

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Bell Ringer: Absolute Monarchs: Ivan the Terrible

Instructions: Examine the picture. Read the background information. Answer the questions.



Background: Ivan the 4th (1530-1584), also called Ivan the Terrible, ruled as monarch of Russia from 1547 to 1584. He called himself Tsar, which meant Caesar. Some of the nobility of Russia, called boyars, rose up against Ivan to claim various lands. Ivan was able to squash these rebellions. Ivan was ruthless against opposition, even murdering his own son, Ivan Ivanovich (1554-1581), whom he believed stood against him, through hitting him in the head with his scepter. Ivan ruled with an iron fist. He even developed a secret police force, the Oprichnik, that terrorized Russia and all those Ivan even speculated stood against him. He gave the Oprichnik lands he had confiscated from the boyars in exchange for service. Pictured above, Ivan sits in regret and anguish as his son, Ivan Ivanovich, dies after his father struck him with a scepter.

1. Who was Ivan the 4th? How would you describe the type of leader he was?

2. What happened between Ivan the Terrible and his son, Ivan Ivanovich?

3. How did Ivan the terrible use the Oprichnik in Russia?

Answers:

1. Who was Ivan the 4th? How would you describe the type of leader he was?

Ivan was a ruthless leader who ruled with an iron fist and terrorized those under his leadership.

2. What happened between Ivan the Terrible and his son, Ivan Ivanovich?

Ivan killed his own son.

3. How did Ivan the terrible use the Oprichnik in Russia?

The Oprichnik served as a secret police force for Ivan. They terrorized their fellow Russian citizens.