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Спецкурс по регионоведению „ЧУКОТСКИЙ АВТОНОМНЫЙ ОКРУГ“

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фото И. Головасова

Unit 1. General information

Warm-up

1. What do you know about Chukotka?
2. Where is it situated?
3. Read the following sentence and say if you agree with it or not: “Chukotka is not the edge of the land, it is only its beginning”.

Reading

Chukotka autonomous okrug or Chukotka, is a federal subject of Russia (an autonomous okrug) located in the Russian Far East. The word “Chukotka” was formed from the Russian name of an ancient tribe, “Chukchi” (they call themselves “Lyg’oravetlan”). The word “Chukchi”, is derived from “Chauchi”, that is “rich with reindeers”. Thus, the name “Chukotka” itself is full of content and means “an area inhabited by reindeer people, Chukchi”.

Chukotka is the closest Russian territory to Alaska. It covers 737,700 square kilometres and it is the sixth largest area in Russia. Chukotka is bordered in the north by the Chukchi Sea and the East Siberian Sea, which are part of the Arctic Ocean; in the east by the Bering Strait and the Bering Sea, part of the Pacific Ocean; in the south by Kamchatka Krai and Magadan Oblast; and in the west by the Sakha Republic. The Chukchi Peninsula projects eastward forming the Bering Strait between Russia and Alaska, and encloses the north side of the Gulf of Anadyr. The peninsula’s eastern-most point, Cape Dezhnev, is also the easternmost point of mainland Russia.

Chukotka autonomous okrug is administratively divided into the following districts: Bilibinsky District (Bilibino), Chaunsky District (Pevek), Iultinsky District (Egvekinot), Chukotsky District (Lavrentiya), Providensky District (Provideniya), Anadyrsky District (Ugolnye Copy). The administrative center is Anadyr.

There are no roads there. There are no railways. The plane is the single opportunity to overcome 6400 kilometres from Moscow to Anadyr. Such remoteness of Chukotka makes its people stand side-by-side in order to hold out against the difficulties of nature. And it is Chukotka that is always in the centre of the talks of those who have ever been there.



reindeer — северный олень
to project — простирается



The Districts of Chukotka

• **Tick the statements as true or false.**

	True	False
Chukotka is a federal subject of Russia located in the Far West.		
The word „Chukotka“ was formed from the Russian name of an ancient tribe.		
Chukotka is the closest Russian territory to Alaska.		
Chukotka is administratively divided into 7 districts.		

• **Answer the following questions:**

1. What is Chukotka autonomous okrug?
2. What does the word “Chukotka” mean?
3. Is Chukotka the sixth largest territory of Russia?
4. How is the easternmost point of mainland Russia called?
5. What is the administrative center of Chukotka?

• **Role-play**

Imagine the English-speaking tourists are asking you about Chukotka. What can you tell them about it? Answer their questions.

• **Writing**

Draw the map of Chukotka. Mark the districts and the seas Chukotka is washed by.

SYMBOLS OF CHUKOTKA

• **Warm-up**

1. Look at the coat of arms. Name the symbols of Chukotka.
2. Try to guess the meaning of these symbols.

• **Reading**

Polar bear is a traditional symbol of Chukotka. Yellow colour is a symbol of gold, the main wealth of Chukotka. Red star is a symbol of the North Star. Violet colour of the shield stands for the long polar night. Blue colour of the circle signifies the boundless territories of the Arctic and the Pacific Oceans by which Chukotka is washed. Red colour means the specific location of the okrug which occupies the easternmost territory of Russia. The rays of the arms represent a symbol of the Northern Lights. They are 89 in number.

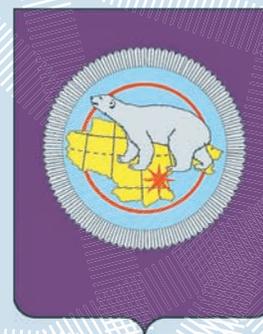
The flag of Chukotka autonomous okrug is the official symbol of Chukotka autonomous okrug as a subject of the Russian Federation. The Flag of the Autonomous Region represents a square cloth of blue color with a white triangle, of which the base faces the pole and the corner is pointed at the center of the cloth. In the center of the white triangle locates the symbol of the State Flag of the Russian Federation in a yellow ring.

• **Answer the following questions:**

1. What symbols of Chukotka do you know?
2. Polar bear is a traditional symbol of Chukotka, isn't it?
3. What does yellow colour of the coat of arms mean?
4. What does the red star of the coat of arms mean?

