



Holidays in Russia

There are many national holidays in Russia, when people all over the country do not work and have special celebrations.

The major holidays are: New Year's Day, Women's Day, May Day, Victory Day, and Independence Day



New Year's Day

The first holiday of the year is New Year's Day. People see the new year in at midnight on the 31st of December. They greet the new year with champagne and listen to the Kremlin chimes beating 12 o'clock.



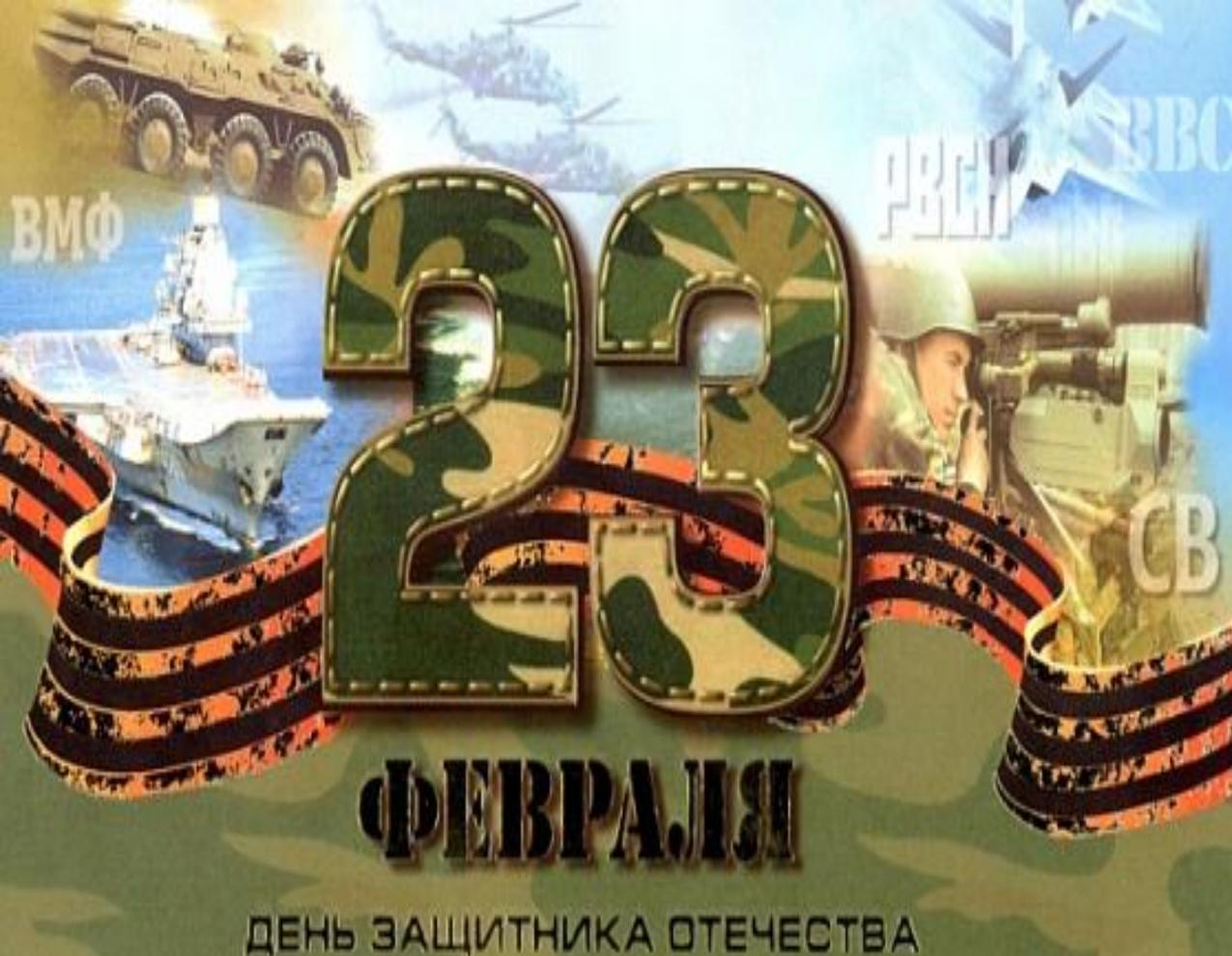
Father Frost and Snowmaiden

Children always wait for Father Frost and Snowmaiden to come and give them a present.



