



# B2U1 In Search of the Amber Room

*Reading*



# Is amber economically valueless or priceless?



1. What do you know about the amber?  
(color/usage/formation)

yellowish brown clear

for decoration, necklaces and other ornaments

Amber is the fossilized resin from ancient forests.  
It was formed tens of millions of years ago.

2. What words would you use to describe  
the Amber Room?

fancy; extraordinary; rare...



# ***In Search of the Amber Room***

Frederick William I, the king of Prussia, could never have imagined that his greatest gift to the Russian people would have such an amazing history.

**What do you want to know about the title and the first sentence?** (Raise questions)

1. What was the amber room like?
2. Who made the amber room? Why?
3. Who is in search of the amber room? And how?
4. What was the result of the search?
5. What was the amazing history?
6. Why did the amber room have such an amazing history?
7. Why was the amber room the greatest gift?



## 1. Skim the passage and relate the raised questions to paragraphs.

Para. 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. What was the amber room like?	}	<b>factual questions</b>
Para. 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Who made the amber room? Why?		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Who is in search of the amber room? And how?		
Para. 2-5	{	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. What was the result of the search?	}	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. What was the amazing history?		
What we want to know	{	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. Why did the amber room have such an amazing history?	}	<b>probing questions</b>
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7. Why was the amber room the greatest gift?		

## 2. Collect evidence for the above questions and share.

- ❑ 1. What was the amber room like?
- ❑ 2. Who made the amber room? Why?

Para. 1&2



**What words would you like to describe the amber room? (Evidence)**

Frederick William I , the King of Prussia , could never have imagined that his greatest gift to the Russian people would have such an amazing history . This gift was the Amber Room, which was given this name because **several tons of amber were used to make it**. The amber which was **selected** had a **beautiful** yellow-brown colour like **honey**. The design of the room was **in the fancy style popular in those days**. It was also **a treasure decorated with gold and jewels**, which took the country's best artists about **ten years to make**.

The amber room was an **amazing** treasure with considerable **selected** materials, a **fancy** design and the **best** artists' unremitting efforts for years.

- ❑ 4. What was the result of the search?
- ❑ 5. What was the amazing history?

## Para. 2-5



not a gift,  
the palace

trade...with...  
part of the winter palace  
serve as...

be at war;  
secretly steal...

Frederick I

Frederick  
William I

Peter the  
Great (the  
Czar)

Catherine II

The Nazis

The Russians  
and  
Germans

belong to; not to  
keep it; give it to

move...  
add more details(improve)...

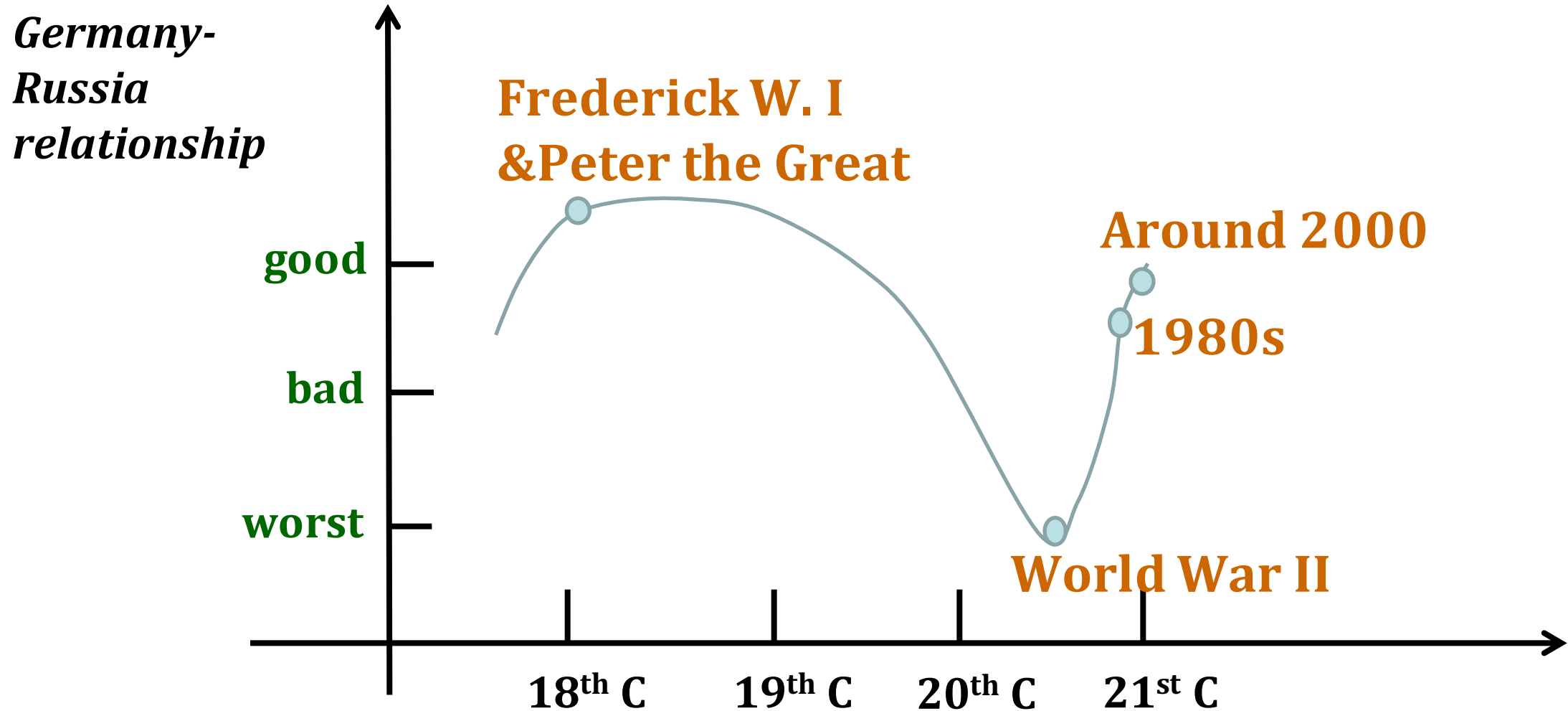
rebuild;  
look like...

