# S.





**AREA** 17,075,400 sq km **POPULATION** 138,740,000 MONEY Russian ruble

### KAZAKHSTAN



AREA 2,724,900 sq km
POPULATION 15,522,000
MONEY Tenge

### TURKMENISTAN



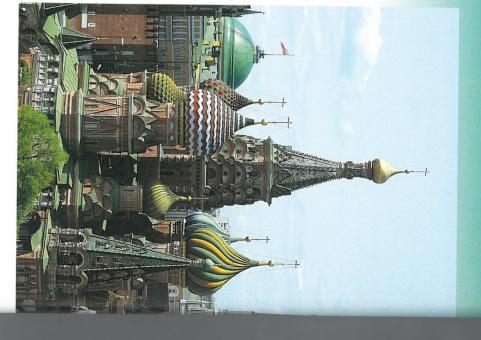
AREA 488,100 sq km
POPULATION 4,998,000
MONEY Manat

east to new towns in Siberia. Mountains. Some people have moved the European part, west of the Ural continents, Europe and Asia.

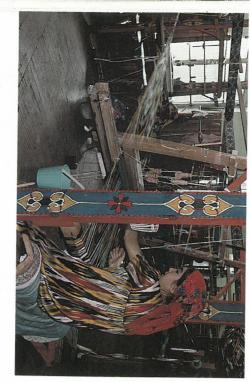
Most of the people live in

many different minerals and can supply most of the needs of its many factories. farms. Russia also has large deposits of steppes, are found south of the forest, in the far east. Grassy plains, called the for most of the year (see page 88). Further south is the largest forest in the world – In some parts, grain is grown on huge from the Baltic Sea to the Sea of Okhotsk a vast area of coniferous trees stretching be grown. The far north is snow-covered different climates and almost all crops can Because Russia is so huge, there are many

crops such as sugar-cane and cotton grow well. Space rockets are launched from the bitterly cold in winter. With irrigation, 'Cosmodrome' in the desert of Kazakhstan. in a desert area – hot in summer but The republics of central Asia are mostly



of the government of Russia. the Kremlin walls. 'Kremlin' means 'fortress' are the domes and towers of buildings inside of Red Square. It is famous for its brightly coloured domes: each one is different. In the background The Moscow Kremlin has a cathedral and offices St Basil's cathedral, Moscow, is at one end



Uzbekistan is one of the 15 countries created when the USSR broke up in 1991. Can you name them? (Page 37 will help; answers on page 97.) looms like this one, for weaving silk, cotton and wool – but there is modern industry as well. In Uzbekistan, people still use traditional



refill it with enough water. The water is used salty lake is drying up because rivers do not in the Aral Sea, but is now on dry land. This to irrigate fields instead. . is getting smaller. This ship was once



and extremely cold. survive the Siberian conifers. winters, which are long Most of the trees are the far east of Russia **Ural Mountains to** It stretches from the world's largest forest. Siberia has the They can

#### D J 四 1 m ŏ m: HZ X N W Z KJMHOIP 3 Z 0 X O TH H H K O X 오 HS SHCH Market

▲ The Cyrillic alphabet. Russian is written in the Cyrillic alphabet. This is partly based on Latin letters (the same as English letters) and partly on Greek letters (see page 35).

The alphabet was invented centuries ago by St Cyril, so that the Russian church could show it was separate from both the Roman and the Greek churches. In Cyrillic, R is written P, and S is written C. So the Metro is written METPO.

# CAN YOU UNDERSTAND THIS MESSAGE?

Use the key above: X A 5 A P O B C K (square S4) is on the River A M Y P (see square S3 on the map). Now work out what the sign on the railway carriage (right) says. It is not as hard as it looks! Uzbekistan and some other republics of Central Asia are keeping the same language but changing their alphabet from Cyrillic to 'Latin' (as used in English and many other languages).



It takes a week to cross Russia by train, and you must change your watch seven times. Here is the distance chart and timetable (only the main stops are shown).

## МОСКВА-ВЛАДИВОСТОК

This is the plate on the side of the train. The translation is on page 97. This is one of the world's most exciting train journeys.

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	Vladivostok	Khabarovsk	Skovorodino	Chita	Ulan Ude	Irkutsk	Krasnoyarsk	Novosibirsk	Omsk	Yekaterinburg	Kirov	Moscow		NWOT
	13:30*	01:10	05:20	09:23	00:02	16:23	22:31	10:44	03:13	16:25	04:00	15:05	(IN MOSCOW)	TIME
	7	7	0	5	G	4	ω	ω	ω	2	2	-		DA

\* This is 20:30 local time in Vladivostok.

At these stations, there is time for a quick walk — and some bartering. But don't forget to allow another week to come back!

