

3.2.6. worksheet

- **Formation of the Russian nation**

- The Varangians, whom the Eastern Slavs called Rus, were Scandinavian tribes that appeared on the historical scene in the 9th century. They combined trade with pirate activities and became known to the peoples of the West as Vikings and Normans. In the territory of present-day Russia, they used water routes for trade, especially the route from the Varangians to the Greeks, through which they reached the Black Sea and Constantinople.
- The Varangians or Rus mixed with the Eastern Slavs and gradually created a new people. They gave the people their name and state organization, which the Slavic tribes did not have, and the Slavs gave their language and the popular base.

- **Foundation of the state - Relations with Byzantium**

- In the mid-9th century, the first major Russian state was formed. It was the Principality of Kiev, which controlled the Dnieper River route and traded with Byzantium and the Caliphate.
- After two unsuccessful campaigns against Constantinople, the Russians in the 10th century signed two important trade treaties with Byzantium (911 and 944). These treaties allowed the Russians to travel and trade in Constantinople.
- Merchants and diplomats traveling between Kiev and Byzantium were carriers of ideas and beliefs. Thus, the trade relations of the two states prepared the Christianization of the Russians, which began in the middle and was completed in the late 10th century.

- **When and how were the Russians Christianized?**

The Russians were Christianized in 989 by Vladimir I the Great. Vladimir I was the Grand Prince of Kiev who married Anna, the sister of the Byzantine Emperor Basil II. In exchange for the marriage, Vladimir I agreed to convert to Christianity. The baptism of Vladimir I and the Russians took place in Chersonese, a city in Crimea.

- **What were the consequences of the Christianization of the Russians?**

The Christianization of the Russians had significant consequences for the country. The Russians joined the sphere of influence of Orthodoxy and Byzantine culture. The mentality and the culture of the Russians were decisively influenced by Christianity. Trade with Byzantium intensified, while the number of Varangians and Russian mercenaries serving in the imperial guard and the Byzantine army increased significantly.

Quiz

- **Multiple choice questions**

- Who were the Varangians?
 - Scandinavian warriors and merchants
 - Slavs who lived in the Kiev region
 - Arabs who invaded Russia
 - Turkic peoples who settled in Russia
- When was the Principality of Kiev formed?

- 8th century
- 9th century
- 10th century
- 11th century
- What were the relations of the Principality of Kiev with Byzantium?
 - Friendly
 - Hostile
 - Controversial
 - Depending on the era
- When were the Russians Christianized?
 - 988
 - 989
 - 990
 - 991
- What were the consequences of the Christianization of the Russians?
 - The Russians joined the sphere of influence of Orthodoxy.
 - The mentality and culture of the Russians were influenced by Christianity.
 - Trade with Byzantium intensified.
 - All of the above.

- **True/false questions**

- The Varangians were Slavs.
- The Principality of Kiev was the first major Russian state.
- The relations of the Principality of Kiev with Byzantium were always friendly.
- The Russians were Christianized in 1000.
- The Christianization of the Russians had significant consequences for the country.
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- **Fill-in-the-blank questions**

- The Varangians were and merchants who appeared in Europe in the century.
- The Principality of Kiev was a major state that covered most of present-day Russia, and Belarus.
- The Principality of Kiev had close relations with Byzantium and the two countries signed two important in 911 and 944.
- The Russians were Christianized in 989 by who married Anna, the sister of the Byzantine Emperor
- The of the Russians had significant consequences for the country, as the Russians joined the sphere of influence of and their culture was influenced by Christianity.