

# **russian revolution worksheet answers**

Russian Revolution worksheet answers are essential tools for students studying one of the most impactful events in modern history. The Russian Revolution, which occurred in 1917, was a pivotal moment that led to the establishment of the Soviet Union and altered the course of global politics. This article will provide comprehensive answers to common questions found on worksheets related to the Russian Revolution, covering key events, figures, ideologies, and outcomes.

## **Overview of the Russian Revolution**

The Russian Revolution refers to two major events in 1917: the February Revolution and the October Revolution. These revolutions led to the overthrow of the Tsarist autocracy and the rise of the Bolsheviks, a revolutionary socialist group led by Vladimir Lenin.

### **1. Causes of the Russian Revolution**

The causes of the Russian Revolution are multifaceted and can be categorized into several key areas:

#### **- Political Factors:**

1. Autocratic Rule: Tsar Nicholas II's inability to address the needs of the people and his repressive regime alienated many.
2. Ineffectiveness of the Duma: The Duma, Russia's parliament, had little real power, leading to frustration among the populace.

#### **- Social Factors:**

1. Class Discontent: A significant gap between the wealthy elite and the impoverished peasantry created widespread resentment.
2. Urbanization: Rapid industrialization led to poor working conditions in cities, fostering a strong labor movement.

#### **- Economic Factors:**

1. World War I: The war placed enormous strain on Russia's economy, leading to food shortages and military defeats.
2. Inflation: Economic instability contributed to rising prices and decreased living standards.

#### **- Ideological Factors:**

1. Marxism: The spread of Marxist ideas encouraged revolutionary sentiment among workers and intellectuals.
2. The Influence of Revolutionary Figures: Leaders like Lenin and Trotsky inspired many to seek radical change.

## **Key Events of the Russian Revolution**

Understanding the timeline of events during the Russian Revolution is crucial for grasping its complexity.

## 1. February Revolution

- Start Date: February 23, 1917
- Key Events:
  1. Strikes and Protests: Workers in Petrograd (now St. Petersburg) went on strike due to food shortages.
  2. Formation of the Petrograd Soviet: A council of workers and soldiers that represented revolutionary interests.
  3. Abdication of Tsar Nicholas II: Facing immense pressure, Nicholas II abdicated on March 2, leading to the end of the Romanov dynasty.
- Outcome: The establishment of a provisional government, which struggled to maintain power and legitimacy.

## 2. October Revolution

- Start Date: October 25, 1917 (Julian calendar: October 12)
- Key Events:
  1. Bolshevik Seizure of Power: Led by Lenin and Trotsky, the Bolsheviks stormed the Winter Palace and took control of key government institutions.
  2. Decrees Issued: The Bolsheviks issued decrees that included land redistribution and the withdrawal from World War I.
- Outcome: The establishment of a Bolshevik government and the beginning of civil war in Russia.

## Key Figures of the Russian Revolution

Several influential figures played crucial roles in the events of the Russian Revolution.

### 1. Vladimir Lenin

- Role: Leader of the Bolshevik party and architect of the October Revolution.
- Contributions:
  1. Developed the concept of a vanguard party to lead the proletariat.
  2. Authored key texts such as "What Is to Be Done?" which outlined revolutionary strategy.

### 2. Leon Trotsky

- Role: Key figure in the Bolshevik party and military leader.
- Contributions:
  1. Organized the Red Army and played a significant role in the Civil War.
  2. Instrumental in the October Revolution.

### **3. Tsar Nicholas II**

- Role: The last Emperor of Russia, whose reign ended with the February Revolution.
- Contributions:
  1. His decisions during World War I and domestic policy led to widespread dissatisfaction.

### **4. Other Important Figures**

- Alexandra Kollontai: A prominent Bolshevik and advocate for women's rights.
- Joseph Stalin: A key figure who would later rise to power after Lenin's death.

## **Ideologies Behind the Russian Revolution**

The Russian Revolution was deeply influenced by various ideologies, most notably Marxism.

### **1. Marxism**

- Core Beliefs:
  1. Class Struggle: The idea that history is driven by the conflict between the ruling class and the working class.
  2. Dictatorship of the Proletariat: The belief that the working class must take control of the state to achieve socialism.
- Impact: Marxism provided the theoretical foundation for the Bolshevik Revolution.

