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FOCUS ON RUSSIA

SPOTLIGHTING OUR HOME



1. Look at the pictures. Describe them briefly. What brings them together?



Define the topic of the lesson.

What would you like to learn about our district? Write down one question. Exchange them with your partner. Does he/she happen to know the answer?

2. Work in groups. Make two mind maps. Explain your associations. So, what role does Primorsky district play in the life of Saint Petersburg? Is it typical Saint Petersburg?

Saint Petersburg	Primorsky district
	

3. **Match the texts and the titles.**

*1. An ornithologist's dream 2. Commemorating the heroes 3. A fashionable location
4. Trailblazing the sky 5. A landmark for tragedy 6. A long-awaited revival*

- A. One thousand disaster relief workers who liquidated the consequences of Chernobyl explosion live in Primorsky district. In April 1999 an alley of memory was created in memory of those who perished in the disaster on Planernaya Street. Two hundred thirty five trees were planted there. The number of the trees was determined by the fact that exactly 55 relief workers were killed and 180 became disabled. By the 15th anniversary of Chernobyl catastrophe a monument was erected as the symbol of the four destroyed reactors. Made of black granite, it reaches 1.3 meters in height. The inscription on the obelisk says: "Chernobyl relief workers 1986-1990".
- B. Komendantsky Airfield was set up in 1910 as a venue for aviation festivals. Both foreign and Russian models of airplanes were tested there. It became the starting point for the first flight to Kronstadt which was made by G. Piotrovsky. Soon afterwards the first night flights were accomplished by Leo Matsievich and Mikhail Efimov. The inventor of the parachute Gleb Kotelnikhov tested his brainchild on the territory of the airfield. From 1914 to 1945 it was used for military purposes. During the siege of Leningrad the airfield played a vital role in connecting the city to the rest of the country. It was only in 1963 that the airfield dropped out of use. In the 1970-s a new dwelling district was constructed on the premises.
- C. The place of the last Pushkin's duel is situated on the former outskirts of Saint Petersburg on the banks of the Chernaya River. The duel took place on the 27th of January in 1837. Driven insane with jealous, Pushkin summoned Georges d'Anthès to a duel. During the duel Pushkin was mortally wounded. Two days later, on 29 January (10 February) at 14:45 Pushkin died of peritonitis. In 1837, marking the anniversary of the tragedy, a column made of marble and granite was constructed later to be replaced by a granite obelisk with a bronze bas relief. Surrounded by trees, it became a favourite place for the citizens of Primorsky district.
- D. In 1909, Agvan Dorzhiev got permission from the Tsar to build a large and substantial Buddhist datsan or temple in Saint Petersburg. However, the Russian Orthodox Church campaigned strongly against construction of this "pagan" temple across the country, which considerably delayed its construction. However, the first service was held on 21 February 1913, and construction was completed by 1915. After 1917, the building was ransacked and used for many purposes. Although the temple was spared from bombing during the Siege of Leningrad there was little chance that it would ever serve its purpose again. In 1989 the Buddhist community in Saint Petersburg was officially recognized. That very year the first in 50 years service was held. As of 2013, the temple is actively maintained and a place of practice for scholars and students of the Tibetan Gelugpa school.
- E. The former village and countryside location Kolomyagi is situated close to the railway connecting Saint Petersburg and Vyborg. The village surrounded by forests and located close to the Gulf of Finland was always attractive to city-dwellers. In 1870 Finland

railway connected the village with the city. The railway played a great role in the village development. City dwellers either rented or bought land allotments. In 1903 the population of the village soared to 1100 inhabitants in winter and 5700 inhabitants in summer as compared to 530 inhabitants in 1862. City lifestyle had a strong impact on the countryside. Villas rather than modest primitive houses were built. Very often they boasted beautiful designs. Pavements and street lighting were introduced. In 1897 a fire brigade and in 1904 football club “Kolomyagi” were organized. Their football pitch was situated by the railroad. In fact, the current Saint Petersburg football club owes its blue and white color scheme to this first team.