What words would you like to describe the amber room?

The amber room was an amazing treasure with an amazing history.



As an eyewitness, what did Amber Room see over the centuries?



❑ 6. Why did the amber room have such an amazing history?

❑ 7. Why was the amber room the greatest gift?

**Our idea**



## An Eyewitness

✓ the luxurious life of kings and queens

### The Amber Room

✓ the Nazi Crime

✓ the friend-foe-friend relationship change between Germany and Russia

#### appearance

**material** ⊖ several tones of selected amber

**color** ⊖ a yellow-brown color like honey

**design/style** ⊖ in the fancy style popular in those days

**decorations** ⊖ a treasured decorated with gold and jewels

six hundred candles lit the room, and its mirrors shone like gold

#### functions

serve as a **small reception hall**, become **part of...**

#### history

be (not) made to be, be designed for, belong to, add more details to it, remove...from...

**specific** ⊖ This was a time when the two countries were at war.

**general** ⊖ **such an amazing history; remain a mystery**

**rare, valuable**

#### comment

**artistic value** ⊖

**be considered(as) one of the wonders of the world**

**historical value** ⊖

**survive, witness a special period of history, reminder**

**my comment** ⊖

**There is no doubt that... be (not) worth protecting**





## Make a report



1. How many versions of Amber Room are mentioned?
2. What are the differences? (makers/style/purpose)
3. What decides the fate of the Amber Room?

*There are two. They are the lost Amber Room and the new Amber Room. The former, in the fancy style popular in those days, was made by the Prussian and Russian best artists years to complete. It is an eyewitness to the luxurious life of kings and queens, and an eyewitness to the Nazi crime during WWII. However, they rebuilt the latter one, a replica (复制品), in 2003 to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> birthday of their cities. It is an eyewitness to the friend-foe-friend relationship change between Germany and Russia. Personally, it is humans' wisdom and weaknesses that decides the fate of the amber room.*



**Think further**



## 1. What words would you use to describe the amber room?

fancy; extraordinary; rare...

an amazing treasure with an amazing history

eyewitness, reminder...

## 2. Why would you describe it in this way?

the economical value

the historical value

the cultural value





## Question the title



Which title do you prefer? Why?

- A. *In Search of the Amber Room*
- B. *The Amazing History of the Amber Room*
- C. *The Value of the Amber Room*
- D. *The Amber Room, an Eyewitness of the Amazing history*

...

**In search of something** means looking for something. The title ***In Search of the Amber Room*** provides readers with an opportunity to make their own judgement, including the amazing history, the economical, historical and cultural value of the Amber Room.



## Assignment



Chose an important object with historical significance at home or abroad. Make a claim for its importance and give the specific dimensions to support your claim.