There are lots of New Year traditions in Russia. In every home there is a New Year tree glittering with coloured lights and decorations. Many people consider New Year's Day to be a family holiday. But the young prefer to have New Year parties of their own.





Non-official "Men's Day" is the 23d of February, it is a public holiday called "The Homeland Defenders Day". All men in Russia are liable for call-up (including reservists), so they all are celebrities. On this day women usually give men small gifts.

On the 8th of March we celebrate Women's Day when men are supposed to do everything about the house and cook all the meals.



This is pretty nice — at least once a year women can take a break and forget about all those dishes, cooking, kids, take a magazine and relax on a couch.

Shrovetide, or Maslenitsa, takes place in early March. The history of the holiday goes back to ancient times. Maslenitsa is the way Russian people celebrate the end of winter and the beginning of spring. The traditional food for Maslenitsa is pancakes.



Масленица

Day of Laughter

The 1st April. Day of laughter or Fool's Day. Fool's Day is different for its fun and jokes. In schools and educational institutions, extra-curricular activities, games of KVN are held by the Day of Laughter. Many people wish each other more smiles and joy on this day!



Cosmonaut's Day celebrates Russia's achievement of sending men into space.

The 12 th of April is the day when the first man flew into space, it was a great event for our country and for the whole world.

Day of Labour

The 1st of May is the Day of Labour.

During Soviet time there were huge demonstrations on this day, as everybody was obliged to show his loyalty to the state; now only communists organize meetings on this date.