- F. The wildlife of Juntolovo reserve is rich, varied and unique despite the proximity of a big city. The reserve hosts 100 species of birds. About 50 more species make their nests there either in winter or summer or during their migration period. Twenty-five species hatch in the park more or less regularly. They are bittern, grey duck, oriole, woodpecker. The birds of prey are a good indicator of environmental stability. The more numerous they are, the better ecological systems function. In Juntolovo seven species of birds of prey make their nests, for example, blackbird, osprey, hobby falcon, buzzard. Four of them are listed in the Red Book.

4. Make phrases. Use them to make up sentences based on the text.

perished, venue, flights, dropped, mortally, campaigned, a service, allotments, beautiful designs, proximity, hatch.

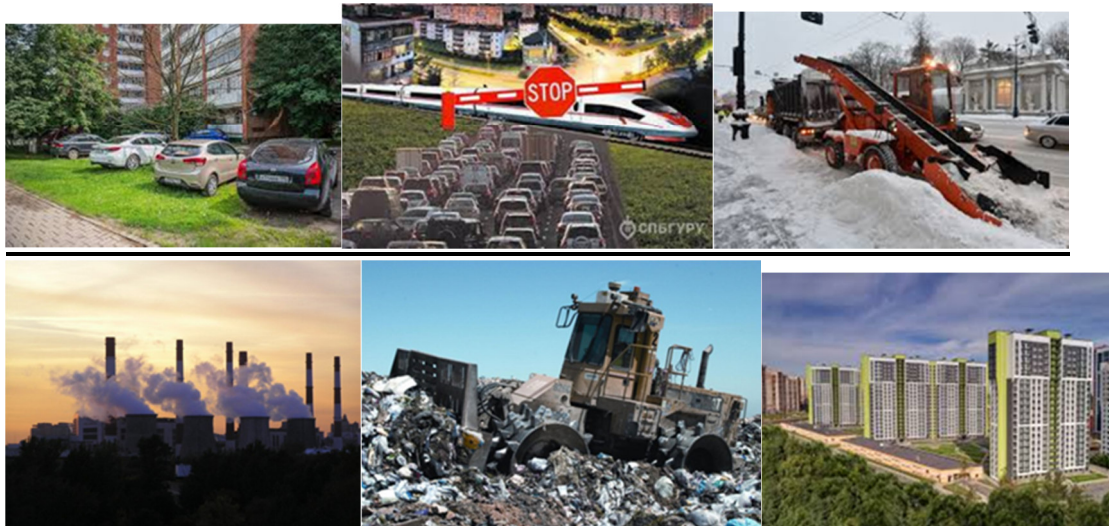
...for festivals	To accomplish ...
to be ...wounded	To boast...
to hold ...	Proximity...
... more or less regularly	...allotments
...strongly	...in the disaster
...out of use	

5. Mark the rout on the map:

What theatre is mentioned in the description? What do you know about it?

Walk out of school into the street named after a famous Soviet airplane constructor. Walk to the square named after the first Russian airfield. Turn into the street which has the name of a famous Russian sportsman, swimmer, boxer, football player and aviator. Get to the square called by the name of the helicopter inventor. Enter the avenue named after the first Soviet spaceship designer. Go ahead as far as the avenue which got its name due to the metal used in aircraft construction industry. Move straight until you see the avenue named in honour of pilots who defended the city during the Great Patriotic War. Buy a ticket and enjoy a performance in one of the smaller theatres of Saint Petersburg.

6. Look at the pictures. State the problems of Primorsky district.



7. Work in pairs or groups. Choose a situation and act it out.

- A. *You have a school task to make a project on Primorsky district. Discuss what remarkable places and sights to include, what form of presentation to choose (a Power Point Presentation, a map, a board game, a quest, a poster), how to share the tasks.*
- B. *Your cousin from Moscow is coming for a visit. She is convinced that Primorsky district is not worth seeing. Try to persuade her that it is not true.*
- C. *You were asked to make a report on the problems of Primorsky district on behalf of its citizens. Speak about the problems which concern you most.*
- D. *You are the members of municipal council. You have heard the opinion of an ordinary citizen of the district. How can you possibly solve the abovementioned problems?*
- E. *You are the members of the local council. You received 100 billion roubles to improve the district. What can you do to make Primorsky district more beautiful?*

8. What are these? Research the sights. Present your findings to the class.





9. **Over to you:** is our Primorsky district worth seeing? What can be done to make it even more attractive?