• **Writing**

Try to make your own coat of arms of Chukotka. Explain the meaning of the symbols you have used.



wealth — богатство
to signify — символизировать
boundless — безграничный
the Northern Lights — северное сияние



Unit 2. Climate

☉ Warm-up

1. Where do you live? Have you ever lived anywhere else?
2. What do you know about the climate of the Arctic North?

☉ Reading

Chukotka's climate is very rigorous. The locals joke that the weather in Chukotka is bad for one month, very bad for two months and nasty for the remaining nine. The winter air temperature in the western continental parts of Chukotka quite often drops down to -44°C or -60°C . The eastern

districts are characterized by particularly strong winds and snow storms, which sometimes last for many days. The summer is very short, rainy and cold here, in some parts snow does not even thaw.

Permafrost covers the entire area and lies very close to the surface. Chukotka's climate features are defined by its location in the northeastern extremity of Eurasia, an area influenced by two oceans with a complex atmospheric circulation, which has considerably different patterns for warm and cold seasons.

In the winter Chukotka atmosphere is covered by a high pressure area colliding with European and Asian front cyclones, Arctic anticyclones and southern cyclones. This causes abrupt weather changes over short time intervals, i.e. freezing weather with moderate to strong northern winds would suddenly turn into damp and relatively warm weather with a heavy snowfall or a snow storm.

In the summer low-pressure areas dominate in the relatively heated atmosphere while anticyclones cover the Pacific Ocean and the European and Asian front cyclones and the cold Arctic air masses prevail on the Arctic Ocean. The circulation among them is the reason of similar weather changes: warm weather becomes chilly, sometimes accompanied by rime. Snowfall may start in any summer month.

The winds of the north points change into southern winds at an average wind speed of 5 to 12 m/s with wind gusts reaching 40 m/s. Single wind gusts up to 50–60 m/s are registered almost every year.

The average annual air temperature is way below zero all over Chukotka, ranging from -4.1°C (Cape Navarin) to -14°C on the East Siberian Sea coast (Raucha).

And, in fact, Chukotka holds a lot of climatic records, e.g. the lowest radioactive balance for these latitudes, the maximum sunless days (Wrangel Island), the shortest day-period (northeastern coast), the highest average annual wind speed and frequency of storms and hurricanes in Russia (Cape Navarin).

Harsh climate of Chukotka has a tangible impact on the life of its population. In the winter weather accounts for 10 to 15 days off; as for the Arctic and the



rigorous — суровый
permafrost — вечная мерзлота
atmospheric circulation — циркуляция воздуха
wind gust — порыв ветра
tangible — осязаемый
rime — изморозь
to prevail — преобладать
chilly — прохладный



Bering Sea coasts, the weather-inflicted days off may exceed one month in general.

Sometimes you can observe the natural phenomenon, which is called the Northern Lights. It is a captivating sight.

People say about relentless frost and storms from the Arctic and the Pacific Oceans in winter with the same emotions like about its majestic and monumental beauty. It is really cold and splendid here. You can spend some winter time in Chukotka Arctic and then realize all the beauty of our spring summer. And the most picturesque bays of the Chukchi Peninsula make of you the real discoverer.



The Northern Lights

• **Translate from Russian into English:**

суровый климат, местные жители, снежная буря, вечная мерзлота, циклон, антициклон, снегопад, арктические воздушные массы, дуть порывами, дни без солнца

• **Complete the sentences using the words from the box:**

the Northern Lights, permafrost, rigorous, snowfall, tangible, harsh, wind gust



1. Chukotka's climate is very...
2. ...covers the entire area.
3. Single ... up to 50–60 m/s are registered almost every year.
4. ...may start in any summer month.
5. ...climate of Chukotka has a ... impact on the life of its population.
6. ...is a captivating sight.

• **Answer the following questions:**

1. How can you characterize the climate of Chukotka?
2. What do the locals say about Chukotka's climate?
3. What can you tell about summer in Chukotka?
4. What specific features of Chukotka's climate do you know?

• **Give it a name:**

1. the weather conditions prevailing in an area —
2. strong wind with snow —
3. a thick layer of soil that remains frozen throughout the year —
4. an atmospheric phenomenon consisting of streamers of light usually green, red, or yellow, that move across the sky in polar region —
5. a brief, strong rush of wind —

◎ **Speaking**

• **Work in pairs or groups:**

- A: Your friend considers Chukotka to be a very unpleasant place to live.
B: Try to persuade him that it isn't true.

◎ **Writing**

Imagine you are asked to create an advertisement of Chukotka for some travel agency. What would you write in it? Make the advertisement using the words from the text.



