Learning Target:

I can discuss the achievements of Catherine the Great.
Lesson #34, Materials Needed

For this lesson you’re going to need the following materials:

- Chromebook
- Pen or pencil
- Paper
- Cornell Notes
Warm Up: To begin today’s lesson I would like for you to watch this brief video, and then fill in the T-Chart below on your own piece of paper:

Imagine that you are the ruler of the largest country in the world. Think of a few advantages and disadvantages of ruling over so much land.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages:</th>
<th>Disadvantages:</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
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<th>Advantages:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Access to a lot of resources</td>
<td>1. Problems can get out of hand quickly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Plenty of room to expand</td>
<td>2. Hard to enforce the rules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. A larger population means more taxes</td>
<td>3. Difficult to help everyone.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lesson:

In today’s lesson we will be learning about Catherine the Great (as known as Catherine II). Catherine was a German princess who married Peter the Great’s grandson. Catherine would end up ruling Russia roughly 34 years, during which she is responsible for the revitalizing and beginning the “Golden Age of Russia.”
How did Catherine rise to power?

After her husband became czar Peter III in 1761, Catherine and many Russian nobles became annoyed with him, so they overthrew his rule and Catherine seized his power.

What makes Catherine so great?

Catherine continued Peter the Great’s westernization efforts and was the most powerful woman of her time.

Her reforms revitalized Russia and helped establish it as a great European power.

Peter III was assassinated a few days after Catherine took over.

This is a statue that Catherine had built for Peter the Great. The words say “To Peter the First, from Catherine the Second.”
What were some of Catherine’s reforms?

Some of Catherine’s reforms included changes to the legal and education system.
- The Hermitage Museum, which is a museum of art and culture in Saint Petersburg.
- The Smolny Institute, which was the first school for women in Russia.

Catherine also divided the country into provinces and districts, which was a modern trend.

She also removed restriction on trade and promoted science and the arts.

Catherine was considered an enlightened ruler because she ruled according to enlightenment ideas.
What other achievements did Catherine experience?

Under Catherine’s rule, Russia went to war with Poland and won, taking half of Poland’s territory on the Black sea.
  ● Valuable for trade.

Catherine successfully put down several rebellions, which led her to strengthening her control in rural areas.
  ● More power to nobles and landowners

Catherine managed to make peace with the Ottoman Empire in 1774 and increase Russia’s presence in Crimea. She later conquered the entire Crimean Peninsula.
  ● Important strategic foothold.

What makes Catherine so great?

The largest rebellion was led by Yemelyan Pugachev, who claimed to be Catherines murdered husband.
Lesson:

Russia’s territory under Catherine the Great expanded to include the brown and green areas. The area in the square is the Crimean Peninsula.

Even today, control of this peninsula is important to Russia. Why do you think having control of it is so important?
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Even today, control of this peninsula is important to Russia. Why do you think having control of it is so important?

Controlling the Crimean Peninsula is important because it gives Russia access to warm water ports for their navy. It also gives Russia access the Mediterranean Sea.
Lesson:

Here are some key points to take away from this lesson:

- Catherine the Great was the most enlightened ruler of Russia.
- Catherine supported serfdom to please the nobles.
- Under her rule, Russia was brought into the modern world and became a powerhouse in global politics.
- The Russian empire grew in size, population, and influence.

I have included another brief video that provides a biography of Catherine the great.
Activity:

Here is an English cartoon that shows Catherine the Great being offered the cities of Warsaw and Constantinople by the devil. The title of the cartoon is Queen Catherine’s Dream.

Catherine claimed to be fighting the Turks to free Constantinople and the Ottoman Empire from Muslim rule. The English had a different view. They accused her of simply wanting more territory.”

1. What elements of the cartoon suggest that the cartoonist is suspicious of Catherine’s motives?
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What elements of the cartoon suggest that the cartoonist is suspicious of Catherine’s motives?

The devil giving her the territory suggests that the cartoonist is suspicious.
Activity:

For today’s last activity, we are going to complete an “I” Poem over Catherine the Great. For this activity you will be putting yourself in Catherine’s shoes and writing phrases that represent what Catherine might have thought or felt based on what you have learned about her and her achievements in today’s lesson.

On your sheet of paper that follow along with the template.

- If you would like to see an example scroll to the next slide to see mine and then begin/finish yours.
Activity:

I am, Catherine the Great
I wonder, what Peter the Great would do?
I hear, Black Sea
I see, the Crimean Peninsula under my control
I want, to expand Russia’s territory
I am, the most powerful woman of my time
I pretend, to support my husband Peter III
I feel, sorry for the serfs
I worry, about rebellions
I am, a supporter of the arts and education
I understand, the Enlightenment
I try, to rule with Enlightened ideals
I dream, of a revitalized Russia
I am, Catherine the Great
Reflection:

To reflect on today’s lesson over Catherine the Great, I would like for you to complete a 3-2-1 activity on your sheet of paper.

**Remember:**
3 things you learned.
2 questions that you might have.
1 thing you enjoyed, or would like to learn more about.