

THE CONVERSION OF PRINCE VLADIMIR OF KIEV

The year is 980 B.C.E. Kievan Rus' is the largest Russian Kingdom and is ruled by Prince Vladimir I. Russia, located in Eastern Europe, has, over the last several hundred years, emerged as an important region, both in trade and in enhanced power and prestige. The original inhabitants of north eastern Europe, blended with Bulgarian, and later, Slavic immigrants starting around the time of the Roman Empire. During the 6th and 7th centuries Vikings from Scandinavia used their long ships to navigate the extensive river systems, originally as traders, later as settlers who were militarily superior to the Slavs, set up local governments and emerged as leaders. The most powerful of Russia's trading empires in the 10th century is the empire of Kiev. Prince Vlad, a descendent of Vikings, has decided that he, and the people in his empire need to stop being pagan, and adopt a more unifying world religion that will also facilitate trade. The Empire of Kiev is militarily powerful and rich with furs, lumber, and other desirable commodities. They will make an excellent ally.

Research Guidelines.

Your group represents emissaries of the Byzantine Empire. You must research the Byzantine Empire and its religion, Eastern Orthodox Christianity and create a convincing argument to convert Prince Vlad. Your presentation will be delivered according to SPICE

Social: What is the social order of the Byzantine Empire? How are women treated? How can you spin this as beneficial for Vlad and his empire?

Political: Vlad loves power, so how will converting to Eastern Orthodox Christianity benefit him? What can you teach Vlad about efficiently organizing an empire? Who are your allies? Enemies? How will this benefit Kiev?

Interaction with the environment: What technology does your empire possess that will be beneficial to the Prince? What about geographic proximity? Are there routes that might facilitate movement or aid in communication between your empire and Kiev?

Culture: Why is Eastern Orthodox Christianity appealing? Describe the art and architecture of your empire/religion and promote it to the Prince. What do you have to teach the Prince?

Economic: What desirable goods do the Byzantines have that the Prince would want for his empire? What trade routes go through the Byzantine Empire? What might the Prince learn about taxes/revenue from your empire? Describe any major trading cities within your empire. Why would access to these cities help the Prince?

Refutation of a counterclaim: You also notice emissaries from another religion with the same goal as you, to convert Prince Vlad. Within your pitch you must explain to the Prince why the other religion is not for him. You may use anything about that religion/empire to make your argument.

GRADING CRITERIA:

15 points - The quality of your information about the Byzantine Empire and Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Was it accurate? Was it focused on main ideas, yet still comprehensive? Please read the above research guidelines and follow them!

10 points – The quality of your PowerPoint and slides. Can we read them? Are they too busy? Are they educational? Are they persuasive? Did everybody in your group speak?

5 points – Was your presentation 6 – 9 minutes? Prince Vlad will not tolerate a presentation that is too long!

ALL GROUP MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE THE SAME GRADE FOR THE ABOVE CRITERIA. PLEASE DO YOUR PART. PLEASE HELP YOUR GROUP MEMBERS SUCCEED. PLEASE DO NOT TAKE OVER, INSTEAD WORK COLLABORATIVELY.

5 points – The quality of your individual presentation. Did you speak instead of reading the slides word for word? Could we hear you? Was your presentation polished and professional? Did you engage your audience (eye-contact)?

10 points- Your work-ethic/collaboration. Did you do your part? Were you on task for the entire class? Did you do some work during study hall/tutoring? Did you do your part without taking over?