Unit 3. Landscape



The Anadyr Sopki

glacier — ледник
ridge — горный хребет
willow — ива
aspen — осина
coniferous — хвойный
transparent — прозрачный
petroglyph — петроглиф,
 наскальное изображение



The Omolon River



Lake Krasnoye

☉ Warm-up

1. What do you know about the landscape of Chukotka?
2. Would you like to see the beauty of Chukotka's rivers and lakes?

☉ Reading

When one flies by plane to Chukotka he can see the mountain tops, winding rivers and desert plains. But the landscape is not the same everywhere. There are uplands with ridges, glaciers in the western part of the region. And there so-called sopki (rounded mountain tops in the east) which create the unique landscape of Chukotka Peninsula. Tundra on the east replaces the northern arctic desert. It is stony and swampy, with willows and low aspens. In the central lowlands there are coniferous and mixed forests. Chukotka is famous for its transparent and clean water in lakes and rivers. One can drink it everywhere.

Ecologically, Chukotka can be divided into three distinct areas: the northern Arctic desert, the central tundra, and the taiga in the south. About half of its area is above the Arctic Circle. This area is very mountainous, containing the Chukotsky Mountains and the Anadyr Range.

Chukotka's rivers spring from its northern and central mountains. The major rivers are: the Anadyr River (1117 km, with tributaries Belaya, Tanyurer, and Velikaya Rivers), flowing east to the Gulf of Anadyr, Rauchua, Chaun, Palyavaam, Pegtymel, Chegitun and Amguyema Rivers that flow north into the arctic seas.

The largest lakes are Lake Krasnoye (600 square km), west of Anadyr, and El'gygytgyn Lake in central Chukotka.

El'gygytgyn Lake is the deepest lake in Chukotka (169 m). Its location is in the riverhead of the Anadyr River. This is also a kind of geological monument because the lake has a regular round shape. Its surface is like a mirror which fills the ancient volcano crater or meteorite crater. There are only three lakes with similar features in the world.

Today we can see the same scenery the way it was first seen by the Russian pioneers: simple contours of the coasts and mountains, straight valleys as if cut out with a chisel, free open spaces of lowlands as if flowing into endless seas.

There is the world northernmost collection of rock carvings in arctic Chukotka. And they are called Pegtymel petroglyphs. The reindeer, sea mammal and bear hunting scenes can be seen on the paintings. There are different animals and birds, inconceivable people-amanita. Nobody knows if they are spirits or shamans. The petroglyphs length is about several kilometres along the Pegtymel River.

• Find Russian equivalents to the following expressions:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. winding river | a) уникальный пейзаж |
| 2. desert plain | b) горный хребет |
| 3. unique landscape | c) пустынная равнина |
| 4. mixed forest | d) извилистая река |
| 5. coniferous forest | e) бескрайнее море |
| 6. endless sea | f) геологический памятник |
| 7. ridge | g) хвойный лес |
| 8. geological monument | h) смешанный лес |



Lake El'gygytgyn

• Group the names into this table:

mountains	rivers	lakes

• Speaking

• Answer the following questions:

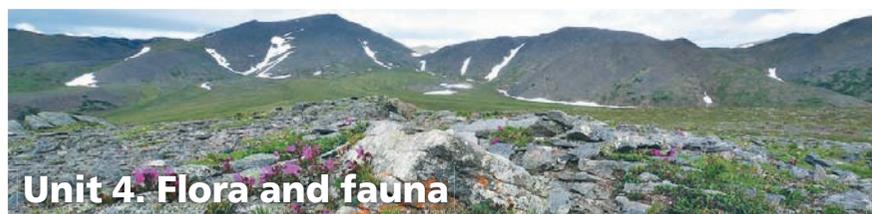
1. What have you learned about the landscape of Chukotka?
2. How are the rounded mountain tops called?
3. Name the rivers and lakes of Chukotka.
4. What is special about El'gygytgyn Lake?
5. What is the Pegtymel River famous for?
6. Into what 3 districts can Chukotka be divided?



Petroglyphs

• Writing

Describe what you have in mind when you hear the word “Chukotka”. Compare the results with your partner. Use the words from Units 1–3.



Unit 4. Flora and fauna

фото: И. Головастова

• Warm-up

1. What kinds of animals live in Chukotka?
2. What animals of Chukotka are endangered?

• Reading

Extremity of the climate and climate conditions diversity determine peculiar forms of flora and fauna of Chukotka. At first glance vegetation is very poor here. For north, north-east and east parts of the okrug mountain and Arctic tundra landscape is typical with its small, flat bushes, moss and lichen. More often one may see the tundra with its “unpretentious” alders and cedar woods, sedge and cotton-grass, blue and red bilberry. In the continental part, in river valleys, coniferous forests comprised of larches and dwarf birch trees, and even more seldom — relic poplar forests can be found.

