

The Woman Who Brought Europe to Russia Name: _____ Prd: ___ Score: _____ /20

Directions: Highlight the answer in the text on the left before answering the questions on the right.

In 1744, an awkward teenaged girl named Sophia arrived in Moscow after a long, cold journey. She was immediately introduced to Elizabeth, empress of Russia. Elizabeth wanted her nephew, **Peter**, to marry Sophia. Peter was the heir to the title of **czar**. Although nobody could predict it then, Sophia was to become one of Russia's *greatest* rulers. She would bring important changes to Russia.

Sophia Augusta Fredericka was the daughter of the prince of a small, poor German state. Sophia was only 14 when she reached Moscow, but **she was ambitious & mature for her age**. Peter, on the other hand, was an immature, bad-tempered boy of 15. Despite his faults, Sophia agreed to marry him. She knew that the wife of the czar of Russia could have *great* wealth & power.

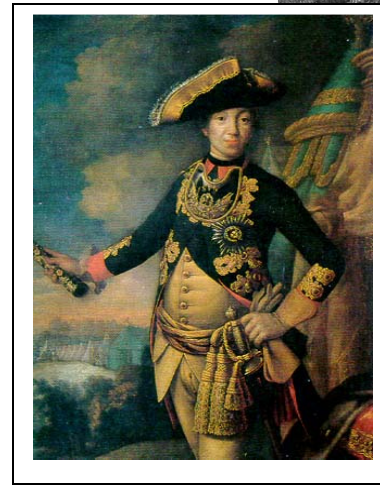
Surprisingly, Sophia & Peter became friends. However, just before their marriage, Peter caught smallpox & though he survived the deadly disease, it left him permanently scarred. Sophia could not hide her disappointment. Still, Empress Elizabeth insisted they get married.

Sophia changed her name to **Catherine**, which was thought to sound more Russian. Then she married Peter. Catherine spent her time studying Russian language & culture. She loved to read & tried to educate herself as much as possible. She admired the philosophers of western Europe, especially Voltaire, Diderot & Montesquieu.

Although Peter was to become czar, he did *not* try to learn Russian. In fact, he hated everything about Russia. He spoke longingly of his home in Germany. He openly admired Frederick II, also called Frederick the Great, who was the king of Prussia. This made Peter look bad because Russia was at war with Prussia. In short, Peter did many things that made Russians dislike him.



Applying current knowledge: **Czar** is Russian for _____.



Drawing conclusions:
What made Catherine a *good* choice for a wife?

Peter was *scarred from* the disease _____.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| a. deadly | c. dismay |
| b. yellow fever | d. smallpox |

Drawing conclusions: *How* did Catherine *endear* herself to the Russian people?

- 1) *changed name to* _____
- 2) *studied* _____
- 3) read & educated herself

In contrast to wife Catherine, how did Peter *offend* his Russian people?

- 1) *failed to* _____
- 2) *longed for* _____
- 3) *admired* _____
while Russia was still at war with Prussia

Catherine did *not* get along with Peter *or* his mother as time went on. Then, when Catherine was 31, Empress Elizabeth died & Peter became Czar Peter III. Unfortunately, he acted as if his new title gave him the right to do as he pleased. He made the Russia army angry by signing a peace treaty with Frederick the Great. He further insulted his soldiers by ordering them to go to war against Austria, their former ally. He also angered the powerful Russian Orthodox Church by threatening to seize its property. Common Russians thought he was crazy.

In the meantime, Catherine won the hearts of the Russian people. She tried to behave like a patriotic Russian. Whenever Peter humiliated her in public, the people took her side.

Six months after Peter became czar, Catherine arranged to have him arrested & then one of her advisers murdered Peter in prison. Shortly afterward, Catherine was crowned empress.

Catherine set out to rule as an all-powerful but thoughtful leader. Although she had absolute power, she hoped to use it to benefit her people. She wanted to govern according to the theories of the Enlightenment philosophers.

Unfortunately, the ideas of the Enlightenment were difficult to apply in Russia. These ideas often seemed reasonable, but failed when put into practice. Catherine once said to Denis Diderot, "You *work only upon paper*, which endures all things...but I, poor empress as I am, *work on the human skin*, which is irritable & ticklish to a different degree."

Catherine had a major problem. Should she change the system of **serfdom** in Russia? Enlightenment philosophers were completely against any kind of forced labor.

Nine out of 10 Russians (90%) were serfs, but they suffered far more than other serfs in western Europe because they could be bought & sold like slaves. They could be forced to work 7 days a week, & if they farmed, they were not allowed to keep their own crops.

Peter continued to upset his people by:

- 1) *signing* _____
with Frederick the Great (of Prussia)
- 2) *ordering* _____ *to go to*
_____ *against* Austria, their *former* _____
- 3) *threatened to seize* _____
of the Russian Orthodox Church

Catherine won over the Russia people by conducting herself like a true _____.

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| a. woman | c. politician |
| b. patriot | d. defector |

How did Catherine *eliminate* Peter as czar?

Applying current terminology: "Absolute power" is another word for _____.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| a. republic | c. totalitarian |
| b. monarchy | d. democracy |



← Romanov dynasty
family crest

To conform to the ideas of the Enlightenment, Catherine *struggled* with whether to *abolish* _____ or not...

