

Name _____

Date _____

Ivan the Terrible

Ivan IV became ruler of Russia after his father. His reign is typically divided into two parts. The first part of his rule is considered the good period, and Ivan ruled with input from a council. During this time period, Ivan defended Russia's borders, updated the military, and formed an assembly of the land (called a zemskii sobor). While he was initially considered successful in military matters, he suffered great losses trying to expand Russia in the west.

Ivan IV was the first Grand Prince of Russia to be officially crowned as czar. Czar is the Russian word for Caesar, who was a great and powerful Roman leader. By being crowned czar, Ivan was saying that he was the all-powerful emperor of Russia.

As a child, Ivan IV was shown respect in public but tortured in private. He tortured animals when he was young. He also witnessed the cruelty of the boyars fighting to gain power. A boyar was a highly ranked member of the Russian aristocracy. Boyars were second only to princes in Russia. As an adult, Ivan's Russian title was "Grozny," which means awesome.

In 1560, Ivan had St. Basil's Cathedral built to commemorate his victory over Kazan. It was this same year that Ivan's wife, Anastasia, died. Ivan thought that she had been poisoned by the boyars and became paranoid. Ivan was very upset by Anastasia's death.

During the second period of Ivan's rule, he discontinued the use of his council of advisors. He won the right to rule without having to answer to anyone when he threatened to give up the throne. This threat was planned on Ivan's part, and he intended for it to give him more power. His plan worked because he was asked to continue his rule, and Ivan only agreed to continue ruling if he could rule without the moral guidelines of the church.

Under this agreement, Russia was divided into two regions. The first area was called the Oprichnina, which was to be under the sole control of Ivan. The second area was to be directly ruled by the boyar Duma. This part of the agreement was never upheld, and Ivan had sole control of the entire country. He used a militia (called the Oprichniki) to terrorize the nation. This militia rode on black horses and dressed in all black. Their saddles had pictures of a broom and a dog's head. These pictures were meant to symbolize Ivan's sweeping out of the dogs, which Ivan considered to be the boyars. Although the militia was originally used against the boyars, Ivan later began killing the militia as well because he suspected they were plotting against him.

Name _____

Date _____

Ivan the Terrible (Cont'd)

Ivan IV earned the nickname “Ivan the Terrible” because he murdered hundreds of landowners and killed church leaders who opposed him. He was paranoid and often had mood swings. Some think that Ivan was mad; he even killed his own son during a temper tantrum.

Despite his madness and paranoia, under Ivan the Terrible’s reign, Russians moved over the Ural Mountains into Siberia. Ivan also rid himself of any competition for power, which paved the way for the future Russian czars to remain all-powerful.

Name _____

Date _____

Ivan the Terrible Questions

Multiple Choice:

1. An assembly of the land was called:
 - a. a zemskii sobor
 - b. a grozny
 - c. a boyar
 - d. a militia

2. The militia had pictures of these on their saddles:
 - a. swords and shields
 - b. hammers
 - c. brooms and dog heads
 - d. princes

3. Ivan IV was nicknamed:
 - a. Ivan the Great
 - b. Ivan the Terrible
 - c. Ivan the Boyar
 - d. Ivan the Horrible

4. Ivan's wife was named:
 - a. Catherine
 - b. Marie
 - c. Anastasia
 - d. Helen

True or False:

- ___ 5. Ivan IV was not the first Grand Prince of Russia to be officially crowned as czar.

- ___ 6. Czar is the Russian word for Caesar, who was a great and powerful Roman leader.

- ___ 7. In 1560, Ivan had the Palace of Versailles built to commemorate his victory over Kazan.

- ___ 8. Boyars were second only to princes in Russia.

- ___ 9. Ivan rid himself of any competition for power, which paved the way for the future Russian czars to remain all-powerful.

Ivan the Terrible Answers

Multiple Choice:

1. An assembly of the land was called:
 - a. a zemskii sobor
 - b. a grozny
 - c. a boyar
 - d. a militia

2. The militia had pictures of these on their saddles:
 - a. swords and shields
 - b. hammers
 - c. brooms and dog heads
 - d. princes

3. Ivan IV was nicknamed:
 - a. Ivan the Great
 - b. Ivan the Terrible
 - c. Ivan the Boyar
 - d. Ivan the Horrible

4. Ivan's wife was named:
 - a. Catherine
 - b. Marie
 - c. Anastasia
 - d. Helen

True or False:

- F 5. Ivan IV was not the first Grand Prince of Russia to be officially crowned as czar.
- T 6. Czar is the Russian word for Caesar, who was a great and powerful Roman leader.
- F 7. In 1560, Ivan had the Palace of Versailles built to commemorate his victory over Kazan.
- T 8. Boyars were second only to princes in Russia.
- T 9. Ivan rid himself of any competition for power, which paved the way for the future Russian czars to remain all-powerful.