

# Proposal for MATRYOSHKA Emoji

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Date: February 2019

Emoji Name: MATRYOSHKA

Sort Order: in the Game category, after TEDDY BEAR

Reference emoji: PENGUIN

Keywords: RUSSIA | DOLL | NEST | матрёшка (Russian language spelling in Cyrillic)



*Four possible illustrations of a matryoshka nesting doll.*

*Credit Apee Messer, free for use in conjunction with this proposal. Alternate rendering below,*

*Credit Jef Gray, free for use with this proposal.*



## Abstract

This proposal requests the addition of a MATRYOSHKA, or RUSSIAN NESTING DOLL, to the Unicode emoji library. The current emoji library's visual references to post-Soviet culture are limited to national flags and the Ruble symbol (₽). However, post-Soviet cultures represent 60 countries and a population of 290 million people. Russia is also frequently a topic of news and conversation, especially in the U.S., and we believe Russian and post-Soviet cultures deserve more representation in the emoji world. We also think the emoji could represent the concept of "nesting," as detailed in the Multiple Uses section of this proposal.

# Introduction

Currently, users' ability to reference Eastern Europe, Russia and the former Soviet Union, is limited in terms of emoji. Commonly recognized cultural symbols are not available in the current catalog of visual artifacts.

The two largest countries in this group, Russia and Ukraine, are frequently in the news for enormous international events, sporting and artistic events, yet they have no symbols in emoji, only flags. Some of these relevant news events include:

- Russian interactions with other governments<sup>1</sup>
- Russian/Ukrainian dispute over the territory of Crimea<sup>2</sup>
- The 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia<sup>3</sup>
- The 2014 Olympics in Sochi<sup>4</sup>
- The Eurovision song contest in Kiev 2005 and 2017, and Moscow in 2009<sup>5</sup>

Given the large number of nations and post-Soviet diaspora worldwide, the introduction of a MATRYOSHKA emoji offers something that can reflect Eastern European cultural traditions without carrying political or religious connotations.

"Matryoshka" derives from the Russian word for "mother," and the traditional matryoshka dolls depict friendly women wearing kerchiefs and traditional Russian peasant clothing. One theory is that the dolls are meant to represent the grandmother, mother, granddaughter and successive generations.<sup>6</sup> They date back to 1890 and have become a symbol of Russian crafts and heritage.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/30/technology/facebook-google-russia.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2019/02/06/world/europe/ap-eu-ukraine-presidential-election.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.olympic.org/sochi-2014>

<sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurovision\\_Song\\_Contest#Host\\_country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurovision_Song_Contest#Host_country)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.gounesco.com/matryoshka-origin-symbolic-meaning/>

<sup>7</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matryoshka\\_doll](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matryoshka_doll)



Traditional matryoshka dolls feature a "babushka" woman, her daughters, and her daughters' daughters.  
Photo from [Liliana International](#).



A store in Sitka, Alaska, sells a wide variety of matryoshka dolls. Photo by [Debbie Hahn on Pinterest](#).



On the left, a set of matryoshka dolls depicts Russian president Vladimir Putin and preceding Russian leaders. Photo from [Russian Crafts](#). On the right, an American version features President Barack Obama and preceding presidents. Photo from [Alamy stock photos](#).



An online vendor sells handmade nesting dolls representing Star Wars characters. Photo from [andesartesanias on eBay](#).

Matryoshka dolls also enjoy very widespread recognition in non-Soviet countries, where they are adapted to other contexts and also recognized as a Russian cultural symbol.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.tripsavvy.com/what-is-a-matryoshka-1502244>

Due to its widespread recognition, popularity, and association with post-Soviet cultures, we believe the MATRYOSKA will provide an emoji that can stand in for many different symbols of these cultures. It also has the benefit of being non-political and non-religious, which can help increase representation of a culture at a time when relations between modern-day countries are in flux and can be controversial.

## Selection Factors: Inclusion

### A. Compatibility

We are not aware of an existing MATRYOSKA emoji or icon in any of the major platform.

### B. Expected Usage Level

#### B1. Frequency

Russia is home to 145 million people and Wikipedia estimates the Russian diaspora at 20-30 million people worldwide.<sup>9</sup> This suggest a large demand for a Russian-oriented emoji and ties to Emojination's mission to represent more cultures in emoji.

I have included trends as way of demonstrating the higher references to Russian (language, culture, and heritage) vs. Russia as a keyword. I have also compared the common phrase for the dolls, Matryoshka vs Russian Doll, with Matryoshka trending much higher due to those who know it by name.

Here we compare occurrences of the word "matryoshka" with the median emoji of "penguin." Because the Matryoshka is primarily a Russian icon and image, it doesn't rank particularly high in English-language search results. Where possible, we have also included search results for the Cyrillic spelling of both Matryoshka (матрёшка) and Penguin (пингвин).

