

**What's happening  
in the news?**



**Let's have a look at the poster!**

**Ukraine and Russia Special**



## **Why are people talking about Ukraine and Russia?**

## Let's look at the story



Leaders around the world are worried as the country of Russia has sent close to 100,000 soldiers to its border with Ukraine. They are concerned that this could be a sign that Russia plans to invade Ukraine.

There is a lot of history between the bordering countries. Russian forces have crossed into Ukraine in the past. Russia has said it isn't planning any invasion of Ukraine but has said it is concerned about its own security and worried about the possibility of Ukraine joining NATO, who are a group of countries in Europe and North America. All have made a promise to help defend each other if any are attacked.



Learn more about this story [here](#).  
Watch the useful video [here](#).



Look at the resource below, which shares some information about the story.

### Why is there tension between Ukraine and Russia?

Ukraine and Russia have a lot of unsettled history. The bordering countries used to be part of the Soviet Union, from 1922-1991. Some Ukrainians want their country to have closer ties to the western countries, but others want it to have closer ties to Russia. In 2014, Russia took back control of an area called Crimea in southern Ukraine. Since then, Ukraine's army has been locked in a war with Russian-backed rebels near the border with Russia. In January, the USA said no to Russia's call to stop Ukraine from joining NATO in the future. Ukraine has said they would like to join. Russia has said that it are not going to invade but have sent 100,000 soldiers to the Ukrainian border, so other countries are unsure of its next move.

**This afternoon we will hang national flags, put on blue-yellow ribbons and show the world our unity. We all want to live happily, and happiness loves the strong. We have never been able to give up and we are not going to learn it.**

**Ukraine President, Volodymyr Zelenskiy** addressing the nation on television, from the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, on 14th February.

**Pictured below:** Ukraine in orange and Russia in Green



### What is NATO?

The members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, also known as NATO, are countries in Europe and North America, who have made a promise to help defend each other if any are attacked.

NATO was founded in 1949. Its headquarters are in Brussels, Belgium and there are currently 30 members including the UK and the USA.



## Main question

Why are people talking about Ukraine and Russia?

 **Listen**  **Think**  **Share**

- > Look at the poster image. Pictured is the Ukraine President, Volodymyr Zelenskiy. His country has been in the news a lot recently. Does anyone know why?
- > Read through the news story. Does anyone know where Ukraine and Russia are located? Can you find them on a map or globe?
- > Read the information found on the resource and watch the useful video, which explains the current situation in Ukraine.
- > Explain that British citizens in Ukraine have been told to leave the country immediately by the UK Foreign Office. The USA also told its own citizens to do the same because of fears that Russia is going to invade the country. Can you imagine what it might be like for people living there? How do you think they might be feeling?
- > Russia has publicly denied plans to invade Ukraine and their foreign ministry has accused other countries of spreading false information. It says it wants to make sure Ukraine does not join NATO. Russia thinks that if Ukraine joins NATO, the US and its allies will have too much power in an area on their borders. Mr Zelenskiy has confirmed his country is keen to join NATO, saying, "We would like NATO membership. It would ensure our security, our territorial sovereignty". Share your thoughts on Russia's stance and Ukraine's desire to join NATO.

## Useful Weblinks

- > News story:  
[www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60358756](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60358756)
- > Useful video:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZMACYIcizY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZMACYIcizY)

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

