Mikhail Illarionovich Kutuzov

Biography	Mikhail Illarionovich Kutuzov was a prominent Russian general best known for his role in the Napoleonic Wars, particularly during the Patriotic War of 1812. **Born**: September 16, 1745, St. Petersburg, a noble military family. **Father**: Illarion Matveevich Kutuzov, a lieutenant general of the army corps of engineers. **Mother**: Anna Illarionovna Beklemisheva, from the Russian nobility. **Education**: The Artillery and Engineering School, aged 12. ● aged 14 - joined the army, became a corporal. ● served under the famous general Alexander Suvorov, learned much about tactics and leadership. From Suvorov, he would gain a deep respect for the bravery and endurance of the Russian soldier, learn the necessity of leading by example, and cultivate a commonsense approach to training and managing his army. ● 1782 – got married, five daughters and one son (died prematurely). ● participated in the Russian-Turkish wars, showed great skill as a commander and rose through the ranks to become a lieutenant /lefˈten.ənt/ general. ● a severe head wound, lost an eye, travelled to Western Europe in search of medical help (Leyden, Holland; London, England). ● a brilliant soldier; also, a talented diplomat and administrator; spoke French, German, English fluently, also Polish, Swedish, Turkish. ● 1792 – 1802 - ambassador in Turkey and Berlin; Governor-General of Kiev, Vilnius, and St. Petersburg; headed the elite military school, taught literature and strategy. ● 1812 - Field Marshal and the commander-in-chief of the Russian army, ordered a retreat from Moscow to protect his soldiers, used clever tactics that later helped defeat Napoleon's army. ● 1813, April 28, Bunzlau, Poland - died of disease.
Famous Battles	● The Russian-Turkish wars: Alushta (1773) and Ishmael / ˈɪʃmeɪəl / (1790). ● believed it was often better to save his army than to risk everything in a direct battle. ● 1805 - the Battle of Austerlitz against Napoleon, lost. ● the Patriotic War of 1812: the Battles of Smolensk, Borodino, Tarutino, and Maloyaroslavets. ● **Awards:** Russian and foreign, among which are: Order of St. George, Order of St. Alexander Nevsky, Order of Maria Theresa.
Historical Importance	● considered to have been the "Saviour of Russia": defeated Napoleon's army, victory that secured national pride and identity, also a major turning point in European history. ● strategic genius: the use of retreat, a scorched-earth policy, a focus on preserving his army's strength. ● symbol of national resilience: his victory against Napoleon became a powerful symbol of Russian resilience, national unity, and identity.
Legacy	● monuments - Moscow, Smolensk, and St. Petersburg. ● Order of Kutuzov. ● the cruiser "Mikhail Kutuzov". ● the town of Kutuzovo. ● St. Petersburg – the tomb in Kazan Cathedral.