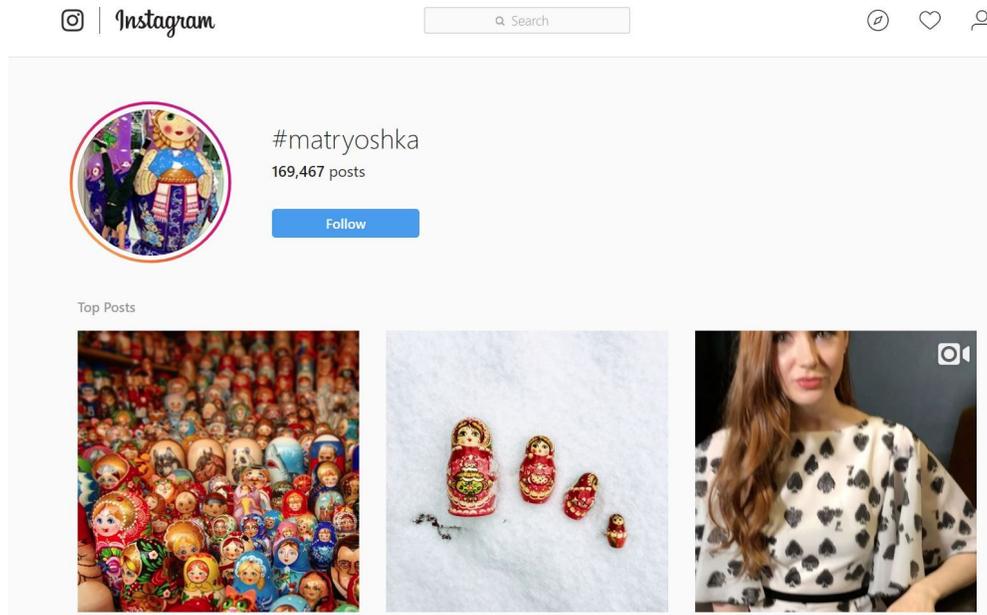
While Google web trends search and other statistics are low for MATRYOSKA vs. PENGUIN, there are a number of instances where the two are of the same order of magnitude. We are confident in the MATRYOSKA's popularity to symbologize Russian and Eastern Europe, which is harder to capture with search statistics because they are overly broad.

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<sup>9</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian\\_diaspora](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_diaspora)

## Instagram

On Instagram, #nestingdolls returns 42,300 posts,<sup>10</sup> while #matryoshka returns 169,000<sup>11</sup> and #russiandolls returns 50,000.<sup>12</sup> The Cyrillic spelling #матрёшка shows an additional 40,000 posts.<sup>13</sup>



## Vkontakte

In Russian-speaking countries, social media giants such as Vkontakte.ru or (VK.com) are the primary alternative to Facebook. A search for "матрёшка" reveals the following results<sup>14</sup>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/nestingdolls/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/matryoshka/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/russiandolls/?hl=en>

<sup>13</sup>

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/%D0%BC%D0%B0%D1%82%D1%80%D1%91%D1%88%D0%BA%D0%B0/?hl=en>

<sup>14</sup>

[vk.com/search?c%5Bper\\_page%5D=40&c%5Bq%5D=%D0%BC%D0%B0%D1%82%D1%80%D1%91%D1%88%D0%BA%D0%B0&c%5Bsection%5D=auto](vk.com/search?c%5Bper_page%5D=40&c%5Bq%5D=%D0%BC%D0%B0%D1%82%D1%80%D1%91%D1%88%D0%BA%D0%B0&c%5Bsection%5D=auto)

