

SAINT PETERSBURG

St.Petersburg is the second largest city in our country. It was founded in 1703 by Tsar Peter I to give Russia an outlet to the Baltic Sea. It is situated on the banks of the River Neva and on 42 islands where the river flows into the Gulf of Finland. In 1712 Saint Petersburg became the capital of Russia. The city was renamed three times – Petrograd, Leningrad and now it has its first name – Saint Petersburg. Our city is a hero city. During the Great Patriotic War it withstood the terrible 900-day blockade.

Now our city is a world famous centre of industry, science and culture.

In the city there are many industrial and business centres, plants and factories. The main industries are engineering and machinery. Our city is an important seaport too.

St.Petersburg is a centre of science and education. There is a wide choice of schools, colleges and universities, a lot of research, design and construction organizations.

A lot of people name St.Petersburg the cultural capital of Russia. Here there are a lot of museums, libraries, concert halls, theatres and cinemas, places of historical and memorial interest. The most famous of them are the Hermitage and the Russian museum with their fantastic collections of paintings and statues; the magnificent

St Isaac's Cathedral and Kazan Cathedral; the Admiralty and Peter and Paul Fortress; the beautiful Summer Garden with marble statues by Italian masters; the Field of Mars and Piskarevsky Memorial Complex; the marvelous palaces and parks outside the city.

Speak about your favourite places in St Petersburg. Say why you like them.