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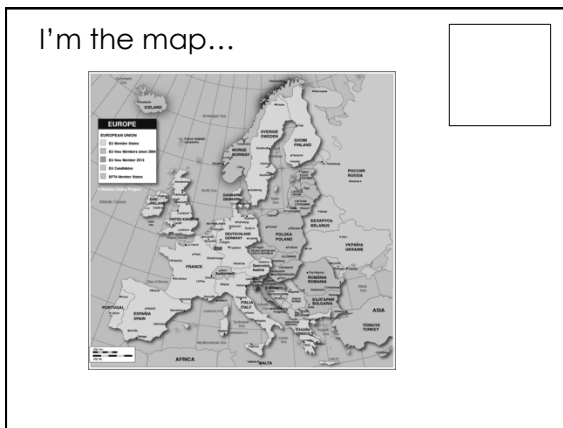
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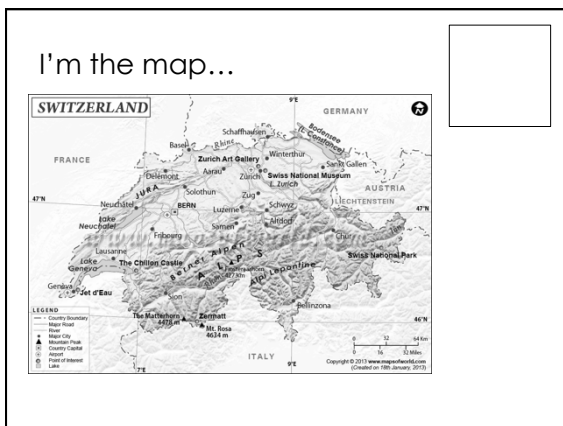
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## Geography – Mountainous

- Avg. height – 7700 feet
- Funiculars
- Avalanche guards
- Alps - over 750 mi. long
  - Longest mtn range in Europe
  - Divide Northern & Southern Europe



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## Monte Rosa – highest mtns in Switzerland



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## Mountainous – The Matterhorn



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### Quick Facts...

- Capital City: Bern
- Population – about 8 million
  - 5 million live on the Swiss Plateau
- % of Swiss are Christian
  - 42% Catholic
  - 35% Protestant



Green: Jura Mtn. region  
Yellow: Swiss Plateau  
Brown: Alps mtn. region

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### Quick Facts...

- Hydroelectricity – over 50% of their energy
- 4 National Languages:
  - French
  - German
  - Italian
  - Rhaeto-Romantsch (Latin-based language)
- English is increasingly common
- Have high quality of life

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### Government

- Form of gov't: Democracy
  - Closest to direct democracy in the world
  - Any citizen can challenge a law

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## Economy

- Currency – Swiss Franc (CHF)
- Very low unemployment
- Highly educated work force
- Economy based on:
  - Banking
  - High-tech
  - Bio-tech
  - Pharmaceuticals
  - Tourism
  - Only light farming (some terrace farming)

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## Climate

- 65-85 in the summer
- 28-45 in the winter
- 46-59 in the spring & fall

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## Drug Use

- One of biggest users of Cannabis in the world
- Cannabis is semi-legal
  - Over 18
  - If you have 10g. + you pay 100 CHF fine

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### Early people

- Helvetians (Helvetic Celts)
  - (pron. hel VEE shun)

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### Roman Territory

- Ca. 100 BCE-400 CE
- Culture flourished under Roman rule
  - (accdg. To Rome)
- Rome established cities & trade routes

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### Invasion by Germanic tribes

- Many settled there

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## Swiss Independence

- Gained formal independence from all invaders  
Aug. 1, 1291
  - Today' that's their National Day
- Fought to gain territory until 1500s
  - Impressive military power

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## Swiss Mercenaries

- Mercenary – a soldier for hire
- Swiss Guard has guarded the Vatican since 1506
  - Longest standing military in the world

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## The Swiss Guard



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The Swiss Guard



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The Swiss Guard



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The Swiss Guard



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### The Sack of Rome, 1527

- Spanish forces invaded the Vatican
- 189 Swiss Guard stood guard
- 42 swept Pope Clement VII to safety through secret tunnels
  - They were the only Swiss Guard to survive

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### Religious conflict

- Between Protestant and Catholic Christians

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### Highly industrialized

- By 1850s – most industrialized European nation after Great Britain

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## A history of neutrality

- Switzerland avoids conflicts/wars since 1600s
- United Nations meets in Geneva, Switzerland
  - Yet Switzerland was not a member until 2002
  - Not a member of the European Union

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