### **2. Socialism and Communism**

- Definitions:
  1. Socialism: A system where the means of production are owned and controlled collectively.
  2. Communism: A more radical form of socialism advocating for a classless society.
- Bolshevik Approach: The Bolsheviks aimed to implement socialism through a revolutionary overthrow of the existing government.

## **Consequences of the Russian Revolution**

The Russian Revolution had far-reaching consequences both domestically and internationally.

# **1. Establishment of the Soviet Union**

- Formation: The USSR was officially established in 1922, uniting several republics under a single communist government.
- Significance:
  1. The USSR became a major global power, influencing international politics for decades.
  2. The spread of communist ideology sparked revolutions and movements worldwide.

# **2. Civil War (1917–1922)**

- Key Participants:
  1. The Red Army (Bolsheviks) vs. the White Army (anti-Bolshevik forces).
  2. Various factions, including monarchists, liberals, and socialists.
- Outcome: The Bolsheviks emerged victorious, solidifying their control over Russia.

# **3. Economic Changes**

- War Communism: An economic policy implemented during the Civil War that nationalized industry and requisitioned agricultural produce.
- New Economic Policy (NEP): Introduced in 1921 to stabilize the economy by allowing some private enterprise and small-scale private farming.

# **4. Social Changes**

- Impact on Society:
  1. Significant changes in social structure, including women's rights and labor reforms.
  2. Suppression of political opposition and the establishment of a totalitarian regime under Stalin.

# **Legacy of the Russian Revolution**

The legacy of the Russian Revolution is complex and multifaceted.

- Global Impact:
  1. Inspired revolutionary movements around the world, from China to Cuba.
  2. Contributed to the ideological divide during the Cold War.
- Criticism and Praise:
  1. While some view the revolution as a necessary step towards equality, others criticize the authoritarian regime that followed.
  2. The revolution is often studied as a case of how revolutionary fervor can lead to both progress and repression.

In conclusion, Russian Revolution worksheet answers serve as a vital resource

for understanding the intricacies of this transformative period in history. By exploring the causes, key events, figures, ideologies, consequences, and legacy of the revolution, students can gain a deeper appreciation of its significance and impact on the world. Through careful study, learners can engage with the complexities of revolutionary change and its enduring implications for society and governance.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What were the main causes of the Russian Revolution?**

The main causes of the Russian Revolution included widespread dissatisfaction with the autocratic regime of Tsar Nicholas II, social inequalities, economic hardship, the impacts of World War I, and the influence of revolutionary ideologies.

### **What were the two main phases of the Russian Revolution?**

The two main phases of the Russian Revolution were the February Revolution, which led to the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II, and the October Revolution, which resulted in the Bolshevik takeover of the government.

### **Who were the key leaders of the Bolshevik Party during the Russian Revolution?**

Key leaders of the Bolshevik Party included Vladimir Lenin, Leon Trotsky, and Joseph Stalin, among others.

### **What role did the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk play in the Russian Revolution?**

The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, signed in March 1918, ended Russia's participation in World War I, allowing the Bolsheviks to focus on consolidating power domestically but at the cost of significant territorial losses.

### **How did the Russian Revolution impact global politics?**

The Russian Revolution significantly impacted global politics by inspiring communist movements worldwide, altering the balance of power in Europe, and leading to the establishment of the Soviet Union as a major world power.

### **What was the significance of the October Revolution?**

The significance of the October Revolution lies in its establishment of a communist government in Russia, which marked the first successful overthrow of a capitalist system in favor of a socialist state.

## **What was the outcome of the Russian Civil War?**

The outcome of the Russian Civil War (1917-1922) was the victory of the Red Army (Bolsheviks) over the White Army (anti-Bolsheviks), solidifying Bolshevik control over Russia and leading to the establishment of the Soviet Union.

## **What were the social changes that occurred as a result of the Russian Revolution?**

The Russian Revolution led to significant social changes, including the redistribution of land, the promotion of women's rights, the establishment of state control over industries, and the implementation of education reforms aimed at increasing literacy and political awareness.

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