**"Достопримечательности России и Англии: сходства и отличия"**

Не секрет, что современные дети прагматичны. Они хотят заниматься только тем, что принесет им в будущем конкретную пользу, все остальное кажется им лишним.

Современных детей западные социологи называют digitalnatives. На русский язык этот термин обычно переводят как цифровые уроженцы или пионеры цифрового мира. Они не знают жизни без компьютера, Интернета, мобильного телефона.

Скучно, нудно, неинтересно – такой диагноз ставится традиционной системе образования. Как следствие – отсутствие мотивации к изучению иностранного языка и переключение внимания на альтернативные формы времяпровождения: социальные сети, компьютерные игры и подростковые сериалы.

Однако, как соединить прагматичность и духовность? Ответ один -дать подростку поиграть. Учебные игры-диалоги создают более высокую возможность переноса знаний и опыта из учебной деятельности - в реальную.

**Актуальность темы**: актуальность настоящей работы обусловлена, с одной стороны, большим интересом к страноведческому материалу при изучении английского языка, с другой стороны, его недостаточной разработанностью.

Актуальность и перспективность данной темы очевидна в многополярном мире, в котором уважительное отношение к другой культуре должно пропагандироваться и оказывать положительное влияние на формирование нравственных ценностей и мировоззрения подрастающего поколения в современном обществе.

**Цели исследования**: Познакомиться с достопримечательностями Англии и проанализировать сходства и отличия архитектурных памятников России и Англии.

**Задачи:**

1. Рассказать о достопримечательностях России и Англии в виде экскурсии, диалога-расспроса;

2. Сравнить архитектурные памятники России и Англии в виде обмена мнениями;

3. Обобщить результаты исследования;

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1. Introduction

Russia… the largest country in the world is located in the north of Eurasia covering 11 time zones. It is a country of contrasts, from great subtropical beaches to bitterly cold winter regions in the north. The east may have fewer people, but its lovely cities are among the most interesting in Russia. Russia is steeped in history everywhere a traveler goes, from vicious battles to great classical music and literature. Russia remains a fascinating country to visit.

Once Churchill said, “Russia is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma”. So let's try to figure it out, let's start… with Kaliningrad.

2. Chapter 1 Waldau Castle - the Tower of London

Good morning, my dear tourists. I’m … your guide for today and it’s my pleasure to be of service to you. There are some rules and regulations. First, eating foods is strictly prohibited during the excursion. Second, you have to follow the route given to you and always stay with the group. And if you have any additional questions or require further clarification, please, don’t hesitate to call my attention. Is that clear? Great!

Today we're going to take a look at Kaliningrad. Not too many foreigners ever heard of this city but its location is pretty unique. What's Russia doing in this part of the world you might wonder? Well, this region was transferred to Russia at the end of World War II. The Kaliningrad city had the name of Koenigsberg and it had a very long history. It started as an old Prussian settlement founded by Teutonic knights.

Let's go for a walk and look around. The new city center is around the Victory square. It's a busy part of town with cafes and fountains. Walking on Leninski Avenue might seem that you're in the historical part of the city with all those gingerbread houses. Kaliningrad is a green city with many parks and lawns. You say the air quality here is much better than in the rest of Russia

If you want to take a break from the city just go for a walk. Around the city you can find twelve forts. Some of them are best preserved ones and they all parade as museums now. We are going to visit one of them.

Well, now we are 15 kilometers from Kaliningrad in the village of Nizovye. In front of you can see the 13th century castle – Waldau, which has the status of a cultural heritage site. There are openwork windows, walls 2 meters thick and a medieval basement, in which a couple of ghosts are likely to languish.

The name of the castle comes from the Slavic"Valdati," that is, "own", and the first owners of it in the middle of the 13th century were Prussian princes.

In the 15th century the fortress was rebuilt into a castle, and its status increased. Valdau became the summer residence of the Master of the Order. The castle is also famous for accepting Peter the Great in 1697.

Let’s go inside. … We got to Donjon. Donjon is a tower, where on the ground floor there were no windows, no doors, absolutely nothing, but was used, well, as a storage room. The second floor is more interesting. There are six to eight loopholes, one huge entrance and 10 to 40 guards. The second floor, it ... Or rather the third floor, it is even more interesting. This is an attic. The richest, most influential and, in fact, the people who owned this castle lived there.

