Adventures in the Soviet Imaginary

Playing with Photography worksheet: Answer Key

1. A teapot; 56.

2. Answers will vary. If yes: pictures help remember math problems; math is easier to learn when mixed in with other things, etc. If no: the pictures are distracting and confusing, this layout doesn’t make sense, etc.

3. Answers may vary: Image 3 shows a man in a work apron with a stern, forward-looking gaze leaning forward, toward the machine he is working with. The machine involves some sort of large wheel. This image is superimposed on a landscape- perhaps the place where the man is working. Image 4 shows a woman with a scarf driving a tractor. The images are somewhat similar: both show workers; both are black-and-white; both involve machinery; both workers have a forward-leaning posture.

4. Answers may vary. Wheels figure prominently in 2, 3, and 5. The people in the images are all actively engaged with the machines; the machines aren’t just props. Machinery is prominent because the government at the time was strongly encouraging industrialization and mechanization.

5. Answers may vary. Soviet government and culture so emphasized progress that it made sense to portray Soviet citizens as leaning forward, toward the future.

6. Answers will vary.