Assignment # 5: « Russian Largest Lakes »

Russia, with an area over 17 million km², is situated in the arctic, subarctic, temperate, and partially in the subtropical climatic belts of the northern part of Eurasia (Large Atlas of Russia, 2005). **Russia has over 2.8 million lakes of various origin, 98% of them are lakes with a surface area less than 1 km².** Lakes of Russia belong to the drainage basins of 12 seas and three oceans. **An overwhelming majority of lakes in Russia are freshwater lakes, but there occur *brackish, saline, and bitter–saline lakes* in the south of its European territory and in southern Siberia. Freshwater lakes contain a total of 26,500 km³ of water** (State Report, 2009). Many large lakes are regulated (Baikal, Onezhskoye, Imandra, Beloye, etc.). Russia partially contains the world's largest lake – the Caspian Sea (surface area 371,000 km², Kara-Bogaz-Gol Gulf excluded), the deepest lake – Baikal (1,741 m), and the largest lakes of Europe – Ladoga and Onego.

#1. Read about the largest lakes in Russia and look at their location on the map. Mark these lakes on your map and write their names in Russian.

Fill out the chart.

Russian name	English name	Size	Location

#2. Drag and drop the name of a lake next to the corresponding fact.

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Онежское озеро	Каспийское море	Белое озеро
озеро Байкал	озеро Чаны	озеро Убсу-Нур
Псковско-Чудское озеро	озеро Ханка	Ладожское озеро
озеро Таймыр		

The largest lake on the planet	
The deepest lake on the planet	
The largest lake in Europe	
The second largest lake in Europe	
The coldest lake in Russia	
The largest freshwater lake on the Far East	
The third in terms of volume lake in Europe	
An ancient salt lake	
The lake is the remnant of a large saline sea	
The lake has an almost ideal round shape	

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#3. 📽Watch the video about Каспийское море. Read the statements below and select all the correct facts about it. *(There are 9 correct facts)*

1. The Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland body of water.
2. The Caspian Sea is officially classified as either a lake or a sea by the United Nations.
3. It was once connected to the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea until around 11 million years ago.
4. The Caspian Sea has an average depth of 2,000 meters.
5. The name "Caspian" comes from an ancient people who lived in Transcaucasia.
6. The Caspian Sea is bordered by five countries across two continents.
7. The Caspian Sea is home to more than 5,000 plant species and 8,500 marine animals.
8. Beluga sturgeon, the world's largest freshwater fish, is found in the Caspian Sea.
9. Caviar from Caspian sturgeon can cost thousands of dollars per kilogram.
10. The Caspian Sea has always been a large, landlocked body of water.
11. There is an ongoing territorial dispute over the Caspian Sea's status and resources.
12. The Caspian Sea is connected to the global ocean through modern canals.
13. The Caspian Sea covers about 400,000 square kilometers.

#5. 📽Watch the video about озеро Байкал and do the test.

1. Where is Lake Baikal located?

A) Eastern Europe
B) Southeastern Siberia
C) Northern Mongolia
D) Central Kazakhstan

2. How does Lake Baikal rank in terms of surface area among the world's lakes?

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A) 3rd largest
B) 5th largest
C) 7th largest
D) 10th largest

3. What makes Lake Baikal's depth exceptional?

A) It's deeper than all oceans
B) It has no measurable depth
C) It reaches 1,642 meters at its deepest point
D) It's deeper than the Mariana Trench

4. What is the average depth of Lake Baikal?

A) 500 meters
B) 744 meters
C) 900 meters
D) 300 meters

5. How much sediment lies beneath Lake Baikal's floor?

A) 1 km
B) 3 km
C) 7 km
D) 10 km

6. How did Lake Baikal form?

A) By glacial retreat after the Ice Age
B) Through volcanic activity
C) As a result of a meteor strike
D) From tectonic rifting between plates

7. Approximately how old is Lake Baikal?

A) 10,000 years
B) 1 million years
C) 25–30 million years
D) 100 million years

8. Which two tectonic plates are slowly drifting apart to form the Baikal Rift?

A) North American and Pacific
B) Eurasian and Amur
C) Indian and Eurasian
D) Arabian and African

9. How much water does Lake Baikal contain?

A) About the same as Lake Michigan
B) Less than the Great Lakes combined
C) More than all North American lakes combined
D) The same as the Caspian Sea

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10. What makes Lake Baikal's oxygen levels unique?

A) It lacks oxygen at all depths
B) Oxygen decreases rapidly with depth
C) The oxygen is supplied by deep-sea vents
D) It is oxygenated even at great depths

11. What did Soviet scientists detect in Lake Baikal in the 1980s?

A) A massive underwater volcano
B) An alien structure
C) A moving object over 30 meters long
D) Radioactive materials

12. What is a local legend associated with Lake Baikal's depths?

A) That it connects to the Atlantic Ocean
B) That it contains a portal to the Netherworld
C) That gold coins rain from the sky
D) That it is a doorway to the North Pole

13. What is Lake Baikal's water quality known for?

A) High salinity
B) Murky and polluted
C) Exceptional clarity and purity
D) Naturally carbonated

14. Why is Lake Baikal considered a global scientific resource?

A) It contains radioactive rocks
B) It preserves fossils of dinosaurs
C) It reflects Earth's magnetic field
D) It holds a record of climate change over millions of years

15. What major recognition did Lake Baikal receive in 1996?

A) It became a protected military zone
B) It was declared the world's deepest sea
C) It was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
D) It was renamed by the Russian government

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