Search Results

матрёшка

People 1,024

Show all >



**Maria Matreshka**  
Volgograd, Russia



**Yulia Russkaya-Matreshka**  
Moscow, Russia



**Alina Yakushina**  
Филиал КубГУ



**Matrenasuper Mastreshka**  
Moscow, Russia

Communities 1,625

Show all >



**Политическая матрёшка**  
50,846



**МАТРЕШКА**  
12,667



**Ресторан МАТРЕШКА**  
24,067



**Матрёшки**  
Совместные покупки...  
16,030

ВК Search

Videos 30,255 Show all >

**Салат "Оливье" в ресторане "Матрёшка"**  
ИЗЮМ | Еда  
12,387 views - one year ago

**Матрёшки / Танцы круглый год**  
Матрешки PROMO | Танцы круглый год  
18,707 views - two months ago

News 1,061,005 Show all >

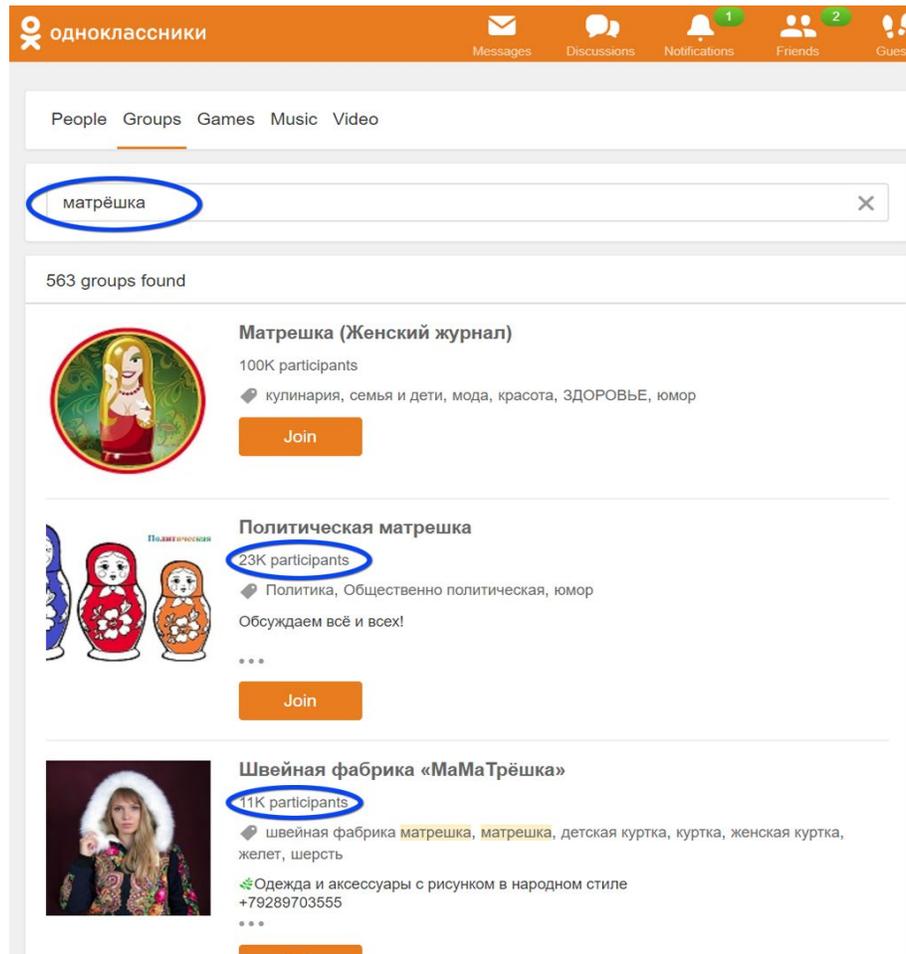
**Svetlana Ivanova**  
6 minutes ago

🌸🌸 МУЖСКОЙ И ЖЕНСКИЙ ТРИКОТАЖ ИЗ ИВАНОВО № 37 🌸🌸  
☆☆☆ ПРИНИМАЮ ЗАКАЗЫ!!! ☆☆☆  
🎁🎁 СТОП 15 ЯНВАРЯ 🎁🎁 СНИЖЕН ОРГ!!! ЦЕНЫ В АЛЬБОМЕ  
ОКОНЧАТЕЛЬНЫЕ!  
📁📁 альбом: [https://vk.com/album38094018\\_258826843](https://vk.com/album38094018_258826843)

These numbers are not meant to compare to the reference emoji, but instead to show how iconic the dolls are as a symbol of culture.

## Odnoklassniki

A social media site that is popular with Russian speakers, known as Odnoklassniki.ru or OK.ru reveals the following search results:<sup>15</sup>



The screenshot shows the Odnoklassniki website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with icons for Messages, Discussions, Notifications (with a '1' badge), Friends (with a '2' badge), and Guests. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'People', 'Groups', 'Games', 'Music', and 'Video'. A search bar contains the text 'матрёшка' (matryoshka), which is circled in blue. Below the search bar, it says '563 groups found'. Three search results are displayed:

- Матрешка (Женский журнал)**: 100K participants. Topics: кулинария, семья и дети, мода, красота, ЗДОРОВЬЕ, юмор. Includes a 'Join' button.
- Политическая матрешка**: 23K participants. Topics: Политика, Общественно политическая, юмор. Description: Обсуждаем всё и всех!. Includes a 'Join' button.
- Швейная фабрика «МаМаТрёшка»**: 11K participants. Topics: швейная фабрика матрешка, матрешка, детская куртка, куртка, женская куртка, желет, шерсть. Description: Одежда и аксессуары с рисунком в народном стиле. Phone: +79289703555. Includes a 'Join' button.

<sup>15</sup><https://www.ok.ru/search?st.query=%D0%BC%D0%B0%D1%82%D1%80%D1%91%D1%88%D0%BA%D0%B0&st.mode=Groups&st.grmode=Groups&st.posted=set&st.mmode=Track>

о одноклассники Messages Discussions Notifications 1 Friends 2

People Groups Games Music Video

матрёшка

6 channels found



**матрёшка**  
0 subscribers • 2 videos



**матрёшка цирк**  
1 subscriber • 10 videos

Show more

4 249 videos found





On these Russian platforms, there is a net gain of 16 million more hits when using the Russian language version of the word "Matryoshka" over its English equivalent (52 million versus 36 million). "Penguin" saw a smaller net gain of 3 million in the same language comparison (104 million compared to 101 million).

Yandex Search

Penguin vs Matryoshka (English):

In orlando  На сайте  Exactly as in the request  
   File type  
   От

Clear

**Penguin Books USA**

[penguin.com](http://penguin.com)

The official home of Penguin Books, USA, publishers of bestselling fiction, nonfiction, classics, and children's books.

**Penguin - Wikipedia**

[en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org) > Penguin

**Penguins** (order Sphenisciformes, family Spheniscidae) are a group of aquatic, flightless birds. They live almost exclusively in the Southern Hemisphere, found in the Galapagos **penguin**, found north of the equator. [Read more >](#)



**Penguin - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclop...**

[simple.wikipedia.org](http://simple.wikipedia.org) > Penguin

**Penguins** are seabirds in the family Spheniscidae. They can't fly in the air. They eat fish and other seafood. **Penguins** lay their eggs and their babies on land. [Read more >](#)



**Penguin USA - Twitter**

[twitter.com](http://twitter.com) > [penguinusa](https://twitter.com/penguinusa)

Penguin Books USA is the US affiliate of the internationally r ...

