Name: _____

Class: _____

1. Reading comprehension

DISCOVERING SWITZERLAND

Switzerland is a small but very famous country in the center of Europe. It is known for its beautiful mountains, clean cities, and high quality of life. Even though it is not very big, Switzerland has a population of about nine million people and plays an important role in Europe and the world.

A Country of Mountains and Lakes

One of the most special things about Switzerland is its nature. The Alps cover a large part of the country. Many people visit Switzerland to go skiing in winter or hiking in summer. One of the most famous mountains is the Matterhorn, which has a very unique shape. Switzerland also has many beautiful lakes, such as Lake Geneva and Lake Zurich. These lakes are popular places for swimming, sailing, and relaxing.

Languages and Culture

Switzerland has four official languages: German, French, Italian, and Romansh. The language people speak depends on the region where they live. In the north and center, most people speak German. In the west, people speak French. In the south, near Italy, people speak Italian.

Because of these different languages, Swiss culture is very diverse. However, people in all regions share some common values, such as respect for rules, punctuality, and a love of nature.

Cities and International Importance

The capital city of Switzerland is Bern. Other important cities include Zurich and Geneva. Zurich is known as a financial center, while Geneva is famous for international organizations. For example, the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross have important offices in Geneva. Switzerland is a neutral country, which means it does not take sides in wars between other countries. This is one reason why many international organizations are based there.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. Why do you think Switzerland plays an important role in Europe and the world, even though it is a small country?

2. How do the mountains and lakes influence the lifestyle of people living in Switzerland?

3. How can having four official languages be both an advantage and a challenge for Switzerland?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. Neutral	The main city where the government is located
2. Official language	An area of a country
3. Diverse	Not taking sides in a conflict
4. Region	A place important for banking and business
5. Organization	Travel for pleasure
6. Capital city	A group of people working together for a purpose
7. Tourism	Different from each other
8. Financial center	A language recognized by the government

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Writing: Is tourism more harmful than beneficial for local communities?

You should write:

- **Introduction:** Introduce the topic and clearly state your opinion.
- **Body 1:** Explain the benefits of tourism.
- **Body 2:** Explain the negative effects.
- **Conclusion:** Summarize your ideas and restate your opinion.

LIVEWORKSHEETS