



# 7th Grade World History

Lesson # 35, May 8



I can detail some of the achievements of Alexander II of Russia and determine if he should also have been called “the Great.”

# Supplies Needed

Paper  
and  
pencil



Internet  
access



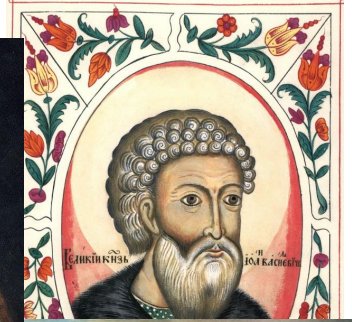
Your  
brain



# Warm Up: Rate the Tsars (GOATs or TOATs)

This week we have studied some of the Tsars of Russia. Some are considered GOATs (Greatest Of All Time). Others would be called TOATs (Terribly Oppressive Autocratic Tsar). But that label depends on your point of view. The truth is, they were each a bit of both.

On your paper, create a T chart. Label one side GOAT and the other side TOAT. Then, for each Tsar we studied this week, list at least two things they did that you think are Great and two things you think are Terrible.



# Warm Up: Rate the Tsars (GOATs or TOATs)

GOAT

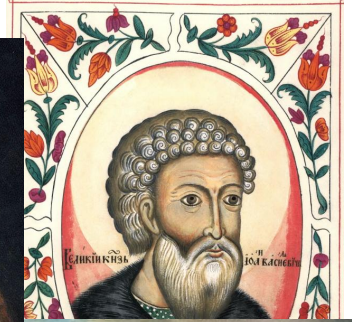
TOAT

Ivan III

Ivan IV

Peter I

Catherine II



# Warm Up: Rate the Tsars (GOATs or TOATs)

GOAT

TOAT

Ivan III

1. defeated Tartars
2. renovated Kremlin

1. attacked Novgorod
2. Fee for peasants to move

Ivan IV

1. Zemsky Sobor
2. St. Basil's Cathedral

1. Oprichnina
2. Livonian War

Peter I

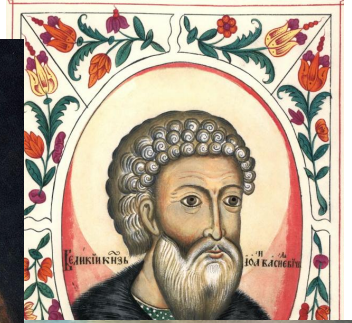
1. built navy
2. Brought western science to Russia

1. Great Northern War
2. Beard tax

Catherine II

1. enlightened despot
2. Moscow Foundling Home

1. Coup d'etat
2. Ended Serf freedom



# Warm Up: Key Terms

Use google to find the definitions for the following terms.

1. Treaty-
2. Emancipation-
3. Censorship-
4. Terrorist-
5. Revolutionary (noun)-
6. Assassination-

# Warm Up: Key Terms

Use google to find the definitions for the following terms.

1. Treaty-*a formally concluded and ratified agreement between countries*
2. Emancipation-*the fact or process of being set free from legal, social, or political restrictions; liberation*
3. Censorship-*the suppression or prohibition of any parts of books, films, news, etc. that are considered obscene, politically unacceptable, or a threat to security*
4. Terrorist-*a person who uses unlawful violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims*
5. Revolutionary (noun)-*a person who works for or engages in political revolution*
6. Assassinate-*murder (an important person) in a surprise attack for political or religious reasons*



# Activity 1: Who is Alexander II

Now we are going to learn about another Tsar of Russia.

You will be taking Focused Notes from a video as well as a web page.

On a new piece of paper, draw out the following Focused Notes template. Your template will be two pages long.



Key Words:

Topic:

Alexander II

Name:

7th SS-05/08/2020

Class:

Date:

Notes:

*From video*

*Background*

*Emancipation of the serfs*

*Other Reforms*

*Assassination*

Page 1 (about 1/2 a page long)

*From Alexander II  
Biography*

*Alexander as a Young  
Man*

*Freeing the Serfs*

Page 1 (the bottom half of the page)

*Continued From  
Alexander II Biography*

*Reforms at Home*

*Foreign Policy*

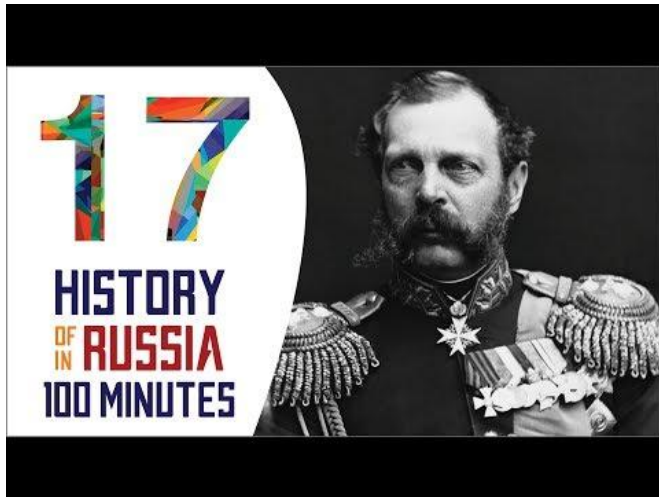
*A Violent End*

Page 2

**Summary:**

# Activity 1: Who is Alexander II

Watch the video and visit the web page linked below. On your paper, take focused notes over each of them.