Meanwhile, it only seems that vegetation here is scarce, for more than 900 types of higher plants and more than 400 types of moss



Caribou



Musk ox



Polar bear

moss — мох
lichen — лишайник
alder — ольха
cedar — кедр
sedge — осока
larch — лиственница
dwarf birch — береза
 карликовая
poplar — тополь
moose — лось
wolverine — росомаха
arctic fox — песец
lynx — рысь
ermine — горноста́й
lepus — заяц-беляк
musk-rat — ондатра
loach — голец
grayling — хариус
burbot — налим
partridge — куропатка
eider duck — гага
diving pigeon — кайра
herd — лежбище

and lichen can be found in Chukotka. Chukotka autonomous okrug is situated in several native zones, that's why its vegetation is so diverse.

The major part of Chukotka land is little-developed and a hard-to-reach area. And it is like a paradise for all animals — they live in their natural environment. The man doesn't disturb it because he knows how to live together with masters of the tundra and forest.

The Polar bear, caribou, polar wolf, red fox are like the heroes of the fable. Polar bear walks on the arctic coast in winter and spring. Sometimes they can come to the community just of curiosity. The polar wolf wanders near reindeer herds for hunt. The wolverine and the arctic fox do the same. There are a lot of brown bears in tundra and forest-tundra. The Chukotka moose is a real giant and his home place is forests.

The most possible meeting will be with arctic ground squirrel — evrazhka. You can see them even in the town. He is the favorite pet of Chukotka people. The musk ox, the sable, the lynx, the ermine, the chipmunk, the lepus, the fox, the musk-rat, the mink and some other animals live in Chukotka.

The cold waters of Chukotka seas are lifeless and waste for the first sight. But life there is like a boiling pot. And the sea inhabitants are the great Arctic heritage.

The Bering Sea accounts for 402 species of fish, among them 50 species and 14 classes are food fish. Other objects of fishery are 4 species of crab, 4 species of shrimp. About 30 species of freshwater fish live in inland reservoirs of the okrug, and the fishing industry is mainly focused on salmon, loachs, lake herrings, graylings, smelts, pikes, whitefish and burbot.

The gray whales are the most amazing creatures. It's a great success for the traveller to see the whale fountain on the horizon. In the summer time whales swim near coast where the fish is. There are the herds of whales in the Anadyr firth.

Some people of Chukotka have a wonderful opportunity to watch the walrus from their houses if they live not far from the coast. Animals created rookeries so close to man's dwelling that people value such kind of trust and try to protect them.

Numerous species of birds also live in Chukotka: tundra partridge, ducks, geese, swans; and diving pigeons, eider ducks and sea gulls form up bird colonies on the coast. Altogether there are about 220 species of birds.

There are also many insects like mosquitoes and gadflies. The white bear and the snow ram, sea mammals like the sea unicorn, humpback, fin back, grey blue whale, razor back, and 24 species of birds are registered in "The Red Book" of the Russian Federation.

Chukotka okrug has several nature reserves: Wrangel Island Reserve, Beringia Nature and Ethnic Park, Lebedinyi State Zoological Reserve of republican significance and the following State nature reserves of local significance — "Avtotkuul", "Tumanskiy", "Tundroviy", "Ust-Tanyurerskiy",



Whooper swan

“Chaunsk Bay”, “Teyukuul” and “Omolonskiy”. Moreover, there are also 20 parks and reserves of regional significance on the territory of Chukotka autonomous okrug.

• **Translate from Russian into English:**

растительность, труднодоступная территория, хозяин тундры, обитатели моря, лежбище, национальный заповедник

• **Complete the sentences using the words from the box:**

lifeless and waste, hard-to-reach, gray whales, diverse, mosquitoes and gadflies, the heroes of the fable, native zones

1. Chukotka autonomous okrug is situated in several ..., that’s why its vegetation is so...
2. The major part of Chukotka land is ... area.
3. The Polar bear, caribou, red fox are like
4. The cold waters of Chukotka seas are ... for the first sight.
5. The ... are the most amazing creatures.
6. There are also many insects like

• **Group the names into this table:**

plants	animals	sea animals	natural reserves

◎ **Speaking**

What kinds of animals live in your area? Have you ever seen arctic animals? Are there any natural reserves near your area? How do people protect animals in your region? What do you do to protect wild animals? Make a report on this topic.

WRANGEL ISLAND RESERVE

◎ **Reading**

Read the information about the Wrangel Island reserve. What is it famous for? What are the ecological problems of Chukotka? Retell the text to your friend.

Wrangel Island is one of the most incredible places on Earth. It was unreachable for people during a few centuries. Severe Arctic land hid it from the curious explorers.