And what about an ancient castle without mystical stories? Locals assure that Waldau has its own owners, invisible to the eye. And while you are inside they are looking at you. To say that I feel uneasy is to say nothing.

Now neither princes nor rich people live in Waldau. The usual Russian family is the keeper and in a way the Guard of the castle. However, in practice they act as tour guides and answer tourists’ numerous questions.

Nowadays it’s a museum. The museum was founded by Andrei Ivanovich Barinov, he worked with his family to create the museum's collection.

Waldau Castle is one of the few perfectly preserved western European medieval castles in Russia and a remarkable symbol of Kaliningrad. Well, that is all for Waldau Castle. I'll see you soon, thanks for joining me.

**Oh …., it was a marvelous trip. I’m full of unforgettable impressions. Just fancy! The very first thought that came to my mind while the guide was telling us about the castle was that probably there are some similarities as well as specific differences between Waldau Castle and the Tower.**

**The Tower likewise is the best preserved castles in Europe. Imagine! The age of the castle is “venerable”, it is over 900 years old! The Tower Castle, together with Tower Bridge, has been an unshakable symbol of London for centuries.**

**In contrast to Waldau Castle, The guards at the Tower of London are retired from the British Armed Forces and must be former warrant officers with at least 22 years of service. They must also hold the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. They’re called Yeoman Warders, popularly known as the Beefeaters. They have also conducted guided tours of the Tower since the Victorian era. They are also a tourist attraction themselves. In principle, they are responsible for looking after any prisoners in the Tower and safeguarding the British Crown jewels.**

**The fact that from the day of its foundation the Tower was a state prison brought him an ominous fame, the first prisoner was imprisoned in the fortress in 1190. Among famous prisoners in the fortress were King James I of Scotland, John II, King of France and the French Prince Charles of Orleans, Henry VI. Three English queens were executed on the territory of the Tower.**

**The Tower with its history is considered to be the leader in the number of ghosts living in it as well as in Waldau Castle. It is full of ghosts of kings and queens with its tragedies and bloody executions.**

**They say that the ghost of King George II often looks out of the windows, watching the weather vane. The beheaded Anne Boleyn often walks in the park of the fortress, the ghosts of children, the murdered twelve-year-old King Edward V with his nine-year-old brother Richard, were also seen here.**

**Famous at least Black ravens that are residents at the Tower of London are not only the main legend, but also the real symbols of the castle. It’s a well-known fact that the black raven was the herald of terrible punishment, he invariably appeared to those who were doomed, this happened until the Tower became just a museum. Both The Tower and Waldau Castle are some of the world's most-visited castles.**

Chapter 3. The Winter Palace - Buckingham Palace

St. Petersburg … There is no better place to see one than St. Petersburg. With a wealth of extravagant palaces, breathtaking cathedrals and magnificent gardens, St Petersburg is, without exaggeration, truly Russia’s Imperial city. Its grandiose architecture and picturesque canals were born from the glittering ambition of Peter the Great early in the 18th century, and progressively gilded by generations of Russian royalty. Discover St Petersburg and you will see it is phenomenal. Like Alice in the Wonderland, you will find there is even more to see in Saint Petersburg than you have ever dreamed about.

Liza is a British actress who has just come back from Russia where she visited her friend in St. Petersburg. She stayed there for two weeks. She visited a lot of interesting places in this city. We have decided to interview her.

-Hi, Liza! Nice to meet you! Do you like Russia? Do you feel comfortable there?

-Hi, oh, yes. I'm just blown away by the splendor and beauty of the city. It was my first visit. I think that it's a great country. I like the climate and people there.

-How do you find St. Petersburg?

-Oh! St. Petersburg is one of the most beautiful cities in Russia and in the world. North Venice is famous for its drawbridges |ˈdrɔːbrɪdʒɪz| and white nights. I adore St. Pete, it reminds me of Paris and Rome. But it is not like London at all. I visited a great number of sights and the place which toughed my heart most of all was The Winter Palace. I was interested in its architecture a lot when I was a child.

-Really? What do you know about the palace?

