

## EIGHT THINGS

everyone should know about Russian

- 1. Russian is currently the *FIFTH* most widely-spoken language in the world, behind Chinese, English, Hindustani and Spanish.**
- 2. It is reportedly spoken by 278 million Earthlings (164 million as a first language), and is the largest native language in Europe.**
- 3. Russian is *one of just six* official languages of the UN: English, French, Chinese, Spanish, Arabic and Russian.**
- 4. With Bulgaria's accession to the EU, the *Cyrillic alphabet* is now *one of three official alphabets* (with Latin and Greek) of that organization.**
- 5. *One-quarter of the scientific literature published in the world is published in Russian.***
- 6. Russian is the *10<sup>th</sup>* most widely spoken language in the U.S. (of 322 overall).**
- 7. One in every 372 Americans over age five use Russian in the home.**
- 8. The Defense Language Institute classifies Russian as a "Level III" language (along with the rest of the Slavic languages, as well as Greek, Hebrew and Persian; Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and Korean merit a Level IV classification, meaning it has a very high degree of difficulty and requires 780 or more hours of immersive instructions to attain intermediate fluency.**