Subscribers : 4 million

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**Penguin : translation, pronunciation, transcription, examples ...**

[WoordHunt.ru](http://WoordHunt.ru) > word / penguin

Translation of the word **penguin**, American and British pronunciation, transcription, phrases, examples of use.

**Penguin - New World Encyclopedia**

[newworldencyclopedia.org](http://newworldencyclopedia.org) > entry / Penguin

**Penguin** (PEN-gwin or PENG-gwin) Spheniscidae, living almost exclusively ... [Read more >](#)



# Penguin



The family of flightless seabirds, the only modern in the modern species. All members of this family swim and d

**Interesting fact:** In Central Europe and Russia, pengui which [...]

see also



Emperor Penguin Little penguin Crested penguin King Penguin

Wikipedia Report an error

Found 101 million results

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### W. Matryoshka doll - Wikipedia

[en.wikipedia.org](#) > [Matryoshka doll](#) [advertising](#)  
**Matryoshka** dolls (Russian: **matryoshka** , IPA: [mɐˈtrʲɔʂkə] (listen)), also known as Russian dolls, stacking dolls, or Russian dolls ... [Read more](#) >



### How matryoshka doll is made - manufacture, making, history ...

[madehow.com](#) > [Volume-6 / Matryoshka-Doll.html](#) [advertising](#)  
 Of The **matryoshka matryoshka** doll is a symbol of Russia and ITS culture. It's truly a doll — a child's plaything — it's truly a couple of years ago as a highly collectible art form. The **matryoshka** doll (or, simply, the **matryoshka** ) is a nested doll with ... [Read more](#) >

### What does Matryoshka mean? The Story of Russian Nesting ...

[travelallrussia.com](#) > [blog / matryoshka-russian-beauty](#) [advertising](#)  
 Does for What **Matryoshka** mean, how are nesting dolls made, and Entire ... Undoubtedly, a **Matryoshka** - a Russian wooden doll with Products smaller dolls stacked | Stacked Within the Bigger ones, to the BE Considered a symbol of Russian folk art and culture. The word ... [Read More](#) >

### W. Matryoshka - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

[simple.wikipedia.org](#) > [Matryoshka](#) [advertising](#)  
**Matryoshka** made of wood This doll is one of the most popular souvenirs in Russia. It is also widely known as "Aunt Olga," "Babushka" or "Mommy ... [Read more](#) >

### T. 3RACHA - Matryoshka lyrics + English translation

[lyricstranslate.com](#) > [en / matryoshka-matryoshka.html](#) ... [advertising](#)  
**Matryoshka** (English translation). Artist: 3RACHA. Song: **Matryoshka** 4 translations. ... **Matryoshka** - Original Transliteration Transliteration 2. [Read More](#) >

### Matvoshka Nestina Dolls: Meaning of Russian Wooden ...

## Matryoshka

Series, from 2018

1 season

The film tells about the fate of a young girl, Julia, who turned on line of the struggle for state security ... [KinoPoisk](#)

your mark [?](#)



Genre: **Drama**

Country: **Russia**

Directed by: **Kim Druzhinin**

### Actors



Ivan Kolesnikov



Dmitry Palamarchuk  
Volokhov



Vladimir Litvinov



Artyom Petrovich  
Krylov

[MovieSearch](#) [Report a bug](#)

Found **36 million results**

2,117 hits per month

пингвин and матрёшка (Russian):

This has 104 million results in Russian.

### Пингиновые — Википедия

[ru.wikipedia.org](http://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Пингиновые) > wiki/Пингиновые ▾

Пингиновые, или **пингвины** (лат. Spheniscidae), — семейство нелетающих морских птиц, единственное современное в отряде пингинообразных (Sphenisciformes). [Читать ещё >](#)



### Пингвин — описание, виды, чем питаются пингвин...

[nashzeleniyimir.ru](http://nashzeleniyimir.ru) > пингвин ▾

Пингвин — нелетающая птица из семейства пингиновых. Все о пингинах: характеристика и строение, размножение, разновидности, где обитают... [Читать ещё >](#)



### Пингины: описание, повадки, где живут, как выглядят...

[poznayka.org](http://poznayka.org) > zoologiya/pingvinyi-korennyie... ▾

Пингвин: описание, строение, характеристика. Как выглядит пингвин? Все без исключения пингины первоклассные пловцы, к тому же умеющие отлично нырять. А вот летать они, к сожалению, не умеют от слова совсем. Да и по... [Читать ещё >](#)

### Пингины | Энциклопедия животных

[animalsglobe.ru](http://animalsglobe.ru) > pingvini/ ▾

Пингины — одни из самых древних птиц на Земле. Представляют обособленную группу птиц, выделенную в отдельный отряд Пингинообразных. [Читать ещё >](#)



