



Name: _____ Date: _____

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

In March, 1917, the people of Russia overthrew Czar Nicholas II. The Russian Revolution ended the rule of the Czars and set up a republic to rule Russia. Many of the causes of the Revolution of 1905 caused the March, 1917 Revolution. For example, the Russian people still wanted freedom, jobs and an education. Once again Russia was in a war. In 1917, it was World War I. Millions of Russians had been killed by the Germans. There was starvation throughout the country. Most people wanted peace. The main difference between 1905 and 1917 was that in March, 1917, the army did not support the Czar. When the Czar realized the army was no longer with him, he **ABDICATED** his throne. A new government was set up which promised the people of Russia new freedoms. The one mistake the new government made was to stay in World War I. When the Germans saw problems in Russia, they attacked even harder. In the summer of 1917, millions of Russians died.

Another group was trying to take control of Russia. They were called the **BOLSHEVIKS**.

Bolsheviks were Russian communists who believed in the ideas of Karl Marx. The leader of the Bolsheviks was Vladimir Ulianov, known in the west as Nikolai Lenin. Lenin demanded "**PEACE, LAND AND BREAD**" for the Russian people. Soon, many Russians started to listen to him. As winter came, conditions in Russia got even worse. In November, 1917, Lenin and the Bolsheviks made their move. In one night they **SEIZED** the government of Russia. The world's first communist country came into existence.

QUESTIONS :

1. List three ways the Revolution of 1905 was like the Revolution in March, 1917.

2. Why was the March, 1917 Revolution a "success"?

3. What did Lenin mean by "Peace, Land and Bread?" _____

4. If you lived in Russia in 1917, would you have supported Lenin? Explain your answer.
