Many strong leaders influenced Russia's rise as a world power. Some ruled with an iron hand. Others guided the nation toward positive change. Along the way, Russian artists, writers, and composers created classic works that are still popular today.

Directions: Creating a Time Line Each person listed below played an important role in Russia's history. Write each name next to the number of the date that corresponds with the data on the time line.

- Ivan IV
- Czar Alexander II
- Leo Tolstoy
- Ivan the Great
- Mikhail Gorbachev
- Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky
- Peter the Great
- Vladimir Lenin
- Yuri Gagarin

1. Declared Moscovy's independence from Mongol rule
2. Harsh czar who expanded empire to Caspian Sea
3. Wrote War and Peace about Russian defense against Napoleon
4. Freed Russia's 40 million serfs
5. Built new capital of St. Petersburg
6. Wrote Swan Lake and The Nutcracker
7. His policies of perestroika and glasnost led to fall of Soviet Union
8. First person to fly in space
9. Set up communist state after overthrow of Czar Nicholas II