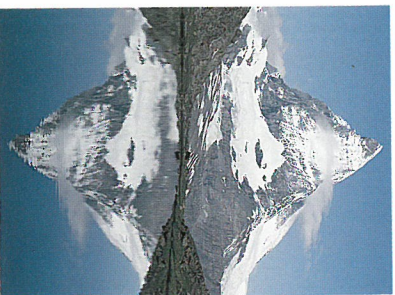


# SWITZERLAND AND ITALY

## SWITZERLAND



AREA 41,284 sq km  
POPULATION 7,640,000  
MONEY Swiss franc



▲ **The Matterhorn** in the Swiss Alps is 4478 metres high. Glaciers helped carve its shape. Zermatt is the ski resort which gives good views of the peak.

**I**TALY is shaped like a boot: its toe seems to be kicking Sicily! The shape is caused by the long range of fold mountains called the Apennines. The great Roman Empire was centred on Italy, and there are many Roman ruins. Yet Italy was only united as a country less than 150 years ago. Italy has lots of big factories. The Fiat car plant in Turin is one of the largest in the world.

The south of Italy and the islands of Sicily and Sardinia have hot, dry summers. These areas are much less rich than the north. Many people have moved to the industrial cities in the north of the country to find work. But government projects are bringing factories and better roads.

In **Switzerland**, most people live in cities north of the Alps. Switzerland is one of the world's richest countries, with modern banks, offices and factories. Rivers, dams and waterfalls in the Alps are used for making hydro-electric power: trains, factories and homes in Switzerland all run on cheap electricity. Cable-cars powered by electricity take skiers and tourists high into the beautiful mountains. Switzerland holds some amazing world records (see below).

## WORLD RECORDS IN SWITZERLAND

- The longest rail tunnel is being built through the Alps: the Gotthard Tunnel will be 57 kilometres long when it opens in 2016.
- The longest stairway is beside the Niesenbahn mountain railway, near Spiez. It has 11,674 steps!
- The steepest railway goes up Mount Pilatus. It has a gradient of 48%.
- Switzerland has been at peace with everyone since 1815. That's quite a record!



▲ **Venice**, in north-east Italy, is a city built in the sea. Everywhere in the old town has to be reached by boat, or on foot, because the 'roads' are canals.

## ITALIAN FOOD



Large plum tomatoes are tinned (above). Many kinds of fruit are dried and used in cakes (right).



Pasta (above) is made from Italian wheat. Spaghetti, macaroni and ravioli are pastas.



▲ **Vinci, Tuscany**, is a small town west of Florence. It was once the home of the famous artist Leonardo. The roofs are covered with pantiles. Lots of olive trees are growing in the fields below the town.

## ITALY



AREA 301,318 sq km  
POPULATION 61,017,000  
MONEY Euro

## OTHER COUNTRIES ON THIS MAP: Vatican City

in Rome;  
**San Marino** within Italy;  
**Malta**, an island country south of Italy.





► **Satellite image to match with the map.** The clouds are white, but what makes the brown smoke? (Answer on page 97.)