### Пингины - необычные птицы

[lifeglobe.net](http://lifeglobe.net) > Пингины ▾

Пингины - необычные птицы. Пингвин — единственная птица, которая может плавать, но не может летать. Кроме того, это единственная птица, ходящая стоя. В этой теме я расскажу вам об этих удивительных созданиях. [Читать ещё >](#)

### Виды пингинов фото, описание

[mirplaneta.ru](http://mirplaneta.ru) > vidy-pingvinov-foto-opisanie.html ▾

Императорский пингвин является самым крупным представителем пингинов. В высоту он может достигать до 140 см, а вес может превышать 40 кг. [Читать ещё >](#)



## Пингиновые



Семейство нелетающих морских птиц, единственное пингинообразных. В него включают 18 современных семейства хорошо плавают и ныряют. [Википедия](#)

**Интересный факт:** В Центральной Европе и России в зоопарках, некоторые из которых [...]

### Смотрите также



Императорский пингвин



Малый пингвин



Хохлатый пингвин



Копи

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Нашлось 104 млн результатов

712 тыс. показов в месяц

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## Матрёшка

**Матрёшка** — русская деревянная игрушка в виде расписной куклы, внутри которой находятся подобные ей куклы меньшего размера. Число вложенных кукол обычно - три и более.

[Матрёшка — Википедия](#)

[ru.wikipedia.org](https://ru.wikipedia.org) > Матрёшка

**52 Million Results**

Нашлось 52 млн результатов

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[хохлома](#)

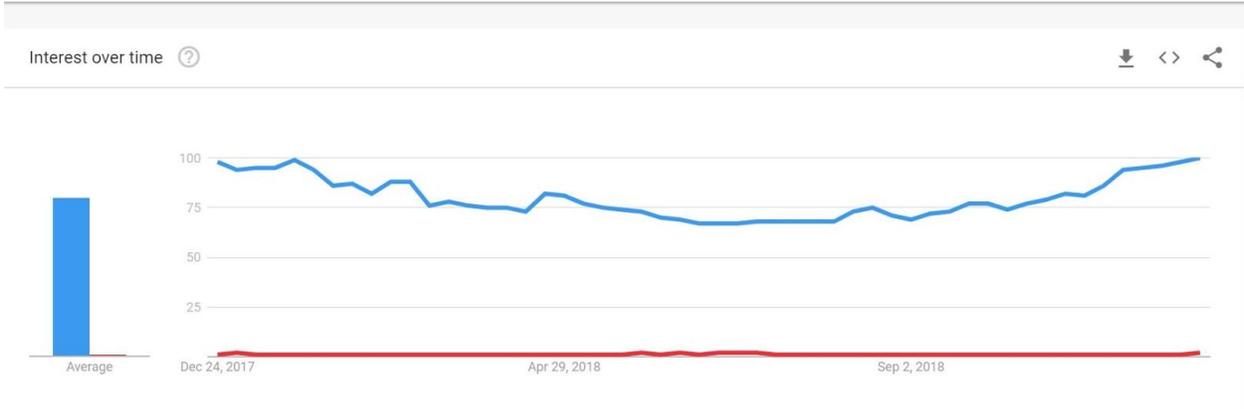


Google Trends: Web Search

While Google web trends search is low for MATRYOSHKA vs. PENGUIN, we are confident in the doll's popularity from the actual web results, and we like the Eastern European connotation.

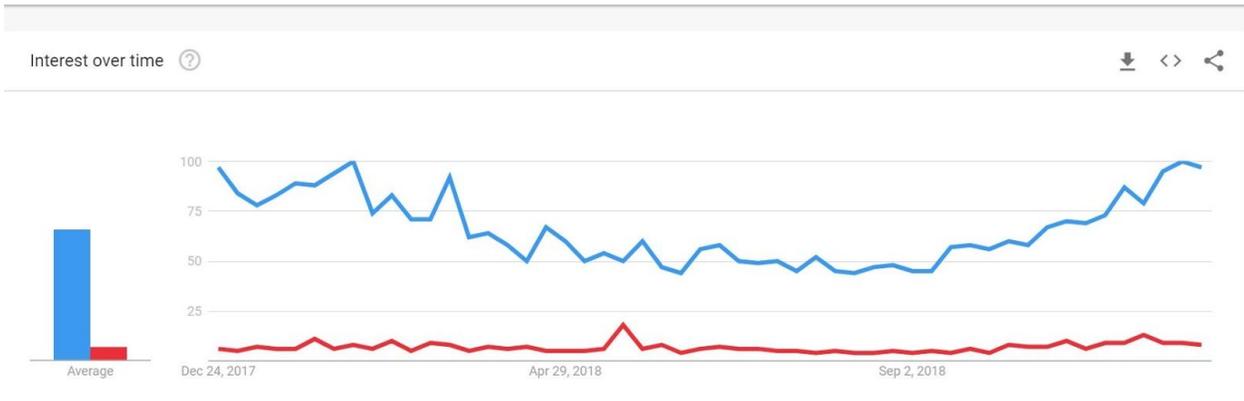
● Penguin Search term
 ● Matryoshka Search term
 + Add comparison