The island became the object of study in 30th of the 20th century. It was the time when people began to cultivate its land. But soon everything finished. In 1976 the territory of Wrangel Island and Gerald Island became the first Russian arctic nature reserve. And it was 2004 when “Wrangel Island” was included into the List of the World Nature Heritage of UNESCO.

It’s a real museum of arctic flora and fauna. The richest collection of the cold-resistant plants in the world is here. The biggest bird rookeries in the eastern Arctic and the single White Goose breeding colony of Asia is also here. The walrus relax and feed in the seas which wash the island. The Polar female bears come to the island from Chukotka and Alaska to give birth to their babies. So Wrangel Island is also known as a maternity home of polar bears.

The island had never been flooded and never covered by the glaciers. Its landscape still keep the image of ancient Beringia land.



Wrangel Island
Снимок из космоса (NASA)



Wrangel Island. Маяк в бухте

In spite of the fact that Chukotka is considered to be the ecologically cleanest region in Russia, still there are some problems. The development of economy causes some problems to the nature, such as the decreasing of the population of white bears and some other animals, the lessening of the lichen and moss cover. One can find used fuel tanks scattered everywhere. Due to the peculiarities of the climate, the nature of Chukotka can't recover by itself. All the pollutants remain because soil and rivers are frozen much of the year.

- Find the meanings of the following set-phrases in dictionary:

alarm bells ring, an axe is hanging over something, to come to a head, the kiss of death, to be on a knife-edge, to have one's back to the wall, a tight corner, when it comes to the crunch, to come back from the dead, to be out of a corner, it is not over until the fat lady sings

Speaking

Use the set phrases from the exercise above in your speech. Make the sentences on the topic "Ecology". Here is the example:

Increase of timber export is the kiss of death for our forests.—

Увеличение экспорта древесины является губительным фактором для наших лесов.

Writing

What problem is touched upon in this article? What do you think about it? Are you worried about such problems? Make a summary of the following article.

"CHUKOTKA LOSES WHITE BEAR"

Reading

Abnormally warm weather doesn't allow ice cover to set in the Chukotka Sea and doesn't let the bears to settle down on the coast.

Bear patrols of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), who watch the Arctic coast of Chukotka, note a considerable delay in terms of appearing of white bears on the coast in comparison with last years.

As the press-service of the Primorye department of WWF of Russia reported to RIA PrimaMedia, Chukotka met the first day of winter with thaw and rain. Abnormally warm weather and south-eastern wind don't allow ice cover to set in the Chukotka Sea and don't let the bears to settle down on the coast. With warm weather sea gulls and eider ducks, not typical here for this season, appeared at the coast again.

"Global warming leads to later coming of the white bears to Kamchatka coast," notes Victor Nikiforov, the Director of the regional programs of WWF of Russia. "It is possible that pregnant female bears will stay on Wrangel Island and on the territory of Yakutia, and the amount of bear's lairs on the coast of Chukotka will significantly reduce."

The present situation with white bear worries people of coastal settlements of Chukotka: bears can be met more and more seldom in the eastern districts of Chukotka, and in the west their appearing and population becomes less predictable.

Nowadays there are 20–25 thousand white bears in the world. Already by 2050 population of this species will reduce by 2/3 because of global warming, poaching and pollution of arctic environment.

Find Russian equivalents for the following proverbs

It is not over until the fat lady sings.	Слезами горю не поможешь.
Nothing is impossible to a willing heart.	Надежда умирает последней.
While there is life there is hope.	Ясно, как дважды два четыре.
Delays are dangerous.	Одни слова.
None so blind as those who won't see.	Промедление смерти подобно.
As plain as two and two make four.	Никто так не слеп, как тот, кто не хочет видеть.
It is no use crying over spilt milk.	Еще не все потеряно.
Good words and no deeds.	Была бы охота, а возможность найдется.

◎ **Speaking**

- Speak about the ecological problems of your region. Use the proverbs to make your speech more expressive.
- Make a report on the topic “Flora and fauna of Chukotka”.



Unit 5. Major cities

◎ **Reading**

Anadyr is a port city in extreme north-east of Russia, an administrative center of Chukotka autonomous okrug. It is located at the mouth of the Anadyr River. Anadyr is the easternmost town in Russia. Population of the town is about 13,053 people. It was founded on July 21, 1889 as Novo-Mariinsk and renamed on August 5, 1923. The town status was granted to it on January 12, 1965. Although the town itself has only been in existence for just over a century, the origins of the name Anadyr are much older. The name initially derives from the Yukaghir word “any-an” meaning “river”.

