*Read the text about the most important battle in the War of 1812.*

**THE BATTLE OF BORODINO**

**New words:**

event [ı'vent] – событие

redoubt [rı'dαʊt] – редут (полевое военное укрепление)

fleches – флеши (полевое военное укрепление)

bloody ['blʌdı] – кровавый

military ['mılıtǝrı] – военный

cannon ['kænǝn] – артиллерия, пушка

rolling thunder ['rǝʊlıŋ 'ɵʌndǝ] – раскаты грома

worthy ['wǝ:ðı] – достойный чего-то

loss [lɒs] – потеря

deed [di:d] – поступок

The main **event** of the War of 1812 is the battle of Borodino. It took place on the 7th of September (the 26th of August – Old Style), 1812. Borodino is a village, west of the town of Mozhaysk. It is not far from Moscow, about 120 km.

The Commander-in-chief of the army, Kutuzov chose the Borodino field for the battle, because it was protected by the Kolocha river, and the Kurganny and Ytitsky Heights [haıts] (Курганная Высота и Утицкий курган). It also blocked two Smolensk – Moscow roads. Besides, there weren’t any better locations.

The battle began at about 6 am and lasted the whole day till 9 pm. There were three places of fights in Borodino. They were on the Bagration **fleches**, on the Raevsky **redoubt** and around the village of Utiza.

That battle was the **bloodiest** in the **military** history of that time. During the fighting the **cannon** fire did not stop and it sounded like **rolling thunder**. There were so many dead men, that they could not bury all of them. So they lay under the open sky. **Losses** of each of the armies were about 40 thousand. This is Napoleon’s own description of the horror of that battle: “Of all the battles I have fought, the most terrible was that before Russia. The French showed themselves to be **worthy** winners, and the Russian soldiers can rightly call themselves unwinnable.”

The Russian soldiers fought bravely and were ready to die. The Frenchmen could occupy the positions of the Russian army, but could not destroy it. In fact, Borodino became the beginning of the end for Napoleon. After that it took Kutuzov only three months to win the war completely. And Russia was again free and independent.

Today the battlefield is the Borodino State Museum and Reserve [rı'zǝ:v] (музей-заповедник). It has a lot of monuments and hictoric buildings. Every first Sunday in September the museum organizes the reconstructions of the main episodes of the battle. You can also learn more about that fighting in the Museum-Panorama “the Borodino Battle”, which is situated in Moscow. This museum is famous for the large panoramic picture “The Borodino Battle” by Franz Roubaud. The panorama is 115 metres long and 15 metres high, it shows the decisive moment of the battle – half past twelve of September 7, 1812. The sound and lighting effects make you feel that you are right there, standing in the middle of the battle. Every year a lot of people visit these museums to remember the heroic **deeds** of the soldiers and officers.