**THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

1. **Read and translate the text.**

The Russian Federation is the largest country in the world. It occupies about 1/7 (one-seventh) of the Earth surface. The country is situated in Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia. Its total area is over 17 million square kilometres.

The Russian Federation is washed by 12 seas of three oceans: the Arctic, the Atlantic and the Pacific. In the south and in the west the country borders on fourteen countries. It also has а sea-border with the USA.

There аге no countries in the world where such а great variety of flora and fauna сап bе found as in Russia. We have numerous forests, plains and steppes, taiga and tundra, highlands and deserts. The highest mountains in Russia аге the Altai, the Urals and the Caucasus. There аге over two thousand rivers in the Russian Federation. The longest of them are the Volga, the Оb, the Yenisei, the Lena and the Amur. Our country is also rich in beautiful lakes. The world’s deepest lake is Lake Baikal (1600 meters).

The territory of the Russian Federation is divided into 11 time zones. The climate conditions are rather different: from arctic and moderate to continental and subtropical. Our country is very rich in natural resources: oil, natural gas, coal, different ores, ferrous and non-ferrous metals and other minerals.

The Russian Federation is а multinational state. It comprises many national districts, several autonomous republics and regions. The population of the country is about 140 million people.

Moscow, the capital of Russian Federation, is the largest political, scientific, cultural and industrial center of the country and one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Russian is the official language of the state. The national symbols of the Russian Federation are а white-blue-red banner and а double-headed eagle.

The Russian Federation is а constitutional republic headed by the President. The country government consists of three branches: legislative, executive and judicial. The President controls only the executive branch of power - the government, but not the Supreme Court and Federal Assembly.

The legislative power belongs to the Federal Assembly comprising two chambers: the Council of Federation (upper Chamber) and the State Duma (lower Chamber). Each chamber is headed by the Speaker. The executive power belongs to the government (the Cabinet of Ministers) headed by the Prime Minister. The judicial power belongs to the system of Courts comprising the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court and federal courts. Our country has а multiparty system.

The foreign policy of the Russian Federation is that of international cooperation, peace and friendship with all nations irrespective of their political and social systems.

**2. Find English equivalents (see the text) and learn them by heart:**

1. самая большая страна в мире; 2) поверхность Земли; 3) её общая площадь; 4) она граничит с 14 странами; 5) морская граница с США; 6) большое разнообразие флоры и фауны; 7) многочисленные леса, равнины и степи, тайга и тундра, высокогорья и пустыни; 8) самые высокие горы в России; 9) более 2000 рек; 10) самое глубокое озеро в мире; 11) климатические условия; 12) очень богата природными ресурсами; 13) многонациональное государство; 14) крупнейший политический, научный, культурный и промышленный центр страны; 15) официальный язык государства; 16) конституционная республика, руководимая Президентом; 17) законодательная власть принадлежит Федеральному Собранию; 19) исполнительная власть принадлежит правительству; 20) судебная власть принадлежит системе Судов.