Worldwide Past 12 months All categories Web Search



● ПИНГВИН Search term
 ● матрёшка Search term
 + Add comparison

Worldwide Past 12 months All categories Web Search



# Google Trends: Image Search

● matryoshka  
Search term



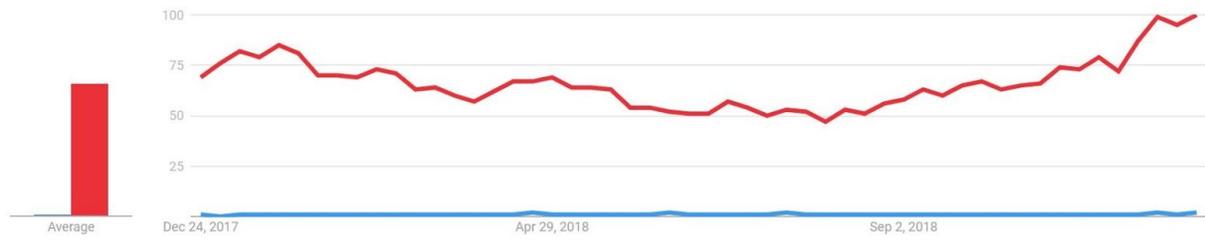
● penguin  
Search term



+ Add comparison

Worldwide ▾ Past 12 months ▾ All categories ▾ Image Search ▾

Interest over time



● матрёшка  
Search term



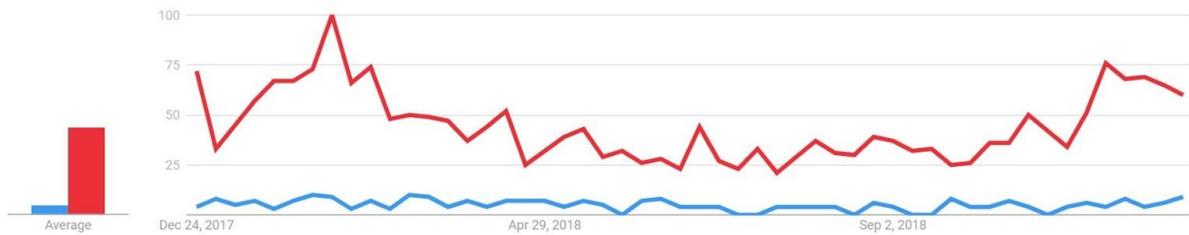
● ПИНГВИН  
Search term



+ Add comparison

Worldwide ▾ Past 12 months ▾ All categories ▾ Image Search ▾

Interest over time



Google Search



Penguin

All

Images

Videos

News

Shopping

More

About 389,000,000 results (0.76 seconds)

Original Penguin Official | Huge Selection Of Products

Ad [www.originalpenguin.com/](http://www.originalpenguin.com/) ▼

Top Rated Original **Penguin** Apparel. Be An Original, Shop  
Email Sign Up - 30% Off · Resolve To Save · Join Original R



Matryoshka

All

Images

Videos

Shopping

Maps

More

About 7,430,000 results (0.68 seconds)

**Matryoshka** is a traditional Russian souvenir, the most popular among Russians and foreigners. It's a symbol of motherhood, fertility, as a puppet doll with numerous family



ПИНГВИН

[All](#) [Images](#) [Videos](#) [News](#) [Maps](#) [More](#)

About 7,460,000 results (0.54 seconds)

[Пингвин - Википедия](#)

<https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Пингвиновые> [Translate this page](#)

ПИНГВИНОВЫЕ, или ПИНГВИНЫ (лат. Spheniscidae), — сем



матрёшка

[All](#) [Images](#) [Maps](#) [Shopping](#) [Videos](#) [More](#)

About 8,520,000 results (0.63 seconds)

Tip: Search for **English** results only. You can specify your :  
in Preferences

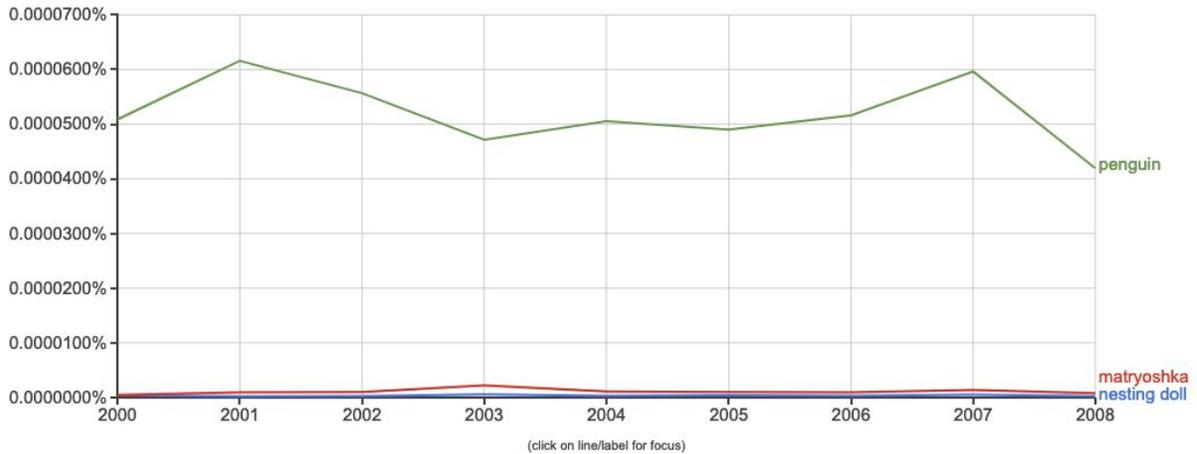
[See матрёшка](#)

