



# Maggie's Activity Pack!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## A Rushin' River

What problems can Maggie, Kuma, and Dude discover in Russia? Your mission is to watch the new adventure, *Rushin' River*, and find out more about life in a Russian village!

Why are church steeples sticking out of the water?



What scary thing crawls on my paw?



Log on to [www.missmaggie.org](http://www.missmaggie.org). Click on the big red button. Do you see the cartoon button? Click on it. You will see a pack called, *A Rushin' River*. This is it! Explore!

Watch the cartoon by clicking on the **Video Camera**. Find out more about Russian animals by opening the **Field Guide**. What foods are popular in Russia? Click on the **Experiments and Recipes** section to learn more. Hear a folktale by listening to the **Radio**. What is a steepe? Look in the **Compass** for this and other answers. Have fun!

**Check out the Video Camera to find out...**

1. What do children often use for art projects in Russian villages?

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2. What happened in 1947 to the Volga River?

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3. What is the Russian nickname for the Volga River?

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4. What were the little children doing on the boat?

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5. What happened to many Russian towns and villages when the Volga River was dammed?

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6. What did the old woman take with her to remember her old house?

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7. What fish was harmed because of the damming of the Volga River?

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8. What can help solve environmental problems?

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**BONUS** – What kind of trees are in the background of the cartoon? \_\_\_\_\_

**Read about Russian animals in the Field Guide. Then answer these questions...**

1. What do capercaillie like to eat in the winter?

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2. How many rooms does an old world harvest mouse put into its nest?

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3. What special sense does a wild boar have?

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**Look in Experiments and Recipes. Find out what food Russian people like. Discover an invasive species experiment. Find out...**

1. How many cups of flour do you need to make Blini?

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2. What materials do you need to do the Invasive Species Experiment?

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**Folktales are always fun to read and listen to. Click on the Radio. You will hear part of some Russian folktales. What folktale...**

1. A rich and a poor brother are characters in what folktale?

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2. An orphan who lives with wicked people is a character in this folktale –

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**Scroll through the Compass. You will find out many fascinating facts about Russia...**

1. How many time zones are there in this huge country?

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2. What are steepes?

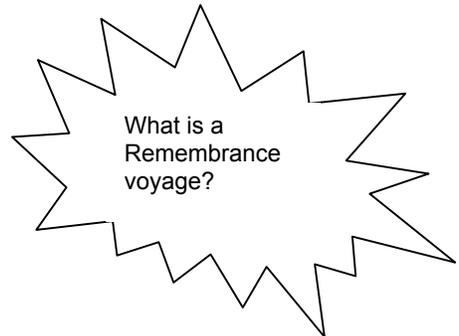
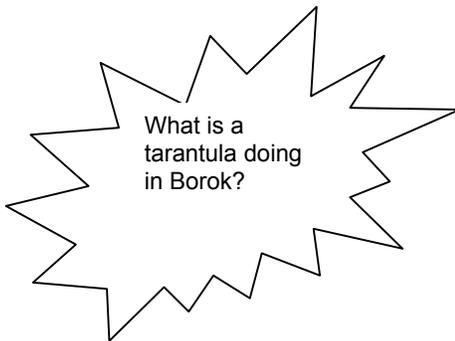
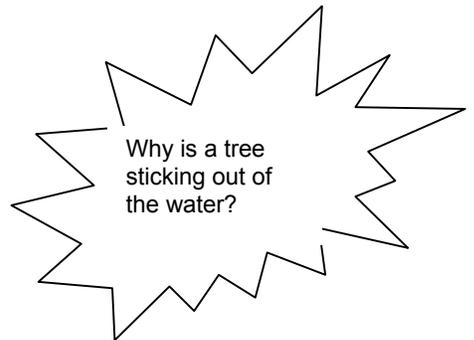
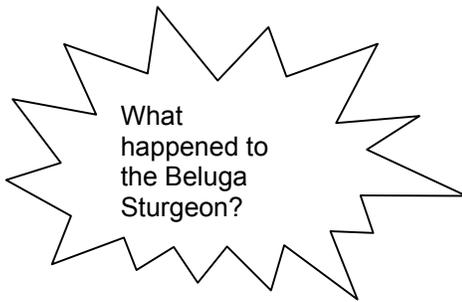
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3. What is a taiga?

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\_\_\_\_\_

4. What does tundra mean?

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Dear Colleague,

For years my husband and I have been friends with the wonderful people of Borok, Russia. We have visited the village and have enjoyed hosting the people of Borok at our home. It was a pleasure to run a student exchange program where several schoolchildren and their teachers visited Virginia for two weeks. I am excited to bring you this mission that highlights this area of Russia. I visited several villages and talked to numerous scientists in doing background research for this adventure.

I was particularly amazed with the art work of the children. Because there are not many art materials available for these students, they show incredible ingenuity by using pinecones, birch bark, old tin cans, and matchboxes, etc. to create wonderful art.

You may wonder if parts of the cartoon are true. In a small science museum in Borok, I found a jar containing a tarantula. The old scientist there (who had an abacus on his desk!) told me the story of the tarantulas of Green Island. I talked with old women who lost their villages and homes when the Volga was flooded and dammed in 1947. I saw the rooftops sticking out of the water. Each year the people of the area have Remembrance voyages to recall the old days of "Deep Russia!"

I hope you and your students enjoy this mission and will learn more about this amazing country.

*Kathy*

### **Answers:**

#### **Video Camera**

1. natural materials from the forest
2. It was dammed and flooded
3. Mother Russia
4. singing folk songs
5. They were covered by water.
6. a board from her door
7. Beluga Sturgeon
8. They can get together with scientists from all parts of the world and share information.

BONUS – Birch trees

#### **Field Guide**

1. pine cones and pine needles
2. 2
3. smell

#### **Experiments and Recipes**

1. 4
2. white bread, paper towel, plastic bag

#### **Radio**

1. Hysi's Millstone
2. Wee Little Havroshechka

#### **Compass**

1. 11
2. flat, treeless grasslands
3. huge forest with coniferous trees
4. cold desert