

“The Siege of Leningrad”

{Excerpted from Russia Besieged, Time-Life Books & from True Stories of World War II, Reader’s Digest}

Instructions – Read the article excerpts and write the answers in as you go.

1. By mid September, 1941, what was the only route to get food and supplies into the city of Leningrad?
2. How was Novaya Ladoga important to the people in the city of Leningrad?
3. {Circle the answer.} According to the article, ration card usage indicated that
 - A) people complied with all food restrictions.
 - B) Food supplies were adequate when people followed ration guidelines.
 - C) The organizational skill of the Leningrad Communist Party was important in winning the war.
 - D) People were willing to do extreme and immoral things to avoid starvation.
4. Why were there no food riots in Leningrad?
5. By November of 1941 what was the ration for A) manual laborers, and for B) officeworkers, dependents, & children? C) What was the ration normally required for adults?
 - A) _____
 - B) _____
 - C) _____
6. List seven unusual categories of food items that were eaten by starving Leningraders.
 - A)
 - B)
 - C)
 - D)
 - E)
 - F)
 - G)
7. “*The city’s dirge was recorded by one resident in his diary . . .*” The meaning of the underlined word as used in this sentence is
 - A) story of death.
 - B) Suffering from disease.
 - C) Patriotic stand against the enemy.
 - D) Construction effort to combat Germans.
8. Why were dead people wrapped in sheets and dumped at the cemetery gates rather than buried in a normal grave?
9. In referring to cannibalism, the author of the article says, “*This is the one aspect of the siege not described in Soviet histories or memoirs.*” From this statement you can infer that
 - A) people were too traumatized by the act to record it.
 - B) Cannibalism was not considered important enough to cover in Soviet history books.
 - C) The Soviet government did not want to publicize this embarrassing humiliation for future generations to read.
 - D) There was no trained historian present to document the true experiences.
10. From the statement, “*Anyone who looked healthy was under suspicion - - as were the little meat cakes that could still be bought for enormous prices in the black market.*” you can infer that
 - A) the meat cakes indicated the presence of German spies.
 - B) People were suspicious that the meat cakes were made of human flesh.
 - C) Those that appeared healthy might be stealing grain from the city storage facility.

11. Describe two ways life became more difficult once the city ran out of oil and coal.
 - A)
 - B)
12. How many inches of ice was needed to allow large quantities of food to be trucked over Lake Ladoga?
13. Why was the city of Tikhvin so crucial to the survival of Leningraders?
14. A) How many inches of ice were needed to support a loaded sled over the ice? B) Why weren't sleds able to solve the problem relative to the food shortage?
 - A)
 - B)

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15. Define the meaning of the underlined word in the next sentence. “But gradually the pain faded into quiet despondency and a weakness that advanced with frightening rapidity.
16. List two common physical responses to the process of starvation as explained in excerpt # 1.
 - A)
 - B)
17. What was added to bread to stretch it further and feed more people?
18. What were the two most common types of currency used in the black market of the Haymarket area?
 - A)
 - B)
19. Why would anyone buy a glass filled with Badayev earth?
20. A) What is necro-butcher? B) What does it have to do with Dimitri?
 - A)
 - B)