Anadyr is an important sea port on the Gulf of Anadyr of the Bering Sea and is connected to almost all big Russian Far Eastern sea ports. The Anadyr Ugolny Airport serves major and minor cities in the Russian Far East with connections to Khabarovsk, Vladivostok and Moscow. The airport is on the other side of the Anadyr firth and between January and May the transportation from the airport to Anadyr is by ice road. The weather in Anadyr is extremely changeable, with heavy storms often being brought in from the Anadyr firth and the Bering Sea. This coupled with strong winds in the autumn often brings flooding to the area.

◎ **Speaking**

- **Answer the following questions:**
 1. What is Anadyr?
 2. It is located at the mouth of the Amguema River, isn't it?
 3. What does the word “Anadyr” mean?
 4. What do you know about the weather in Anadyr?
 5. Are there any sea ports in Anadyr?



Anadyr

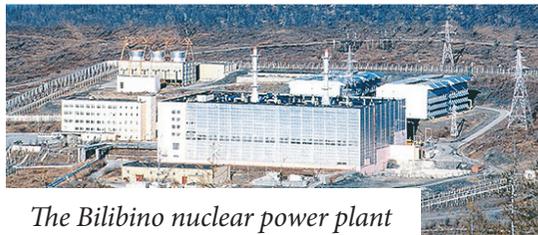


The Anadyr Ugolny Airport



Bilibino

prospector — золотоискатель
assessment — оценка, суждение
extraction — добыча
unpaved road — грунтовая дорога



The Bilibino nuclear power plant

BILIBINO

Reading

Bilibino is a town and an administrative center of Bilibinsky District of Chukotka autonomous okrug. It is the second largest town in Chukotka with the population about 5,000 people.

As with large portions of Chukotka, the earliest human remains found in the region around Bilibino were dated to the Early Neolithic.

The interest in the area around the present day site of the town began in the 1920s when prospectors including Soviet geologist Yury Bilibin discovered gold in the region and began to make assessments regarding the commercial viability of its extraction. In 1955, it was officially founded, though at this stage it was little more than a collection of geologists' and prospectors' tents. Because of his discovery of gold in the region the geologists decided to name the new settlement after Yury Bilibin.

Bilibino began to develop in the early 1960s. Urban-type settlement status was granted to it in 1958; town status was granted in 1993.

Bilibino is considered to be the coldest settlement in Chukotka. The average temperature in January is -32°C . The average temperature in June is 3°C .

The town is home to the world's northernmost nuclear power plant opened in 1976. The Bilibino nuclear power plant is the only nuclear power plant in the Russian Far East.

The area has virtually no roads that are usable year-round. Even a trip from the airport at Keperveyem to Bilibino town requires a 40 km journey along an unpaved road.

Speaking

Answer the following questions:

1. What is Bilibino?
2. What do you know about the history of this town?
3. Who were the founders of this town?
4. What do you know about the weather in Bilibino?
5. What is this town famous for?



PEVEK

Reading

Pevek is an arctic port town and an administrative center of Chaunsky District of Chukotka autonomous okrug. It is the northernmost town in Russia and in Asia. The population of the town is about 4,000 people.

The town is a modern settlement established after World War I to provide a port for the export of minerals as part of the expanding Northern Sea Route. During the 1940s and 1950s, the area surrounding Pevek was the site of several GULAGs where prisoners mined uranium. In recent years many of the mines proved to be uneconomic and were closed, causing many residents to move to more central regions in Russia and the port infrastructure to decay.

There are two theories for the origin of the town's name. The first is that it is derived from the Chukchi word for "fat"; it was originally named for the nearby hill Peekin'ey, meaning "swollen mountain".

Another theory is that the name is derived from the Chukchi word "Pagytkenay", meaning "smelly mountain".



Remains of the Gulag

Pevek has a tundra climate, with long, very cold winters, and short, cool summers. The average temperature in January is -27°C . The average temperature in June is 5°C .

The town is a large port at the Northern Sea Route, the most important northern port in Chukotka, although shipping levels have dropped significantly in recent years.

Although there is still gold mining around Bilibino, mining for other materials such as tin still occurs in the region.

This level of activity is still sufficient to provide enough business to keep two processing plants in Pevek.

Besides the port as a key transport link with the rest of Russia, the town is also served by Pevek Airport, 17 km to the north west of the town in the village of Apapelgino, a settlement established specifically to house the airport's staff. The airport provides flights to major regional towns such as Magadan, Anadyr and Bilibino as well as to Moscow.

Pevek also has the most developed road infrastructure in the okrug. There is approximately 150 km of year-round, paved roads going to local settlements.



