**Impact of Russian Colonization on Alaska Native People**

**Standard**:

* Analyze the impact Russians had on Alaska Native people.

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|  | Impact | R | N |
| Impacts to Trade (economy, industry, technology) | * Natives get IRON –definitely needed and wanted
* Russians get fur pelts (sea otter and fur seal)
* Natives get new tools (axes, knives, saws, pots, crockery, cannons, wheels, sleighs, wagons)
* Natives get Beads (form of currency)
* New: tobacco, alcohol, sugar, flour, molasses, tea, salt
* Natives get pigs, cattle, chickens, goats, dogs
* Aleuts forbidden to trade with any other nation by the Russians
* Introduce simple machinery and tools (axes, saws)
* New: steam, water, and wind power (wheels, pulleys)
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| Impacts on Population (people) | * Aleut population drops from 20,000 – 2,500
* Many die from diseases (smallpox, measles, mumps, influenza, diphtheria, whooping cough) – ¾ village
* At Kukak on Kodiak, pop drops from 8,000 to 500 (Massacre Rock)
* Murder, kidnapping, rape, torture
* Russian population never more than 850 people at any time from 1741 – 1867
* Natives outnumber Russians (60-1) but it doesn’t help
* Many native groups (Aleut) moved away from their homes to work for one year (in Pribilof Islands)
* Children born ½ Russian, ½ Native Alaskan (“Creole”)
* 4/5 men in every village drafted to work for Russians
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| Culture – (impacts to clothing, food, music, language, community) | * Hostages, slavery, murder, rape, lack of basic freedom (culture of violence/fear)
* Entire communities devastated (4/5 natives conscripted to work for Russians for 3 years)
* Native Culture lost or irrevocably damaged (food, clothing, dance, housing, masks, songs, beliefs, tools, music, transportation)
* “Creole” 1/2 Native, ½ Russian
* Place names changed, banyas remain
* Clothing (new fabrics/items such as buttons, wool, cotton)
* Land claims introduced (natives had no land ownership)
* Introduced sledding, ice skating, musical instruments, tea
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| Religion | * Orthodox religion dominates art, culture, faith and recreation (baptisms)
* Bishop Innocent – allows natives to practice their own customs, but also converts many to Orthodox religion
* Builds numerous churches all across Russian Alaska
* Leaves LASTING impact on Alaskan Native population
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| Natural Resources (plants and animals) | * Sea otter and fur seal populations crash
* Timber is used for housing (supply runs low)
* Whaling populations and walrus populations decrease
* Fish populations reduced drastically (salmon, halibut, cod)
* Food supplies – local plants - reduced dramatically by the demand to feed the Russians
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| Literacy/education | * Schools start when Shelhikov teaches hostages
* Vocational education (artisans, clerks, sailors) – brickmaking, blacksmithing, shipbuilding, carpentry
* Bishop Innocent – creates an alphabet using Cyrillic letters, translates the Bible.
* Documents Native life, legends, and history (Bishop Innocent)
* Documented winds, tides and weather (Bishop Innocent)
* Start schools to teach reading, math and Russian
* Children forbidden at school from speaking Native languages
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| Other:  | * Chart Alaska (world geography), ocean currents, maps
* Introduce farming (vegetables) and cattle
* Establish hospitals – Sitka, Kodiak, Unalaska, Atka
* Russians bring epidemics (diseases such as flu, diphtheria, smallpox)
* Introduce Vaccinations (helps stem impacts of epidemics)
* Russians bring guns and cannons, eventually adopted by Natives
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