[Alexander II Biography](#)

Key Words:

Topic:

Alexander II

Name:

7th SS-05/08/2020

Class:

Date:

Notes:

*From video*

*Background*

- 2nd son of nicholas I
- well educated
- wanted Russian reforms
- signed treaty to end Crimean War

*Emancipation of the serfs*

- nicknamed Tsar Liberator
- "It is better to abolish serfdom from above than to wait for the time when it will begin to abolish itself from below."
- passed in 1861

*Other Reforms*

- modernized judicial system
- reduced censorship
- built railroad networks

*Assassination*

- some groups didn't think change was fast enough
- 1881 terrorists killed him with a bomb
- they didn't know he was working on a Constitution
- site in St. Petersburg marked by Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood

## From Alexander II Biography

### Alexander as a Young Man

- oldest son of Emperor Nicholas I
- born April 17, 1818
- taught by famous poet Vasili Zhukovski
- spoke Russian, German, French, English, and Polish
- studied military, finance, diplomacy
- traveled extensively, first royal family member to visit Siberia
- had duties of Tsar during Nicholas' absence

### Freeing the Serfs

- didn't believe it was a good idea at first
- changed his mind to prevent revolt
- 1861 created emancipation law
- serfs could marry, own property, argue court cases
- landowner determined area that was given to serfs
- serfs got paid for work
- serfs got house and land
- serfs paid for land for 49 years
- serfs didn't always get enough land
- they were overcharged for land

*Continued From  
Alexander II Biography*

*Reforms at Home*

- 1864 created local assemblies
- handled local finances, education, agriculture, medical care, and road maintenance
- new voting system gave peasants representation
- peasants and landowners worked together to solve problems

*Foreign Policy*

- 1860 treaty with China ended land dispute
- 1863 ended Polish uprising
- 1877 war against Turkey
- protected Christians in Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria

*A Violent End*

- 1866 targeted by revolutionaries
- terrorists wanted constitutional changes
- mad at violence used to stop peasant uprisings
- murdered on March 1, 1881 in St. Petersburg

**Summary:**

Alexander II was well educated as a child. As Tsar, he freed the serfs, reformed the government, built railroads, signed peace treaties, and protected Christians from Turkey. Revolutionaries felt he wasn't reforming fast enough and assassinated him in St. Petersburg in 1881.



## Activity 2: Alexander II (GOAT or TOAT)

Now, make a T chart for Alexander II. Fill in as many examples as you can for each category. This will help you determine if Alexander II is a GOAT or a TOAT.

GOAT	TOAT

## Activity 2: Alexander II (GOAT or TOAT)

Now, make a T chart for Alexander II. Fill in as many examples as you can for each category. This will help you determine if Alexander II is a GOAT or a TOAT.

GOAT	TOAT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ended Crimean War</li><li>Freed the serfs</li><li>reformed the government</li><li>Gave peasants voting rights</li><li>built railroads</li><li>signed treaty with China</li><li>protected Christians from Turkey</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>let landowners decide price for land sold to serfs</li><li>fought war with Turkey</li></ul>

# Wrap up/Extend Your Learning

Now that you have your T chart done, decide if Alexander II should be called “the Great” or “the Terrible.”

Follow the template provided to write a letter to Dr. Diane Mutti-Burke (Department Chair of the History Department at UMKC), explaining your choice and asking her to promote the idea of giving Alexander II the nickname you support.



# Wrap up/Extend Your Learning

To: Dr. Diane Mutti-Burke,  
Chair-Dept. of History, UMKC

Fr: (your name here),  
7th grade Student, (your school here)

Re: Tsar Alexander II, New Nickname

Dr. Mutti-Burke,

I am currently studying Russia in my Social Studies class. We have learned about many different Tsars. There are several of them who have been given the nickname “the Great” or “the Terrible.” After learning about Alexander II, I feel he should be called “the (your choice) of Russia.”

(Write 1 paragraph explaining why you choose “Great” or “Terrible.”)

Please consider speaking to your colleagues about now calling him Alexander “the (your choice) of Russia.”

Sincerely,  
(Your Name)



# Wrap up/Extend Your Learning

Dr. Mutti-Burke,

I am currently studying Russia in my Social Studies class. We have learned about many different Tsars. There are several of them who have been given the nickname “the Great” or “the Terrible.” After learning about Alexander II, I feel he should be called “*the Great of Russia.*”

*Alexander II is already known as “the Liberator.” But he did so much while Tsar that I feel he should be called “the Great”, like Ivan III, Peter I, and Catherine II. Everyone knows that he freed the Russian serfs, but few people know that he also reformed the government and extended them voting rights. He also ended the Crimean War and signed a Treaty with China. Both of those saved many lives. Alexander II began the modernization of Russia and built a network of railroads throughout the country. He was working on the first constitution for Russia when he was tragically assassinated in 1881. He could have accomplished so much more if his life had not been cut short.*

Please consider speaking to your colleagues about now calling him Alexander “*the Great of Russia.*”

Sincerely,  
*Bruce Lapham*



If you choose to send your letter, get your parents permission first.

You can get her contact information from the [UMKC History Department Faculty Directory](#)