The French Invasion of Russia
Prior to the Invasion…

- French Revolution of 1789 (execution of King Louis XVI in 1793)
- Invasion of French Republic by First Coalition (Austria, Kingdom of Sardinia, Kingdom of Naples, Prussia, Spain, and the Kingdom of Great Britain)
- Treaty of Campo Formio (Napoleon defeats First Coalition)
- Defeat of Second Coalition in 1801 (Austria, Great Britain, the Kingdom of Naples, the Ottoman Empire, Papal States, Portugal, and Russia.)
- War between Britain and France 1803-1814
The French Empire and its Allies in 1811
The French Empire in 1812
Europe 1812
Central Figures

• Napoleon I (15 August 1769 – 5 May 1821)
• From moderate aristocratic background
• Known as brilliant strategist and military historian
• Became Emperor of Europe before suffering defeat at Waterloo
Central Figures (cont.)

• Emperor Alexander I of Russia (23 December, 1777 – 19 November, 1825)
• Ascended to throne upon assassination of his father Paul I
• Shifted alliances with France and Britain throughout the war.
Central Figures (cont.)

- Prince Mikhail Kutuzov (September 16, 1745 — April 28, 1813)
- Served as General under Alexander I and major opposition to Napoleon I
- By surrendering Moscow he was able to replenish supplies and push Napoleon out of Russia.
Central Figures (cont.)

- Prince Michael Andreas Barclay de Tolly (27 December 1761 – 26 May 1818)
- Started the “scorched earth” policy upon Napoleon’s advance
- Succeeded Kutuzov as commander-in-chief upon Kutuzov’s death in 1813
Battle of Austerlitz
Invasion of Russia, 1812

- French invade with 650,000 troops (270,000 French, 100,000 Poles and allied soldiers)
- September 14, 1812 Moscow is captured
- Kutuzov orders evacuation of Moscow
- Count Fyodor Vasilievich Rostopchin orders the city burnt to the ground.
Napoleon’s defeat...
The Retreat

• With no shelter after the fire in Moscow, winter demoralizes and destroys the Grand Army
• Kutuzov’s Army slowly follows them and engages them in brief skirmishes
• Napoleon’s 690,000 now number 90,000
Russia invades France 1814
Battle of Waterloo (Sunday 18 June 1815)
Works cited as of 12/06/08

- http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0a/Jacques-Louis_David_017.jpg accessed on 12/16/08