The sea port of Pevek

uranium — уран
sufficient — достаточный
mine — шахта
drop — падать

◎ **Speaking**

• **Answer the following questions:**

1. What is Pevek?
2. What do you know about the history of this town?
3. What does the word “Pevek” mean?
4. What do you know about the weather in Pevek?
5. What is this town famous for?

• **Prove that:**

1. The towns of Chukotka are not densely populated.
2. The towns of Chukotka have an interesting history.
3. The road infrastructure is not well-developed in the region.

• **Complete the sentences:**

1. Anadyr is a ... in extreme north-east of Russia, an ... of Chukotka autonomous okrug.
2. The name “Anadyr” initially derives from the Yukaghir word “any-an” meaning “...”.
3. The weather in Anadyr is extremely
4. Bilibino is the ... largest town in Chukotka with the population about ... people.
5. Bilibino is considered to be the ... settlement in Chukotka.
6. Bilibino is home to the world’s
7. Pevek is the ... town in Russia and in Asia.
8. Pevek has the most ... in the okrug.

• **Complete the table using the information you have read:**

Town	Origin of the name	What is famous for?	Weather
Anadyr			
Bilibino			
Pevek			

◎ **Writing**

Make a report on one of the following topics: “My native town”, “The towns of Chukotka”, “The history of Chukotka autonomous okrug”.



Unit 6. Economy

◎ **Reading**

The development of Chukotka's economy is affected by unfavourable climate and geographical factors. However, Chukotka has its own resource base, a stable management and supply system.

The economy of Chukotka is focused on mining as a major industry. The region is rich in natural resources represented by deposits of tin ores, mercury ores, gold, coal, natural gas, and building materials. The main industrial centers are Pevek and Bilibino.

On the territory of the okrug 83 deposits of tin are found, mostly complex tin-and-tungsten. The greater part of tin and tungsten deposits is concentrated in the Chukotka metallogenic zone. They are situated relatively close to each other in the north of the okrug. The largest

reserves are Pyrkakayski Stockworks, Yioultin, Valkumei, Ekug, Svetloye, Lunnoye.

The territory of Chukotka contains 10 % of the explored gold deposits of Russia.

Within Chukotka autonomous okrug and the shelves of the sea washing the okrug, the following prospective oil and gas basins have been found: Anadyr basin, East Hatyr basin, South Chukotka basin, North Chukotka basin, East Siberian basin.

Power and energy industry is based mainly on the Bilibino atomic power plant.

There are no railways and highways in Chukotka. Port service and support is one of Chukotka's main industries. Anadyr, Beringovskiy, Egvenkinot, Lavrentiya, Provideniya, Schmidt, and Pevek are seaports on the Northern Sea Route which goes from Murmansk to the Pacific.

Chukotka region ranks eighty fourth in Russia in total agriculture production. Green-house cultivation of vegetables is common because of permafrost. Animal husbandry includes reindeer-breeding, fur-farming, and fishing. Throughout the region, some 450,000 reindeer graze each year. Chukotka produces several reindeer products, including meat, skins and hard horn. Chukotka does not export any agricultural products. It imports most of food products either from other regions of Russia or from abroad. Fishery is the leader among the basic industry branches of Chukotka's economy in regards to the profit volumes it brings; it is showing steady growth and high profitability. The most valuable sea resources are: 5 species of Pacific salmon (Siberian salmon, red salmon, hunchback salmon, silversides and king salmon), blue crabs, pointed shrimps, yellow sea urchins.

Due to the freezing of the ports, there is seasonality in fishery: fish trade lasts from May – June to September – October.



- affect** — влиять
- tin** — олово
- tungsten** — вольфрам
- mercury** — ртуть
- coal** — уголь
- deposit** — месторождение
- graze** — пастись
- hunchback salmon** — горбуша



◎ **Speaking**

• **Answer the following questions:**

1. What can you say about the economy of Chukotka? Is it affected by unfavourable climate?
2. The economy of Chukotka is focused on agriculture as a major industry, isn't it?
3. How many tin deposits are found in Chukotka?
4. How many gold deposits does the territory of Chukotka contain?
5. Are there any railways in Chukotka?
6. What are the most valuable sea resources in Chukotka?
7. Why is green-house cultivation of vegetables is so popular?



