corpses outside the palace walls for months.

Peter had no mercy for any who resisted the new order. When elite palace guards revolted, he had over 1,000 of the rebels tortured and executed. Then, as an example of his power, he left their rotting corpses outside the palace walls for months.

Checkpoint: What rewards and punishments did Peter use to solidify his control over the nobles?

Peter Expands Russia's Borders

From his earliest days as tsar, Peter worked to build Russia's military power. He created the largest standing army in Europe, built a world-class navy from scratch, and set out to extend Russian borders to the west and south.

Seeking a Warm-Water Port Russian seaports, located along the Arctic Ocean, were frozen over during the winter. To increase Russia's ability to trade with the West, Peter desperately wanted a warm-water port—one that would be free of ice all year round.
Instruct

- Introduce: Key Terms Ask students to find the key term *warm-water port* (in blue) in the text and define it. Then display Color Transparency 99: Russia Needs a Warm-Water Port. Ask students to explain why ports are important to a nation, particularly to one of Russia’s size. (for trade)
- Teach: As you describe Russia’s expansion, refer to the map on this page. Ask: What happened in Peter’s war with Sweden? (At first he was defeated, but after rebuilding the army he won land along the Baltic.) How was St. Petersburg different from Moscow? (It was a port, closer to Europe, European in design, with magnificent palaces.) Then refer students to the Infographic on page 543. Discuss how the navy helped turn Russia into a world power.
- Quick Activity: Show students Peter the Great from the Witness History Discovery School* video program. Then have students discuss whether they think Peter was a great monarch or a monstrous tyrant. As they name achievements and misdeeds, list them in two columns on the board. Ask students to weigh the evidence on the board. Then take a class vote on the matter.

Independent Practice

Web Code nap-1651 will take students to an interactive map. Have students complete the interactivity and then answer the map skills questions in the text.

Monitor Progress

Read aloud the Primary Source selection on the next page or play the accompanying audio. Then ask students to explain what Pushkin is referring to.

Answers

Map Skills

1. Review locations with students. Then ask students to explain what Pushkin is referring to.
2. Have students explain why ports are important to a nation, particularly to one of Russia’s size. (for trade)
3. Russia’s territory would be smaller, and it would not have expanded as much in coastal areas.

Link to Geography

Siberia Russia’s absolute monarchs needed a place to exile both criminals and political opponents for long periods of time. What place was better than the Arctic region of Siberia? Siberia was far away from the warm-water coast. Temperatures could average −59°F (−51°C) in winter. There was little chance of escape, as it was almost impossible to survive alone in the vast, frozen, sparsely populated region. In fact, 10 to 15 percent of the exiles never made it to Siberia; they died along the way. The number of exiles grew from a trickle in the early 1600s to 2,000 a year by the early 1800s. After a revolt in 1825, the tsar sent 150,000 people off to this remote region. Many thousands died, but Peter’s plan for the city succeeded.
Catherine the Great Follows Peter's Lead

Peter died without an heir and without naming a successor. This set off a power struggle within the Romanov family, from which all the tsars had come since the early 1600s. Under a series of ineffective rulers, Russian sovereignty had been challenged both within and without Russia, and a successor had to be found. This set off a power struggle that would end with the assassination of Tsar Peter II in 1730. The next tsar to rise to power was Peter's only surviving child, but he was only five years old when he died in the typhus epidemic of 1730. His cousin, however, was not content to sit on the throne of Russia as a mere child. As Catherine, she would go on to rule as the Empress of Russia for 34 years. Catherine was a woman of great ambition and determination, and she would use her position to further the ambitions of Russia in the region.

History Background

Bering's Explorations

Young Vitus Bering, a Danish navigator, joined the newly created Russian navy in 1703. In 1725 he was sent by Peter the Great to explore Asia's northeast coast. It took two years to move men and supplies across Siberia. Finally, he sailed through what is now the Bering Strait, proving that Russia was not connected to North America. On his return across Siberia, he became ill, and five of his children died. In 1741 he set off again, this time to explore the Northwest Coast of North America. He discovered the Alaskan Islands, but fell ill. Bering and 28 of his men died there on a barren island. Following his expedition, Spain rushed to establish settlements on North America's west coast. Russia, however, was more interested in the fur trade than in expanding onto a third continent.

