

## Chapter 3.2 Reading Guide - Beginnings of Russian-America

To take notes, make your copy by clicking “File” and then “Make a copy.”

1. What was the main reason for Russians to first start coming to Alaska?
2. What were the details of Russia's fur trade:
  - Who did they trade with?
  - Where?
  - How did the furs get there?
  - What did Russians receive in return?
3. What was the role of the Russian government in the early years of Russian-America? Who financed the voyages and early colonization of Alaska?
4. Who were the Promyshlenniki? What was the typical fur-hunting voyage like?
5. What were the items Russians traded with Natives for furs? Besides trade, how else did Russians get furs?
6. How did Aleuts resist the Russians? How successful were they? What military advantages did Russians possess?
7. What action did Catherine the Great take towards Native Alaskans? Was it all Natives in Alaska?
8. What does the Russian saying, "God is high and the tsar far away" mean? How did it illustrate events in Alaska?
9. What was the “right of discovery”?
10. What were Spain's possessions in the Western Hemisphere? What claims did they make to Alaska? What were the main Spanish activities in Alaska? How did the Nootka Convention affect Spanish claims in Alaska?
11. Russia faced the most serious foreign competition in Alaska from what nation?

12. Who was Captain Cook? What was the mission of his third voyage that would come to Alaska?
13. What were the accomplishments of Cook's voyage in Alaska? Was he successful in his mission to find a Northwest Passage?
14. How did Cook's voyage lead to changes in the Alaska fur trade?
15. What was France's activity in Alaska?
16. What were Shelikhov's primary reasons for establishing a permanent settlement in Alaska? Where was this settlement made?
17. How did Alutiiq Eskimos resist Russians? How successful were they? How did the coming of the Russians affect the population of Kodiak?