

# Bulletin Board

## Fun Facts about Russia

Have you met Arina yet? You can read more about her life in Russia on pages 14–15. Here are some fun things you may not know about Russia:

- It's the largest country in the world—almost twice as big as Canada!
- Its national animal is the brown bear.
- It has the deepest lake in the world, Lake Baikal (1,700 m or 5,577 ft).



### FAMILY HISTORY: I Am Doing It!

A collage is a collection of pictures. You can make a collage of your family using photos or illustrations.

- Ask an adult for copies of photos of family members and ancestors.
- Glue the photos on a piece of heavy paper so that all of the paper is covered. It's OK if the photos overlap a little bit.
- If you don't have photos, you can draw pictures or write names on pieces of paper and use these instead.
- For a fun family home evening, you could show your collage to your family and talk about who is in each picture.

"I am a child of God" in Russian:  
**Я ГОСПОДНЕ ДИТЯ**

Pronunciation: Ya gah-spode-nyeah dee-tya

## BLINIS

What's round, warm, golden, and delicious? *Blinis*! These pancakes symbolize the sun, and they are the most popular food of a Russian festival called *Maslenitsa*. You can top them with all sorts of things—like mushrooms, sour cream, fish eggs, fruit, or jam—or you can eat them with just a little melted butter. Remember to get an adult's help when cooking. (Makes 10–20 blinis.)

- 2 eggs
- 2 cups milk
- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- vegetable oil



1. Whisk together the eggs and milk. Add the dry ingredients.
2. Lightly grease the bottom of a frying pan with vegetable oil and heat it on medium heat.
3. Ladle a thin layer of batter to cover the bottom of the pan.
4. Bubbles will start forming in the blini. Cook until all the bubbles have popped and the edges look crisp. Slide a spatula under the blini, flip, and cook the other side until lightly browned.
5. Flip the blini onto a plate and enjoy!

### WHAT IF...

WHAT IF A NEIGHBOR  
ASKED YOU WHY YOU GO  
TO CHURCH?  
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

### PICTURE MASLENITSA

The weeklong Russian festival, *Maslenitsa*, celebrates the end of winter and the start of spring. It's also a time when people ask forgiveness for things they have done wrong during the year. Here are some fun things you might see during a Maslenitsa celebration.



LEFT: ILLUSTRATIONS BY ASHLEY TEARE; RIGHT: ILLUSTRATIONS BY DANI JONES