Catherine the Great

When Peter died in 1725, he left a mixed legacy. He had expanded Russian territory gained ports on the Baltic Sea, and created a mighty army. He had also ended Russia's long period of isolation. From the 1700s on, Russia would be increasingly involved in the affairs of Western Europe. Yet many of Peter's ambitious reforms died with him. Nobles, for example, soon ignored his policy of service to the state. Like earlier tsars, Peter the Great had used terror to enforce his absolute power. His policies contributed to the growth of serfdom, which served only to widen the gap between Russia and the West that Peter had sought to narrow.

Rise to Power

A German princess by birth, Catherine came to Russia at the age of 15 to wed the heir to the Russian throne. She learned Russian, embraced the Russian Orthodox faith, and won the loyalty of the people. In 1742, a group of Russian army officers loyal to her deposed and murdered her mentally unstable husband, Peter III. Whether or not Catherine was involved in the assassination is uncertain. In any case, with the support of the military, she succeeded the Russian throne.

Answers

He then invited Italian architects and artisans to design great palaces in Western style. Peter even planned the city of St. Petersburg to be a monument to French absolutism, St. Petersburg became a great symbol of Peter's effort to forge a modern Russia.

Blazing Trails to the Pacific

Russian traders and explorers also crossed the plains and rivers of Siberia, blazing trade to the Pacific. Under Peter, Russia signed a treaty with Qing China that defined their common border in the east. The treaty recognized Russia's right to lands north of Manchuria. Russia signed a treaty with Qing China that defined their common border in the east. The treaty recognized Russia's right to lands north of Manchuria. Russia signed a treaty with Qing China that defined their common border in the east. The treaty recognized Russia's right to lands north of Manchuria.

Mountains at this time, but the expansion made Russia the largest coun-

try. From the 1700s on, Russia would be increasingly involved in the affairs of Western Europe. Yet many of Peter's ambitious reforms died with him. Nobles, for example, soon ignored his policy of service to the state. Like earlier tsars, Peter the Great had used terror to enforce his absolute power. His policies contributed to the growth of serfdom, which served only to widen the gap between Russia and the West that Peter had sought to narrow.

Checkpoint

What impact did Peter's defeat of Sweden have on Russia's expansion?

He had expanded Russian territory, gained ports on the Baltic Sea, and created a mighty army. He had also ended Russia's long period of isolation. From the 1700s on, Russia would be increasingly involved in the affairs of Western Europe. Yet many of Peter's ambitious reforms died with him. Nobles, for example, soon ignored his policy of service to the state. Like earlier tsars, Peter the Great had used terror to enforce his absolute power. His policies contributed to the growth of serfdom, which served only to widen the gap between Russia and the West that Peter had sought to narrow.

Catherine the Great Follows Peter's Lead

Peter died without an heir and without naming a successor. This set off a power struggle within the Romanov family, from which all the tsars had come since the early 1600s. Under a series of ineffective rulers, Russian sovereignty had been challenged both within and without Russia, and a successor had to be found. This set off a power struggle that would end with the assassination of Tsar Peter II in 1730. The next tsar to rise to power was Peter's only surviving child, but he was only five years old when he died in the typhus epidemic of 1730. His cousin, however, was not content to sit on the throne of Russia as a mere child. As Catherine, she would go on to rule as the Empress of Russia for 34 years. Catherine was a woman of great ambition and determination, and she would use her position to further the ambitions of Russia in the region.

History Background

Bering's Explorations

Young Vitus Bering, a Danish navigator, joined the newly created Russian navy in 1703. In 1725 he was sent by Peter the Great to explore Asia's northeast coast. It took two years to move men and supplies across Siberia. Finally, he sailed through what is now the Bering Strait, proving that Russia was not connected to North America. On his return across Siberia, he became ill, and five of his children died. In 1741 he set off again, this time to explore the Northwest Coast of North America. He discovered the Alaskan Islands, but fell ill. Bering and 28 of his men died there on a barren island. Following his expedition, Spain rushed to establish settlements on North America's west coast. Russia, however, was more interested in the fur trade than in expanding onto a third continent.

He then invited Italian architects and artisans to design great palaces in Western style. Peter even planned the city of St. Petersburg to be a monument to French absolutism, St. Petersburg became a great symbol of Peter's effort to forge a modern Russia.