-Situated on the banks of the Neva River the magnificent green white and gold Winter Palace is one of the most famous and attractive places in St. Petersburg. This 200meter long building once the official residence of the czars is the biggest and most lavishly decorated palace in the city. Catherine the Great later added the small and large Hermitage's onto the palace for her private art collection.

-What is it like?

- To begin with, the palace’s original appearance has survived to the present day and has gone down in history as one of greatest masterpieces. The current building was constructed by the Russian architect of Italian origin Bartolomeo Francesco Rastrelli in the style of lush Elizabethan baroque with elements of French rococo in the interiors. The Winter Palace became the tallest residential building in St. Petersburg. To maintain this advantage, in 1844, Emperor Nicholas I even issued a decree prohibiting the construction of buildings higher than the Winter Palace. By the way, the building of the palace was built in 1762.

- Unbelievable! It's practically the same time when our Buckingham Palace was built. As I know it was built in 1703. And tell me, please, the difference between these two palaces.

-The Winter Palace consists of four large blocks. Together they contain more than a thousand halls and rooms. There are 117 staircases, 1945 windows and 1786 doors and principal facade of this palace is twice as long as Buckingham Palace's one.

Leading: Incredible! I have heard that Buckingham House has 775 rooms, lush gardens, and historic sculptures. Are there any similarities between the two of them?

Liza: Certainly! I think that these palaces have much in common. They are both impressive. My friend told me that the Winter Palace was the official residence of the ill-fated Russian royal family. Now it is a part of the Hermitage Museum.

Leading: Would you believe that it reminded me the information about Buckingham Palace? Queen Victoria made it the pearl of the capital. After her death it remained to be the central residence of the English monarchs. The palace has a huge picture-gallery which is the size of two tennis courts.

Liza: You see there are a lot of places which I want to visit in Russia, so I'm planning to come to St.Petersburg again.

Leading: Thank you for this interview. It was very useful to get this information.

Chapter 3. Altai Stonehenge - Stonehenge

Altai… One of Russia's most mysterious areas is a valley in Altai, where in 1987 archaeologists discovered the remains of an ancient settlement which they were able to date back to between the 17th and 20th centuries BC.

Welcome to “Prehistoric journeys”. Today’s programme is about one of the most astonishing discoveries in archaeology in a century. Our guest, an archaeologist Richard Roberts, is one of the lucky participants of the research team, has agreed to answer my questions about this impressive discovery. Welcome to the programme, Richard.

Hello, it’s a pleasure to be here.  
**Presenter:** Could you tell us then, what exactly was found on the expedition?

Well, as it is mentioned, we have discovered Stonehenge in Altai. Unfortunately, much of the original structures of this megalithic site known as Arkaim no longer exist, but scientists have mapped out its original design, which includes massive circular walls similar to Stonehenge. So Arkaim has been described as Russia's Stonehenge. Now, this is quite intriguing because it's very similar to Stonehenge.

**Pr: That’s really fascinating!** So could it have been put there for astronomical purposes?

From what we can tell, yes, it could. It seems that Arkaim at some point was some type of observatory, which I think is incredibly fascinating. It means that our ancestors were interested in the stars. The four largest stones - megaliths - are located in such a way that they are a kind of "gateway" for the Sun during sunset and sunrise. Besides, the way the city was built, it was a circular structure. It had a very interesting central square. Basically, it was an interior circle surrounded by a circle, which to many means a depiction of the universe in a very miniaturized way.

**Pr:** **Incredibly! As far as I know, among the ruins was an ancient statue of a man looking up to the sky, wasn’t it?**

**Yes, it was.**

**Pr: Adding to the mystery are reports of strange anomalies in the region that continue to this day. Why have the strange lights, the weird fog, the magnetic anomalies happened to people there?**

**Well, it appears that this is some sort of energy point on the Earth that was actually used by extraterrestrials when this was constructed. If you actually look at the shape of Arkaim, it could have been the platform for a spacecraft to launch off from.**

**Pr:** **And my last question for today’s programme: Could you tell us which conclusion researchers have come to comparing Alatai and Stonehenge?**