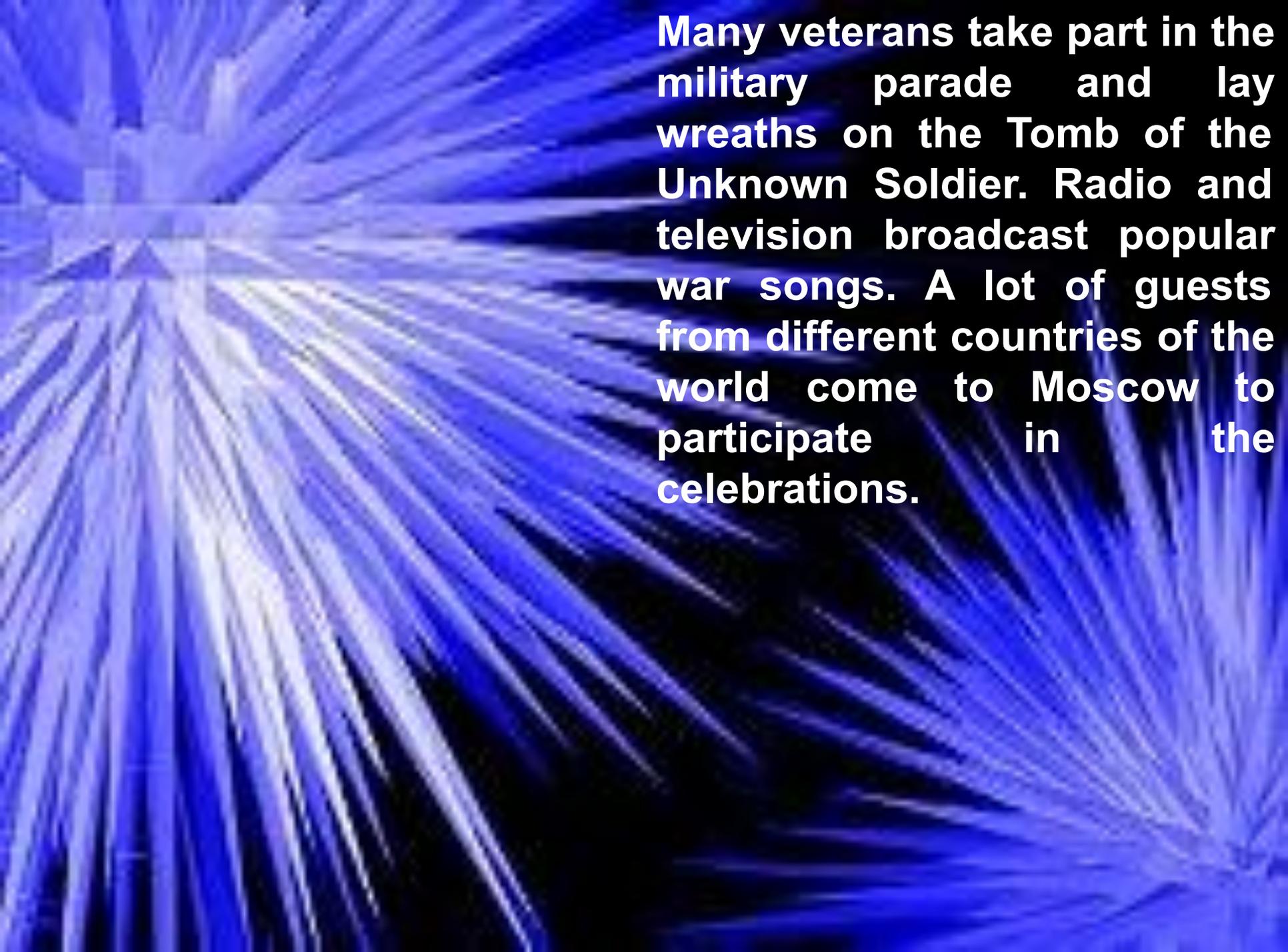


Victory Day

The greatest national holiday in our country is Victory Day.

On the 9th of May, 1945, the Soviet Army and its allies completely defeated the German fascists and the Second World War and the Great Patriotic War ended.

A magnificent memorial on Poklonnaya Gora has been built to commemorate the Victory.



Many veterans take part in the military parade and lay wreaths on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Radio and television broadcast popular war songs. A lot of guests from different countries of the world come to Moscow to participate in the celebrations.

