

## Process Paper

### **How did you choose your topic, and how does it relate to the annual theme?**

We decided to make our project about the October Revolution because back in 6th grade, we made a project about Chernobyl and we decided that it would be nice to do another project on the Soviet Union. We were also genuinely interested in the October Revolution. Our project fits the theme because the October Revolution was a monumental event in history and affected a lot of things. It was also a turning point for Russia because it was the rise of the first communist government.

### **How did you conduct your research?**

A majority of the research we did was reading websites, though some books and documents were used. We first began our research with summaries and explanations of events, to better our understanding of the topic as a whole before looking into the more detailed information on important people and events. We used websites like *History.com*, *Britannica*, and *Gale in Context*. Primary sources were hard to come across, as our topic happened in Russia, and many sources hadn't been translated yet. We also got an interview with Mark Steinberg, a Professor Emeritus who worked at the University of Illinois and studied Russian history. He was incredibly helpful in our understanding of how the Russian Revolution and the creation of the Soviet Union contributed to the spread of communism. Many sources we found mainly spoke about what happened during the events and didn't focus much on the aftermath. Mark Steinberg helped us learn how the revolution majorly contributed to the spread of communism.

### **How did you create your project?**

We wrote our script and designed our website with our focus on the aftermath of the topic. As a group we divided and conquered, each of us contributing to the script. Once we finished the script, we began work on the website. We picked a color scheme we thought fit the project and incorporated it throughout the website. For each page, we would usually start with the layout of the page, then bring in passages from the script, and finish by adding pictures and finishing details. For some pages, we added quotes from our interview to back up what we were saying and improve the readers' understanding of the topic.

### **What is your historical argument?**

Our argument is that the coup staged by revolutionaries in 1917 which created the Soviet Union was the main cause for the worldwide spread of communism and dramatically changed the history of both Russia and the 20th century.

**In what ways is your project significant to history?**

The Russian Revolution was significant to history for countless reasons. It's a major part of the history of WWI, as the revolution happened at the same time and resulted in Russia leaving the war. It was the first communist country to exist, and was the first example of the ideology. Many countries around the world saw this new political style and began to use it. And of course, the major world powers saw the USSR as a threat, which eventually led to a half a century long standoff between the USSR and the U.S. which defined the second half of the century.