**In fact, comparing Alatay and Stonehenge, researchers come to the conclusion that both of them are near-horizon observatories that copy each other with amazing accuracy. The radius of the ring of holes of Stonehenge up to a centimeter is equal to the radius of the inner ring of Stonehenge in Altai. In addition, the Altai version and Stonehenge are located at the same geographical latitude and both are in the middle of a bowl-shaped valley with a relief horizon. These similarities are truly striking and open up new possibilities for research.**

**Pr: I think our interview is coming to its end and I want to thank you for taking part in it. It was very interesting to listen to you and I am sure the listeners have enjoyed it too.**

**I was glad to take part in the programme, thank you for invitation. Good bye.**

Chapter 4. Spasskaya Tower - Big Ben

Moscow … There are things to do and what to see in Moscow, and every year the list of the most interesting places in the capital only grows. Here is a conversation between two friends.

* Hello Christy! How is it going?
* Great! Thank you.
* Is it your first time in Moscow?
* Yes, it is. I’m so excited about coming here! But unfortunately, I don’t have much time.
* It’s a pity. There are so many sights that you cannot possibly see everything Moscow has to offer if you are just on a short visit to the capital. Therefore I can help you find a list of what, in my opinion, are Moscow's essential sights. So what are you going to do while you are here?
* Well, I don’t know almost anything about Moscow. Just the All-Russia Exhibition Centre at VDNKh and probably the State Tretyakov Gallery.
* What shall we start with?
* I’d like to see the Spasskaya Tower. As I have heard it is very similar to Big Ben. I’d like to see the Tower with my own eyes.
* The Spasskaya Tower is just awesome. You have to see it.
* It sounds great.
* I can show you around the city then. Moscow downtown is fascinating. I love touring its broad and narrow streets.
* You mean like having a City Tour?
* Yes, I’ll be your guide for today. What do you say?
* I think that’s a good idea. I still haven’t seen even a tiny part of this city since I’m here. We need to hurry.
* The Spasskaya Tower is not only one of the most famous symbols of Moscow. It has been many things over the years, including a mini-fortress, a holy gate, and even a prison.

Built in 1491 by Italian architect Pietro Antonio Solari, the Spasskaya tower has historically been considered the main tower of the Moscow Kremlin. Its gates were considered holy by the public and, in tsarist days, Russians believed the tower had miraculous powers and anyone passing through the gates had to remove their hats to show their respect. It was the main entrance for the royal and diplomatic processions. What is more, like other towers, the Spasskaya Tower was built as part of the Kremlin’s defensive system. If the enemy penetrated the walls, the massive iron doors of the tower would trap the invaders inside it. If the enemy invaded the massive walls and iron doors of the tower would trap them inside it.

The Spasskaya Tower is the tallest and most striking tower in the Kremlin in Moscow. Its enormous clock marks the official time of the city. The clock face has a diameter of 6 meters. The rim numerals and clock hands are all gold-plated a total of 28 kilograms of gold is needed just to coat them.

* It looks so impressive!
* It does!
* There are not many similarities between Big Ben and the Spasskaya Towers but there are some the most obvious. Firstly, both towers have watch faces whose diameters are approximately equal. Secondly, as far as I know both of the towers survived the Second World War and were not completely destroyed.
* Yeah, good for you, Christy. You are a great master of Russian history! But do you know that the Spasskaya Tower and its clock are not only the symbols of the Kremlin, but also of New Year’s celebrations. New Year for Russians starts with the ringing of the Kremlin clock chimes.
* Certainly, I do. The same tradition is connected with Big Ben. As Big Ben strikes midnight, the nation comes together to welcome in the New Year.
* We’ve been walking for hours. It’s really beautiful here, but don’t you think we should be getting back? Thank you for showing me around. I would have known nothing about the Spasskaya Tower without you.
* You’re welcome. And it’s just a tiny part of sights that can be seen in Moscow. Bye-bye!

Conclusion

Though there has been much debate on the subject, it is clear that there are more similarities than differences in the architecture of Russia and England. This is made evident by the fact that the British trace is everywhere in Russia, even in Moscow in the famous image of the Spasskaya Tower, which was constructed with the participation of a British architect. Additionally, just in the center of London at 61 St James's Street there is a magnificent landmark. In 1933, this house was built by the architect and artist of Scottish-Russian origin WilliamWalcot.

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