Icons of Power: Catherine the Great

**Directions**: Watch the video documentary on the life of Catherine the Great and answer the questions below.

1. What was the condition of the Russian people at the end of Elizabeth Romanov’s reign (1740s)?

2. How did Sophia (Catherine) make her way into Russia? Where was she from?

3. How did Peter III feel about Russia? Why is this so?

4. Who was Ivan VI? Why was he originally chosen to lead Russia?

5. How did Elizabeth Romanov challenge the rule of Ivan VI?

6. What is Catherine’s main job after her marriage to Peter III? How long did it take Catherine to complete her job as a Grand Duchess?

7. Who is Sergei Saltykov? What was he hired to do?

8. How does the crown react to Catherine following her birth to her son Paul?

9. Who all has claim to the Russian throne at the time of Catherine’s son’s birth?

10. Why does Frederick the Great of Prussia pose a conflict with Elizabeth’s plan for Russian dominance?

11. Who is Grigory Orlov? How does he fulfill the plan that Catherine has for power over Russia?

12. Who was Yemelynan Pugachev? What did he do in order to enact social change for the Russian peasant class?

13. On Christmas day 1761 Tsarina Elizabeth dies. Who become heir of the throne?

14. What does Peter do concerning the lagging war between Russia and Frederick the Great? How does the Russian army react?
15. Since the Imperial Guards were such an important factor in determining who stays on the Russian throne, describe the Guards relationship with Peter III?

16. How does Catherine gain the support for the Russian throne?

17. What is Peter's response to Catherine's takeover of the Russian throne?

18. What ultimately happens to Peter III following Catherine's takeover?

19. What was the Orlov's prize for aiding Catherine's takeover of the Russia throne?

20. How does serfdom work in Russia?

21. How were slavery in American and serfdom in Russia similar in concept?

22. What reforms does Catherine fulfill as she embraces the Russian throne while indirectly sealing Russia's Golden Age?

23. What plans for expansion does Catherine attempt to accomplish? Why is this such a necessary evil?

24. Discuss how Yemelyan Pugachev manage to work his way back into the pages of Russian "royal" history? What is his plan for the Russian rank and file?

25. What is the relationship between Catherine and her son Paul? What is his fate?

26. As a makeshift leader, how does Pugachev succeed against Catherine military forces?

27. In the spring of 1774 who does Catherine secretly marry? How does her new husband aid in the success of her expansion campaign?

28. How does Catherine finally handle the rebelling Serfs led by Yemelyan Pugachev?

29. Following Pugachev's capture Catherine had a serious decision to make concerning the fate of serfdom. What was Catherine's decision concerning the peasants?

30. What was the final "blessing" that Catherine provided Pugachev as a means of showcasing her "enlightened" principles?