Google Ngram Viewer

# Google Books Ngram Viewer

Graph these comma-separated phrases:   case-insensitive

between  and  from the corpus  with smoothing of



## YouTube

YouTube search results for "matryoshka": 101,000

YouTube search results for "penguin": 20,300,000

YouTube search results for "матрёшка" (matryoshka): 38,800

YouTube search results for "пингвин" (penguin): 72,400

## Bing

**All** Images Videos Maps News Shopping | My saves

28,900,000 Results Any time ▾

[Penguin | Shop Original Penguin Clothes](https://www.originalpenguin.com)  
<https://www.originalpenguin.com>

**Ad** Top Rated Original **Penguin** Clothes. Be An Original, Shop Official Site Today!  
Polos - From **\$34.99** - Classic & Heritage Fits [more]



matryoshka



All Shopping Images Videos Maps News | My saves

1,490,000 Results Any time ▾

### Matryoshka doll - Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matryoshka\\_doll](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matryoshka_doll) ▾

Overview



ПИНГВИН



All Images Videos Maps News Shopping | My saves

369,000 Results Any time ▾

### Пингиновые — Википедия

<https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Пингиновые> ▾ [Translate this page](#)

Три вида — хохлатый **пингвин** (*Eudyptes sclateri*), великолепный **пингвин** (*Megadyptes antipodes*) галапагосский **пингвин** (*Spheniscus mendiculus*) — в начале XXI века были признаны находящимися на грани вымирания ещё семь



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- Penguin** of 60,380
- Penguin Books**
- Penguin** (character)
- Penguin** Random House
- Penguins** of Madagascar
- Penguin** Cafe Orchestra
- Penguin** Group
- Penguin** Classics
- Penguin** Highway
- Penguin**drum

exclusively in the Southern Hemisphere  
66 KB (7,211 words) - 04:05, 10 December 2018

**Emperor penguin**  
The emperor penguin (*Antarodites forsteri*) is the tallest

**Fiordland penguin**  
Galapagos penguin  
**gentoo penguin**  
Humboldt penguin  
jackass penguin  
king penguin  
little penguin

projects



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**Search**

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- Matryoshka brain
- Matryoshka** Radio
- Matryoshka** (album)
- Matryoshka** (Millennium)
- Matryoshka** (song)
- Matryoshka**-R (ISS Experiment)
- Matryoshka** (disambiguation)

**Matryoshka** doll  
**Matryoshka** dolls (Russian: матрёшка, IPA: [mɐˈtrʲɕkə] (listen)), also known as Russian nesting dolls, stacking dolls, or Russian dolls, are the set of  
13 KB (1,399 words) - 03:22, 19 December 2018

Results from sister projects

**matryoshka**  
English Wikipedia has an article on: **Matryoshka** doll  
Wikipedia From Russian



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Q Penguin ✕ **Search**

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projects

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66 KB (7,211 words) - 04:05, 10 December 2018

Fiordland **penguin**  
Galapagos **penguin** gentoo



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- Рубрикация
- Указатель А—Я
- Избранные статьи
- Случайная статья
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## Результаты поиска

OR Ключевые слова ? Полная справка

Q матрёшка ✕ **Найти**

**Матрёшка** 20 из 370

**Матрёшка** (альбом)

**Матрёшка** (фильм)

**Матрёшка** (значения)

**Матрёшка** (формат данных)

**Матрёшка** (трава)

Матрёнка (приток Байгоры)

Матрёнка (приток Берди)

Матрёнка

проектов

Федерации матрешки, музеи матрешки: как **матрешка**  
село кормит, Сельская новь № 9, сентябрь 2004 Лиля  
Пальвелева. **Матрёшка**: народное достояние или китч?  
Радио  
13 Кб (766 слов) - 15:12, 19 декабря 2018

**матрёшка**  
женщина», далее из mater  
«мать», далее  
из праиндоевр. \*mater-  
«мать» **матрёшка** //

**Матрёшка** (альбом)

## B2. Multiple Usages

The matryoshka dolls are symbolic beyond Russia. Nesting dolls are commonly found in many countries from Finland, Czech Republic, Romania, and as far south as Croatia and Montenegro. Though many outside of Eastern Europe think of the matryoshka as a symbol of "Russia," it really symbolizes a larger cultural footprint. Literary<sup>16</sup> and cultural<sup>17</sup> references to characteristics of a given situation that appear to have a layered property akin to a Matryoshka doll<sup>18</sup>--a story within a story, enigmatic and deeper than it appears.

Due to the toy's fame as a nesting doll, the emoji could also help convey the concept of nesting. Indeed, matryoshka dolls may be more well known in English-speaking countries as "nesting dolls."<sup>19</sup> Nesting is a common feature of computer programming, referring to the act of storing objects inside other objects.<sup>20</sup> Matryoshkas are also common enough as a metaphor, becoming terms of art in computation<sup>21</sup>, biology<sup>22</sup> and other industries. The file format .mkv, common found on video and media sites, stands for "Matroska Multimedia Container," so named because it fits several different media types into one file.<sup>23</sup>

All of these metaphors use Russian dolls to connote "nesting" or "objects within objects", but there is no symbol meaning "nest" in the current emoji library.

