Chapter 5 Section 4
Absolute Rulers of Russia

Setting the Stage: After years under the control of the Mongols, Russia took steps to liberate their people during the 15th and 16th centuries. Once free, this young nation, under the rule of several powerful rulers, added territory to its expanding empire and increased the power of its central government.

The First Czar
________________ the __________________ came to the throne when he was just 4 years old. In his early years as ruler, Ivan was disrupted by struggles of power among Russia’s nobles, known as the ________________. When he turned 16, Ivan seized control of Russia for himself and crowned himself ______________ of his country.

During his “good period,” Ivan ruled justly, winning great military victories, adding lands to his country, and creating a code of laws.

Tragically, Ivan’s wife, Anastasia, died, leading to Ivan’s “bad period.” Accusing the boyars of poisoning her, Ivan turned against them. He organized a ______________ ______________ to hunt down potential traitors. Abusing his power, Ivan executed many boyars and their families, as thousands of people died. He took their homes and property and distributed it to his loyal supporters. Ivan then committed an act that would devastate both him and his country – in a violent quarrel Ivan killed his oldest son and ____________ to the throne.

Ivan’s second son proved incapable of leading, and upon his death Russia entered a period of turmoil known as the ______________ of ______________. Boyars and relatives of past czars batted for control of the country until finally leadership was passed to the ________________ family.

Peter the Great Comes to Power
Over time, the Romanov’s were able to restore peace to Russia. This paved the way for Peter the Great to become the ______________ ______________ of his country.

Unlike Western Europe, Russia was still very much a ________________ when Peter came to power. Definition:

Serfs were treated like property, and could be sold and traded with the land. Because of its location, Russia was often cut off from the rest of the world.

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Peter Visits the West
Peter was fascinated with ships and the sea. He felt the success of his country depended on a __________- __________ __________ - only then could Russia compete with the rest of the world.

When he was 25, Peter embarked on the “Grand Embassy” – his long voyage to Western Europe. There he learned of European customs and manufacturing techniques. He returned home with the goal of ________________, or using Western Europe as a model to make Russia stronger.
Peter's Reforms
Peter believed a change was needed, but knew many of his people would disagree. Peter decided to increase his powers to force a change.

1. Peter took over the Russian Orthodox Church
2. He reduced the power of wealthy landowners
3.

Westernizing Russia
Peter did impose several reforms to further westernize his people:

1. He introduced the potato to his people, which became a staple of their diet
2.
3.
4.
5.

The final step to Peter's plan was creating a _________________ that would make travel to the West easier. After a 21 year was with _______________, Russia finally gained access to the “window on Europe” Peter so desperately wanted. This city would be _____________.