



Russian Winter

If you ask foreigner what season is associated with Russia then he'll more likely answer winter.



And that is explainable. In Russia it's the most cold part of the year.

**You'll ask if
Russians like
winter. Maybe it's
strange but many
people will answer
no. Russians get
tired of the
constant colds and
look forward for
summer. But winter
has its own
advantages too.**



By the way in spite of such attitude to winter it's usual for Russians to congratulate each other with the first snow. All people are pleased with the first snow. Usually it falls in November.





People wear warm clothes with colds coming. First these are jackets. Then caps, scarves and gloves are added to them. And Russians wear fur coats in strong colds.

Valenoks were worn to warm in the past. Valenoks are special shoes. They are now made in some countries. So if you are going to Russia in winter then don't forget to take with you more warm clothes or you'll have to sit at a hotel all the time or to buy something in Russia.



Winter for children is always like a holiday. It gives them an opportunity to play in snow. Besides if temperature falls lower than 30 degrees below zero then lessons at school are canceled. And frankly speaking this fact usually pleases children very much.

They get an extra day off. Besides it doesn't worry them to go for a walk on the street with friends. Parents usually worry that their child will get a cold and try to dress them warmer.





In fact not only children but also adults enjoy having fun in winter. There's an opportunity to go in for different sports. This time of the year the parks are full of people. Lots of them go skiing.

You'll also find a lot of open and close ice skating rinks. Here you can meet those who stand on the ice skates for the first time and also those who skate quiet well and can even do some tricks. And all that of course is accompanied with music. That makes ice skating even more pleasant thing. They play hockey on some ice skating rinks.

Sledge driving is a traditional Russian entertainment. In the past they were used as a kind of transport in countries. Although on the north they are still used in this way now they are no more than entertainment in most part of Russia. In winter you can meet walking mothers on the street with fathers pulling their children sitting on the sledges.

It is very popular to ride on sledges from hills. That is a thing which is ideal for Russian winter. How nice it is to drive from the hill at high speed! And how boring it is to pull the sledge back on the hill again and again. But they say in Russia: “If you like sledging then you must like carrying of the sledge”.





Also many people like making a snowwoman. Yes, exactly a snowwoman not a snowman like they do in other countries. But of course if you want it very much you can make a snegovik. Snegovik is already a man. Children like this entertainment very much. They try to make as big snowwoman as it is possible. Her hands are made from little branches.

Making a face of a snowwoman is really a creative process. First children look for something that will be her eyes, mouth and nose. The thriftiest take a carrot with them to use it as a nose for a snowwoman. Sometimes children are ready to lend their creature scarf and cap to make him even more beautiful.

Another entertainment is playing snowballs. Children adore playing snowballs. You'll understand how popular it is when you come to the street on a frosty and sunny day.

After lessons children run on the street and start playing. So be careful passing a school because a snowball can hit anyone. If you want you even can join in. Try it and you'll see that it's very fascinating.



Sometimes children divide into teams and built snow fortresses specially for playing snowballs. After the finish of playing they break them all together with much noise. That is always funny too.



Actually it's sometimes pleasant just to walk in winter. Go to a park and enjoy the beauty of dreaming nature. And when you get a pink blush on your cheeks then you may go home.

Look at the window. In Russia they say that frost draws on window glass. Really in winter Russian windows look like a work of art.



A portrait of our group

In my winter holidays I...

1. skate	
2. ski	
3. watch TV till midnight	
4. play snowballs	
5. make snowman	
6. go for a walk in the park (forest)	
7. read books	
8. play computer games	
9. visit my friends and relatives	
10. communicate with friends using Internet	
11. sleep till afternoon	
12. ride on sledges	