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.macalester.edu/russian/about/resources/miscellany/matryoshka/>

<sup>17</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matryoshka\\_doll](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matryoshka_doll)

<sup>18</sup> <https://russianlegacy.com/matryoshka-nesting-dolls.htm>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.tripsavvy.com/what-is-a-matryoshka-1502244>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.webopedia.com/TERM/N/nesting.html>

<sup>21</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matryoshka\\_brain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matryoshka_brain)

<sup>22</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon\\_nanotube#Multi-walled](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon_nanotube#Multi-walled)

<sup>23</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matroska>

## An Object within an Object



This web design website shows matryoshka dolls being used as a visual representation of object-oriented programming. Screenshot of [Weblution Designs](#).

## What Is an MKV File and How Do You Play Them?

MARTIN HENDRIX  
UPDATED JULY 3, 2017, 3:14PM EDT



Whether you are downloading videos from the Internet or getting them from other people, there is a high chance that you will come across MKV files. Let's talk about what they are and how you can use them on your computer.

- 1 Why Wi-Fi Channels 12, 13, and 14 Are Illegal in the USA
- 2 Your Smarthome Setup Might Break, and There's Nothing You Can Do About It
- 3 Streaming Services Are Beginning To Look Like Cable Companies
- 4 How to Watch the 2019 Super Bowl Without Cable

This how-to website uses nesting dolls to illustrate the concept of a Matroska Multimedia Container, or .mkv file. Screenshot of [How-To Geek](#).

### B3. Use in Sequences

N/A

## B4. Breaking New Ground

Current events and political decisions are rife with references to former Soviet republics, including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and others. But there is no positive, nonpolitical visual reference to say, "I'm proud of my Slavic heritage," or a way to illuminate a phrase in the Russian language.

As of today, the vast population of these countries are grossly underrepresented in expressing visual comments. Use of a flag or monetary symbol is a poor substitute when trying to express pride in heritage for both citizens of these countries and among compatriots living abroad in almost every country on Earth. In closing, by way of comparison, there are many times when an American custom or cultural event is poorly represented by a flag, but perhaps, a slice of pie, fireworks, or a turkey drumstick works best. This is the potential that can be unlocked if the MATRYOSHKA emoji is approved.

## C. Image Distinctiveness

The current library does include "Japanese dolls" () but there are two of them and they are different in skin tone and clothing. The matryoshka has an instantly recognizable pear shape that is distinct from the more human-shaped "Japanese dolls" which have necks, arms and legs.

## D. Completeness

The matryoshka doll is completely unrepresented in emojis to date.

## E. Frequently Requested

The matryoshka does not appear on lists of most requested emoji, but some social media users have expressed a desire for one.



## 4. Selection Factors: Exclusion

### F. Overly Specific

The matryoshka would be broad and general in nature, appealing to many Russian and post-Soviet cultures. The image proposed is the most iconic matryoshka image but it can be widely interpreted to mean any nesting doll.

### G. Open-Ended

There are no substitute or similar representations for the Russian language or the East European culture where Russian is commonly spoken.

### H. Already Representable

Russia and post-Soviet countries are represented by their flags: Russia () , Ukraine () , Belarus () and so on. The Russian ruble is also available as a character () .

However, flags and currency symbols are a far cry from true representation. None of these symbols convey pride in one's heritage or culture.

### I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

This is a generic symbol without industry or trademark affiliation. It can be found in some logos, which further supports our argument that it is representative of Russia and Eastern European cultures.



Little  
NESTING  
DOLL



EST.



1992

THE

RUSSIANSTORE

## J. Transient

This symbol is very established<sup>24</sup> and will not fade from popularity. It has been widely used for the last hundred years in souvenirs, tourism<sup>25</sup>, and cultural ministries.

## K. Faulty Comparison

There are no existing matryoshka doll emojis; this would be the first.

## 6. Other Information

### Other Character Properties

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.

General Category:

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<sup>24</sup> <https://www.maclester.edu/russian/about/resources/miscellany/matryoshka/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.gounesco.com/matryoshka-origin-symbolic-meaning/>

Canonical Combining Class:

Bidirectional Class:

Decomposition Type:

Decomposition Mapping:

Numeric Type:

Numeric Value:

Bidirectional Mirrored:

Name:

ISO Comment:

Simple Uppercase Mapping: Simple Lowercase Mapping: Simple Title case Mapping:

## 7. Author Bios

**Jef Gray** ([jef@jefgray.com](mailto:jef@jefgray.com)) is the CEO of Aurous Publishing and a career volunteer with East European communities in the United States. He is the President Emeritus of the Russian-American Community Center of Florida, Director of the International Peace & Film Festival and producer of the Izuminka East Euro Fashion Expo. **PeaceFestival.us**

**Samantha Sunne** is a freelance journalist and emoji enthusiast. In 2018, she was invited to Moscow to speak on a panel about misinformation, where a fellow journalist gave out matryoshka dolls as a welcome gift.