• **Give the English equivalents for:**

- запасы олова — _____
- оленьеводство — _____
- атомная электростанция — _____
- стабильный рост — _____
- неблагоприятный климат — _____
- экспортировать — _____
- нефтяное месторождение — _____
- импортировать — _____
- сельскохозяйственное производство — _____
- тепличное растениеводство — _____

• **Find the words on the topic "Economy":**

r	e	e	d	n	i	e	r
f	p	e	q	s	h	j	a
i	l	r	x	a	g	g	i
s	a	w	c	l	k	o	l
h	n	o	t	m	m	l	w
i	t	i	n	o	l	d	a
n	e	c	o	n	o	m	y
g	z	g	r	o	w	t	h



◎ **Speaking**

Work in small groups and:

1. Prove to a foreign company that Chukotka is profitable to invest.
2. Give your own plan of the development of your settlement.

◎ **Writing**

Write an article to the local newspaper about the regional economy. Use the information from the text.



Unit 7. Native people

Reading

The Chukchi live in the extreme northeastern part of the Russian Far East in an area between the Chukchi and Bering Sea. People inhabited Chukotka for the last 7,000 years; however, the Chukchi who migrated from the South were only first identified in 1642 when a Cossack Ivan Yerastov met them on the Alazeya River. The Chukchi were the predominant culture in the region, though closely related to the Koryaks and Itelmen. The Chukchi are a predominantly Asian race and are short people with a swarthy complexion and a stocky build. Their faces are broad and flat and their cheekbones are prominent. The word “Chukchi” is the Russian adaptation of the word “chavchu” meaning “reindeer people”.

The Chukchi were divided in two groups, based upon their activities. The most numerous were the Chukchi reindeer breeders who spent most of the years in the tundra with their herds. The other group, the maritime Chukchi, lived more in base camps along the coast and depended on hunting sea mammals (walrus, whale and seals) for their subsistence. Both groups supplemented their subsistence with gathering plants, hunting land mammals, fowling and fishing. The nomadic herders used their reindeer products to make tools, clothing and construct their dwellings. Reindeer were their dietary staple and served as transportation. The maritime people used sea mammal products for their diet and they used the dog sled for transportation. There was trade between the two groups assuring the tundra dwellers of coastal products for food and fuel, and assured the coastal dwellers of useful reindeer products. In some areas, both groups lived together and practiced a mixture of reindeer breeding and coastal hunting.

Chukchi camps comprised of both related and unrelated families each with their own tent (yaranga). Reindeer herder camps would usually contain at least 2 to 10 tents, and the camps were moved frequently. The maritime Chukchi usually had larger camps of 10 to 20 tents, where they lived most of the year. The Chukchi also had no formal leaders. Decisions were made on the basis of suggestion and consent. There may have been some differences in wealth among Chukchi people but they did not result in positions of power. Disputes were settled by the parties involved, usually aided by a clan member.

The Chukchi world was full of spirits, both good and bad. Future events were foretold by various methods including dream interpretation.

Reindeer herding at present is still a viable industry and part of the Chukchi mentality. It is also something that remains typical of the native people, as no other nationality can live in the wild tundra.

One of the problems the reindeer Chukchi presently face is the lack of desire of the youngsters to get involved in this native tradition, as the youngsters are more attached to a comfortable village life. So the survival of Chukchi culture depends on how many people will undertake this former lifestyle.

The Extreme North is inhabited by over 20 peoples and ethnicities, all of them keeping their ancient and interesting culture, an important place in which



swarthy complexion — смуглый цвет лица
a stocky build — коренастый
maritime — приморский
subsistence — существование
fowling — охота на птиц
consent — согласие
to graze — пастись
inimitable — несравненный

belongs to useful arts. Carving and engraving on bones of polar animals is one of the most striking examples of the inimitable art of the Arctic peoples. Nowadays the art of bone carving has been kept alive only in Alaska, Yakutia and the Chukchi autonomous district.

According to archeological finds the works of Chukchi and Eskimos bone carving existed as far back as the first centuries of Christian era. Bone had been a universal material in the North before metals appeared there.

Only the Chukchi have coloured bone engraving, this unique kind of ethnic arts and crafts. It is dynamic and narrates a wide variety of stories, such as old tales about the Sun, about a beautiful girl, or skillful hunters and fishermen. Sculptures are traditionally cut by men, while engravings are mostly made by women.

Indigenous people are a real treasure of this land. They are hospitable and open. The Chukchi, Eskimo, Evens are always glad to see newcomers. And they are ready to offer you all their things. People of Chukotka live in accordance with the main Law of the Arctic — no matter who you are they will help and support any stranger. Indigenous people have their own way of life where everything is interrelated in the world — people, spirits, nature.

◎ Speaking

• Answer the following questions:

1. Where do the Chukchi live?
2. What does the word “Chukchi” mean?
3. In what two groups are the Chukchi divided? What are the differences between them?
4. How is a Chukchi’s tent called?
5. What is a viable industry and part of the Chukchi mentality?
6. What is the most striking example of the art of the Arctic people?



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