Today’s lesson is broken down into three parts. Each part acts as a short review of a complete lesson on Russia that you received at the end of cycle 2.

Power Distribution in Czarist Russia
The Czar was the absolute ruler of Russia. He controlled the government, economy, military and religion of Russia. Russians thought they had no power and accepted the czar’s control for hundreds of years. Only those who served the government or the army could become nobles and improve their social standing. There were very few rich people who controlled all of Russia’s wealth. Meanwhile, the poor worked hard to support the rich lifestyle of the czar and his nobles.

Why might the Russian people have been unhappy living under the leadership of the Czar?

Protestors march on the Czar’s palace
On Sunday, January 22, 1905, 200,000 Russian workers, braving bitter cold and snow, marched on the Winter Palace of Czar Nicolas II in St. Petersburg. Led by a priest, they planned to give a list of complaints to the czar. They wanted:

- Freedom of speech and religion for all; security for everyone
- Public education for all
- Equality of all persons before the law
- An eight hour working day and normal working wages
- The right to vote in government

1905 Revolution: Bloody Sunday
Watch the video clip and answer the questions below:
1. How did the soldiers respond to the protestors?

October Manifesto – 1905
Bloody Sunday only led to more protests and violence. After repeated strikes, the murder of the governor General of Moscow at the Kremlin, the burning of many upper-class estates, Czar Nicholas II released a document known as the October Manifesto.

Call for a General Strike in Petrograd* (St. Petersburg), February 23, 1917
Nicholas II joined his army at the front. While away fighting the war, he left his wife and the Duma in charge. In his absence there were many strikes, riots, and general chaos.

Use the video clip to answer the questions below:
1. Why did the women come out onto the streets to protest?
2. How did the military (the Cossacks) react to the protestors at the end of the clip?
Provisional (temporary) Government

In 1917, the czar stepped down from power. For the first time in hundreds of years, the Russian people were not controlled by an absolute ruler. However, there was uncertainty as to who would rule Russia. Several groups competed for control of the country. The Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin competed with Duma politicians, led by Alexander Kerensky for control. Each group made different promises to the people of Russia:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alexander Kerensky’s Program</th>
<th>Vladimir Lenin’s Marxist ideas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Freeing prisoners who committed political and religious crimes, including terrorists</td>
<td>1. We will get our country out of World War I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Freedom of speech, freedom of press and freedom to form unions and strike</td>
<td>2. Power will be in the hands of the workers and the poorest peasants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. No discrimination based on family history or religion</td>
<td>3. No democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Continue fighting in WWI</td>
<td>5. The government will control the economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Peace, land and bread... in time</td>
<td>6. Peace, Bread, and Land... Now!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why did the Russian people follow Lenin instead of Kerensky?

Did Lenin create a better nation for the Russian people?  yes  no  (icate one)

Reason: ____________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

1. Lenin created a secret police force called the Cheka which executed anyone who went against him and the Bolsheviks. Thousands of people were executed.

Did Lenin create a better nation for the Russian people?  yes  no  (icate one)

Reason: ____________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

2. When Lenin found out that some people still supported the Czar he made the following order:
   1. Hang (publicly) at least 100 people
   2. Publish their names
   3. Seize all of their food

Did Lenin create a better nation for the Russian people?  yes  no  (icate one)

Reason: ____________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

3. In the night of July 16-17, 1918, a squad of Bolshevik secret police under the leadership of Lenin, murdered Russia’s last emperor, Tsar Nicholas II and his family.

Did Lenin create a better nation for the Russian people?  yes  no  (icate one)

Reason: ____________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

4. Policies of Lenin and the Bolsheviks
   • All land will be distributed to the peasants
   • All food on Russian farms will be taken and given to workers in the city
   • No freedom of the Press
   • End Russia’s participation in World War I but at the cost of losing a lot of territory.

Did Lenin create a better nation for the Russian people?  yes  no  (icate one)

Reason: ____________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

5. Lenin allowed small business owners to sell their goods for a small profit and then pay a tax to the government. This was known as Lenin’s New Economic Policy. This new policy greatly helped Russia’s economy.

Did Lenin create a better nation for the Russian people?  yes  no  (icate one)

Reason: ____________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

PART II