**12th
June**

**Independence
Day**

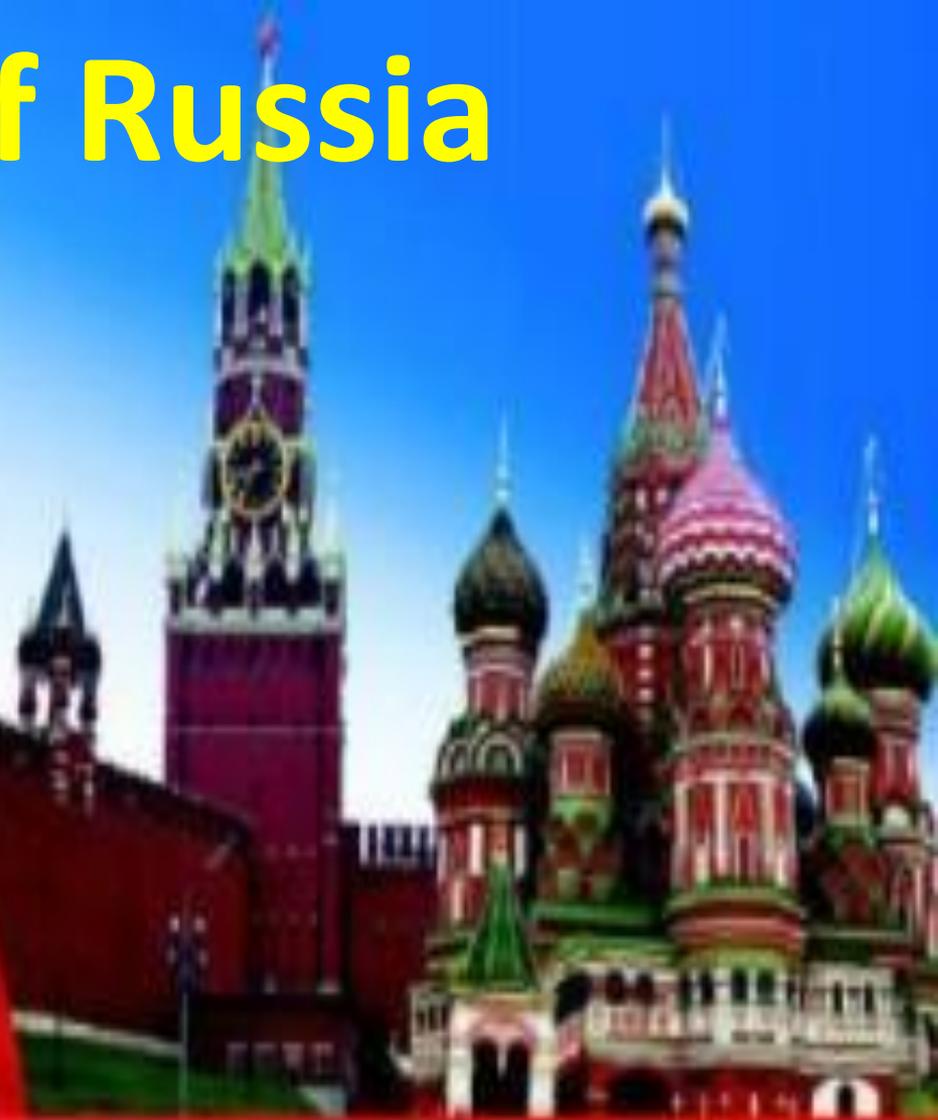
The Day of Russia

The Day of Russia (until 2002 - the Day of the adoption of the Declaration of State Sovereignty of the RSFSR) — June 12 is a public holiday of the Russian Federation. Celebrated annually since 1992 [1] (non-working day since 1991) on the day of the adoption of the Declaration of State Sovereignty of the RSFSR (adopted on June 12, 1990).



12
ИЮНЯ

ДЕНЬ РОССИИ



Easter

We also celebrate Easter. Easter in Russia is celebrated on a different date each year, just like in the West. Russians consider Easter an even bigger holiday than Christmas.



Day of Knowledge

The 1st of September is the **Day of Knowledge** — it's the beginning of a school year.

Children go to schools with flowers for teachers, there are meetings before the classes start.



Teacher's Day

Teacher's Day in Russia is celebrated annually on October 5th. The date coincides with World Teacher's Day. The holiday is celebrated by employees of all educational institutions.



November 4 - the day of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God - since 2005 is celebrated as the Day of National Unity.

This holiday was established in honor of an important event in the history of Russia - the liberation of Moscow from the Polish invaders in 1612

On November 4, 1612, soldiers led by Kuzma Minin and Dmitry Pozharsky stormed China Town, freeing Moscow from Polish interventionists and demonstrating a model of heroism and cohesion of the entire people regardless of their origin, religion or position in society.

**С ДНЕМ
НАРОДНОГО
ЕДИНСТВА!**

The Day of National Unity



The Constitution Day.

12
ДЕКАБРЯ



The 12th of December — the Constitution Day. This day the first Constitution of the Russian Federation was adopted in 1993 (previous Constitutions were all Soviet Unions).

День Конституции
Российской Федерации

Celebrations

Russians love to celebrate.

We adopted the Western holidays such as St. Valentine, and Halloween. We also appreciate Chinese New Year, Muslim and Jewish holidays, as Russians are very tolerant to other religions.

We also celebrate lots of professional holidays which are not public holidays. **We love to celebrate holidays!**