Name: _____ Date: _____

How Switzerland Ships Goods Without a Coast

Circle group

Switzerland has mountains, lakes, and cheese. But it has no seacoast. A country with no coast is called landlocked. Other countries are all around it. A ship cannot sail from Switzerland to the sea. That makes it hard to sell goods far away. Still, Swiss makers send out watches, chocolate, and medicines. How?

One way is the Rhine. This big river runs along the edge of the country. The city of Basel has a busy river port. Boats are loaded there. They carry goods north through Germany and the Netherlands. At the end, the goods reach the North Sea. Large ships take them farther.

Trains are another way. Swiss trains go through long tunnels under the Alps. Goods can roll through the mountains to ports in nearby countries. Trucks and planes help too.

Landlocked countries also make deals with their neighbors. Switzerland has friendly deals that help its goods cross borders. Working with neighbors makes a hard problem into a routine.

Questions

1. What is a landlocked country?

_____

_____

2. Which river carries goods from the port of Basel?

_____

_____

3. Which sea do the goods reach at the end of the river trip?

_____

_____

4. How do trains help Switzerland ship goods?

_____

_____

5. Why can a ship not sail from Switzerland to the sea?

_____

_____

6. Why does a landlocked country need to get along with its neighbors?

_____

_____

Words to know

landlocked: having land all around and no coast on the sea
port: a place where ships load and unload goods
tunnels: paths dug through a mountain or under the ground

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Switzerland Ships Goods Without a Coast

Triangle group

Switzerland has mountains, lakes, and cheese, but it does not have a seacoast. A country with no coast is called landlocked. Other countries surround it, so a ship cannot sail straight from Switzerland to the ocean. That makes selling goods around the world a puzzle. Swiss makers still send out watches, chocolate, and medicines. How do they do it?

One answer is the Rhine, a big river that runs along the edge of the country. The city of Basel has a busy river port. Boats are loaded there and carry goods north through Germany and the Netherlands. At the end of the trip, the cargo reaches the North Sea, where large ships wait to take it farther.

Trains are another answer. Swiss railways run through long tunnels dug under the Alps, so goods can roll right through the mountains to ports in neighboring countries. Trucks and planes help too.

Landlocked countries also make agreements with their neighbors. Switzerland has friendly arrangements that let its goods move across borders smoothly. Working with neighbors turns a problem of geography into an everyday routine.

Questions

1. What is a landlocked country?

_____

_____

2. Which river carries goods from the port of Basel?

_____

_____

3. Which sea does the cargo reach at the end of the river trip?

_____

_____

4. How do trains help Switzerland ship goods?

_____

_____

5. Why can a ship not sail straight from Switzerland to the ocean?

_____

_____

6. Why does a landlocked country need to get along with its neighbors?

_____

_____

Words to know

landlocked: having land all around and no coast on the sea
port: a place where ships load and unload goods
cargo: the goods carried by a ship, train or truck
tunnels: paths dug through a mountain or under the ground

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Switzerland Ships Goods Without a Coast

Square group

Switzerland is famous for its mountains, lakes, and cheese, but it has no seacoast at all. A country without a coast is described as landlocked. Because other nations completely surround it, a ship cannot sail directly from Switzerland to the ocean, which complicates the business of selling goods around the world. Even so, Swiss manufacturers continue to export watches, chocolate, and medicines. How do they manage it?

One answer is the Rhine, a major river that runs along the edge of the country. The city of Basel operates a busy river port, where boats are loaded and carry cargo north through Germany and the Netherlands. At the end of the journey, the goods reach the North Sea, where much larger ships are waiting to transport them farther.

Railways provide another solution. Swiss trains travel through enormous tunnels bored under the Alps, so freight can pass right through the mountains to ports in neighboring countries. Trucks and aircraft assist as well.

Landlocked countries also negotiate agreements with their neighbors. Switzerland has friendly arrangements that allow its goods to cross borders smoothly. Cooperation with neighbors transforms a problem of geography into an ordinary routine.

Questions

1. What is a landlocked country?

_____

_____

2. Which river carries cargo from the port of Basel?

_____

_____

3. Which sea does the cargo reach at the end of the river journey?

_____

_____

4. How do railways help Switzerland ship goods?

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_____

5. Why can a ship not sail directly from Switzerland to the ocean?

_____

_____

6. Why must a landlocked country cooperate with its neighbors?

_____

_____

Words to know

landlocked: having land all around and no coast on the sea
port: a place where ships load and unload goods
cargo: the goods carried by a ship, train or truck
tunnels: paths dug through a mountain or under the ground

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: How Switzerland Ships Goods Without a Coast

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: How Switzerland Ships Goods Without a Coast

Easier · 161 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. A country with no seacoast.
2. The Rhine.
3. The North Sea.
4. They go through tunnels under the Alps to ports in nearby countries.
5. Other countries are all around it, so it has no coast.
6. Its goods must cross their land and borders to reach the sea.

Triangle: How Switzerland Ships Goods Without a Coast

This passage · 181 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.5

1. A country with no seacoast.
2. The Rhine.
3. The North Sea.
4. They run through tunnels under the Alps to ports in neighboring countries.
5. Other countries surround it, so it has no coast.
6. Its goods must cross their land and borders to reach the sea.

Square: How Switzerland Ships Goods Without a Coast

Harder · 192 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.6

1. A country with no seacoast.
2. The Rhine.
3. The North Sea.
4. Trains pass through tunnels under the Alps to ports in neighboring countries.
5. Other nations surround it, so it has no coast.
6. Its goods have to cross their land and borders to reach the sea.