

Attachment B: Political Prisoners

Due Date: _____

Political Prisoners Escape from Siberian Labor Camp near Yakutsk

Moscow, Russia. Three political prisoners escaped from a forced labor camp on January 27, 1950. The prisoners are enemies of the state and must be captured. The two men and one woman were last seen near the town of Yakutsk. The Soviet government and the KGB are seeking leads that will enable them to capture the fugitives. If you see these prisoners, you must immediately contact the Soviet government and report their location.

Objectives

- The student will write a one-page paper explaining how the refugees mentioned in the newspaper article above might escape from the Soviet Union and seek asylum in another country. This paper may be in the form of a journal entry, letter, first person account, or newspaper article.
- The student will use correct facts about the region, correct place names, and correct relative directions.
- The student will use map-reading skills to complete basic research on the geography of the region.
- The student will evaluate the paper of a classmate and evaluate his or her own paper.

You have to plan very carefully in order to survive and be successful. Before you begin your plans, you must do some research. You might want to insert a symbol for the location of the mountains/forests and highlight the Arctic Circle. Using an atlas, answer the following questions:

- What physical feature is located at $66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N, 130° E? Would this be a problem or a possible solution?
- What natural vegetation is found in northeast Russia? Would the existence of this natural vegetation region influence the planning of your escape route?
- How many people might you find in that region who could help you get out of Russia or provide food and shelter?
- What is the average temperature in January?
- What transportation routes are available in the area?

- In which direction does the Lena River flow? Would this influence your escape route?
- Would an escaped fugitive from the Soviet Union in 1950 be welcome in all the countries that bordered the Soviet Union at that time?

Once you answer these questions, plan your escape route. Make sure you name the country to which you hope to immigrate. Keep in mind the scale of distances. How long do you think it would take you to get out of the Soviet Union? In your writing, make sure you use place names of the countries and/or regions along your escape route and use correct relative directions, for example, “I walked south toward the city of Novosibirsk for one month.”

Make sure you follow the rubric for the assignment (Attachment C).