Blazing Trails to the Pacific

Russian traders and explorers also crossed the plains and rivers of Siberia, blazing trade to the Pacific. Under Peter, Russia signed a treaty with Qing China that defined their common border in the east. The treaty recognized Russia's right to lands north of Manchuria. Russia signed a treaty with Qing China that defined their common border in the east. The treaty recognized Russia's right to lands north of Manchuria. Russia signed a treaty with Qing China that defined their common border in the east. The treaty recognized Russia's right to lands north of Manchuria.

Mountains at this time, but the expansion made Russia the largest coun-

try. From the 1700s on, Russia would be increasingly involved in the affairs of Western Europe. Yet many of Peter's ambitious reforms died with him. Nobles, for example, soon ignored his policy of service to the state. Like earlier tsars, Peter the Great had used terror to enforce his absolute power. His policies contributed to the growth of serfdom, which served only to widen the gap between Russia and the West that Peter had sought to narrow.

Checkpoint

What impact did Peter's defeat of Sweden have on Russia's expansion?

He had expanded Russian territory, gained ports on the Baltic Sea, and created a mighty army. He had also ended Russia's long period of isolation. From the 1700s on, Russia would be increasingly involved in the affairs of Western Europe. Yet many of Peter's ambitious reforms died with him. Nobles, for example, soon ignored his policy of service to the state. Like earlier tsars, Peter the Great had used terror to enforce his absolute power. His policies contributed to the growth of serfdom, which served only to widen the gap between Russia and the West that Peter had sought to narrow.

Catherine the Great Follows Peter's Lead

Peter died without an heir and without naming a successor. This set off a power struggle within the Romanov family, from which all the tsars had come since the early 1600s. Under a series of ineffective rulers, Russian sovereignty had been challenged both within and without Russia, and a successor had to be found. This set off a power struggle that would end with the assassination of Tsar Peter II in 1730. The next tsar to rise to power was Peter's only surviving child, but he was only five years old when he died in the typhus epidemic of 1730. His cousin, however, was not content to sit on the throne of Russia as a mere child. As Catherine, she would go on to rule as the Empress of Russia for 34 years. Catherine was a woman of great ambition and determination, and she would use her position to further the ambitions of Russia in the region.

History Background

Bering's Explorations

Young Vitus Bering, a Danish navigator, joined the newly created Russian navy in 1703. In 1725 he was sent by Peter the Great to explore Asia's northeast coast. It took two years to move men and supplies across Siberia. Finally, he sailed through what is now the Bering Strait, proving that Russia was not connected to North America. On his return across Siberia, he became ill, and five of his children died. In 1741 he set off again, this time to explore the Northwest Coast of North America. He discovered the Alaskan Islands, but fell ill. Bering and 28 of his men died there on a barren island. Following his expedition, Spain rushed to establish settlements on North America's west coast. Russia, however, was more interested in the fur trade than in expanding onto a third continent.

Answers

He then invited Italian architects and artisans to design great palaces in Western style. Peter even planned the city of St. Petersburg to be a monument to French absolutism, St. Petersburg became a great symbol of Peter's effort to forge a modern Russia.

Blazing Trails to the Pacific

Russian traders and explorers also crossed the plains and rivers of Siberia, blazing trade to the Pacific. Under Peter, Russia signed a treaty with Qing China that defined their common border in the east. The treaty recognized Russia's right to lands north of Manchuria. Russia signed a treaty with Qing China that defined their common border in the east. The treaty recognized Russia's right to lands north of Manchuria. Russia signed a treaty with Qing China that defined their common border in the east. The treaty recognized Russia's right to lands north of Manchuria.

Mountains at this time, but the expansion made Russia the largest coun-

try. From the 1700s on, Russia would be increasingly involved in the affairs of Western Europe. Yet many of Peter's ambitious reforms died with him. Nobles, for example, soon ignored his policy of service to the state. Like earlier tsars, Peter the Great had used terror to enforce his absolute power. His policies contributed to the growth of serfdom, which served only to widen the gap between Russia and the West that Peter had sought to narrow.

Checkpoint

What impact did Peter's defeat of Sweden have on Russia's expansion?
Independent Practice
Have students fill in the Outline Map Eastern Europe in 1796.