Russian serfs *struggled more than other European serfs because they* _____.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| a. suffered more | d. could not keep |
| b. could be bought & sold | their own crops |
| c. could be forced to work | e. all the above |
| 7 days a week | f. b, c & d only |

But not all serfs were farmers & laborers. Some were artists, too. Like serfs who worked the land, they were often abused by members of the upper class. For example, any noble could own a troop of actors, dancers, or musicians ~ & they could beat them merely for a displeasing performance!

Catherine did not care for serfdom, but unlike the philosophers, she believed that serfs were made serfs by nature, not by human law. She also knew that the great landowners would rebel if the serfs were freed. As a result, Catherine did not try to outlaw serfdom.

Catherine explained her decision to maintain serfdom in an essay. She wrote, "To make such a sweeping change as the freeing of the serfs would not be the way to make oneself loved by the landowners." Rather, she tried to improve serfs' lives. She wanted to improve the chances that a baby born to serfs would survive. She wanted to stop the nobles from torturing their serfs. She even hoped to curb the practice of putting people to death as punishment.

Unfortunately, most of Catherine's planned changes never happened, & others made little difference. In fact, Catherine created *more* serfs by enslaving 3 million free Ukrainians & thus the life of *every* serf became worse.

How did this happen? In 1773, a soldier named Emelyan Pugachev led a huge serf uprising. Pugachev posed as Peter III, who ~ *he claimed* ~ had *not* actually died in prison. Pretending to be Peter, he roamed the Russian countryside promising freedom to the serfs & encouraged them to revolt against their masters. Pugachev was eventually caught & executed.

Catherine tallied the deaths & property damage the rebellion caused & did *not* feel sorry for the serfs though she originally set out to help them. Instead, she sympathized with their masters! Then she made punishment for rebellion stiffer. And she gave all nobles absolute power over their serfs. Thus, she actually made life *worse* for most of her struggling people.

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Catherine did ***NOT*** attempt to ***outlaw*** serfdom ***because*** she _____.

- a. was afraid landowners would rebel
- b. believed serfs were serfs by nature of their birth
- c. thought serfdom worked well
- d. all the above
- e. only a & b

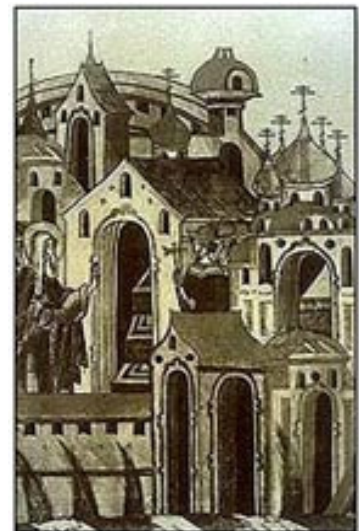
However, Catherine did attempt to improve serfs' lives by:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

T or F: Catherine was eventually able to dramatically improve serfs' lives.

Recalling past knowledge: What Roman slave led a slave uprising from 73-71 BC?

How did Catherine make serfs "pay for" their uprising?



Catherine was more successful at applying new ideas. For instance, she gave more religious freedom to Roman Catholics & Jews. Her greatest achievement was bringing the culture & learning of western Europe to the Russian people.

Fifty years *earlier* Russia had been almost untouched by Western ideas. Then **Czar Peter I**, also called **Peter the Great** →, visited the great capitals of western Europe. He decided to make many changes in Russia based on what he had seen in western Europe. For example, he had Russian men cut off their beards just *because* European men were clean-shaven.

But Peter's reforms went much farther. He increased Russia's **trade** with the West. During his reign, Russia produced new **goods** in new factories. In addition, Peter encouraged the arts & started the 1st Russian newspaper.

Catherine continued along the path of progress begun by Peter the Great. Trade with Europe tripled during her reign. Russian nobles began to wear European clothes & copy European manners. The empress also encouraged the development of writing, art & music. Fifty years after Catherine's death, Russia had some of the finest writers in Europe. Catherine also built free schools where many Russians learned to read. She also built hospitals & the 1st Russian medical school.

Catherine died in 1796, after a reign of 38 years. Was her reign a success? Under her rule, Russian culture reached new heights. Russia became a wealthier nation & it entered the modern age.

Unfortunately, human rights came to mean almost nothing in Catherine's Russia. But things would change...By bringing the ideas of the Enlightenment to Russia, Catherine paved the way for further progress. Russians would begin to see serfdom as unfair & unnecessary. Finally, 65 years after Catherine's death, her great-grandson **Alexander II** would free the serfs.

How did Catherine change Russia for the better?

1) _____

2) _____



"Father of His Country" & "Emperor of All the Russias"

Peter's reforms included *increased*

& _____ as well as "the arts."

How did Russia change under Catherine →?

1) _____

with Europe *tripled*

2) *wore* European

3) *encouraged* _____

4) *built* _____,

_____ &

1st _____ school



T or F: Though she attempted to change Russia, the country did not thrive under Catherine's leadership.



↑ monument to Catherine in St. Petersburg, Russia