Monitor Progress
Check Reading and Note-Taking Study Guide entries for student understanding. Circulate to make sure students are filling in their Outline Maps accurately. Administer the Geography Quiz.

Answers

Thinking Critically
1. He knew he would learn more if people thought he was a commoner, not a ruler.
2. Peter, driven by curiosity, had more dealings with common people than did Louis, who surrounded himself by nobles in Versailles. However, Peter treated some common people—serfs—more harshly than other European rulers.

An Enlightened Ruler
Catherine proved to be an efficient, energetic empress. She reorganized the provincial government, codified laws, and began state-sponsored education for both boys and girls.

Like Peter the Great, Catherine embraced Western ideas and worked to bring Russia fully into European cultural and political life. At court, she encouraged French language and customs, wrote histories and plays, and organized performances. As you will read in the next chapter, she was also a serious student of the French thinkers who led the intellectual movement known as the Enlightenment.

Peter the Great and His Navy

As a sixteen-year-old boy, Peter found the hull of an old European sailing vessel in a storehouse. He restored the boat and taught himself to sail it on the lakes and rivers near Moscow. The first spark of a lifelong love for all things having to do with sailing. As Tsar, Peter traveled to Europe to learn everything he could about shipbuilding. Armed with this knowledge, he created a European-style navy, thus turning Russia into a leading world power. In later years, Peter named the boat he had restored "the grandfather of the Russian navy." On his fifty-first birthday he sailed it into St. Petersburg harbor to meet his "grandchildren," Peter’s navy.

Thinking Critically
1. Draw Inferences
   - Peter’s motto was “I am a student and I seek teachers.” How do you think this motto relates to his practice of passing himself off as a common man while studying in Europe?
2. Make Comparisons
   - How did the absolute monarchies of Peter the Great and Louis XIV differ in terms of each monarch’s dealings with common people?
A Ruthless Absolute Monarch  Catherine was also an absolute monarch, like other European rulers of the time, and often she was among the most ruthless. She granted a charter to the boyars outlining important rights, such as exemption from taxes. She also allowed them to increase their stranglehold on the peasants. When peasants rebelled against the harsh burdens of serfdom, Catherine took firm action to repress them. As a result, conditions grew worse for Russian peasants. Under Catherine, even more peasants were forced into serfdom.

Like Peter the Great, Catherine was determined to expand Russia’s borders. Waging the Russo-Turkish war against the Ottoman Empire gained her a warm-water port on the Black Sea in 1774. She also took control of Polish territory in the west. Poland was further partitioned in 1793. Then in 1795, Austria, Prussia, and Russia each took their final slices and the independent country of Poland vanished from the map. Not until 1919 would a free Polish state reappear.

The Partitions of Poland  In the 1770s, Catherine, King Frederick II of Prussia, and Emperor Joseph II of Austria hungrily eyed Poland. As you have read, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth had once been a great European power. However, its rulers were unable to control their power or diminish the influence of the Polish nobility. The divided Polish government was ill-prepared to stand up to the increasing might of its neighbors, Russia, Prussia, and Austria.

To avoid fighting one another, the three monarchs agreed in 1772 to partition, or divide up, Poland. Catherine took port of eastern Poland, where many Russians and Ukrainians lived. Frederick and Joseph took control of Polish territory in the west. Poland was further partitioned in 1793. Then in 1795, Austria, Prussia, and Russia each took their final slices and the independent country of Poland vanished from the map. Not until 1919 would a free Polish state reappear.

A warm-water port would allow Russia to import technology, improve education, social customs, strengthen serfdom, increase trade and become a major power. Catherine was one step that he undertook to modernize and a great European power. However, its rulers were unable to control their power or diminish the influence of the Polish nobility. The divided Polish government was ill-prepared to stand up to the increasing might of its neighbors, Russia, Prussia, and Austria.

To avoid fighting one another, the three monarchs agreed in 1772 to partition, or divide up, Poland. Catherine took part of eastern Poland, where many Russians and Ukrainians lived. Frederick and Joseph took control of Polish territory in the west. Poland was further partitioned in 1793. Then in 1795, Austria, Prussia, and Russia each took their final slices and the independent country of Poland vanished from the map. Not until 1919 would a free Polish state reappear.