

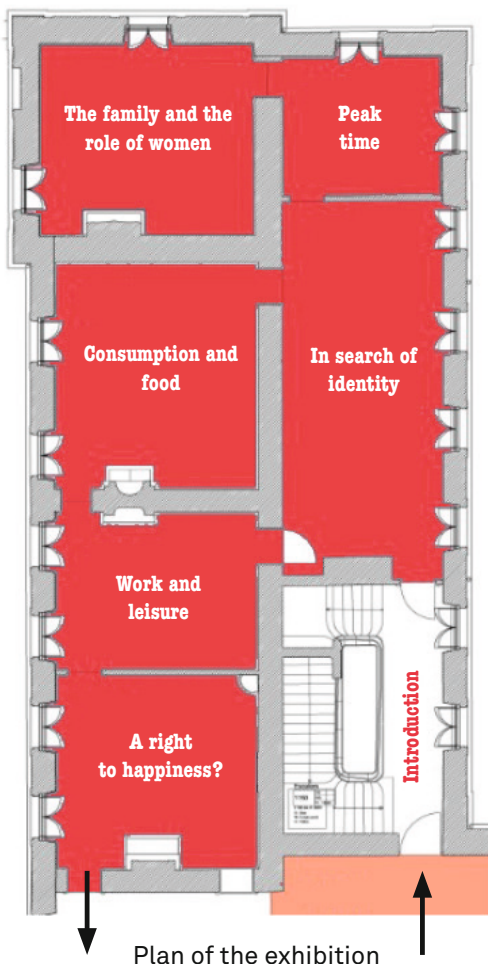
## Workbook: Years 9–10

You're a trainee historian and you've been sent to Château de Prangins to explore the exhibition "What is Switzerland?"

Your task is to investigate **a strange story published in an article** which claims that "Switzerland is the world's oldest democracy". Is it true?

You're going to examine some objects and testimonies from the past that will help you conduct your investigation and, as historians, find out whether the newspaper based its article on credible sources.

You have 30 minutes to find the objects, answer the questions and collect the missing letters so that, when the whole class comes together again, you can put together the final mystery word!



### Switzerland: a model democracy?

(...) That's how political life is conducted in this small Alpine nation that is renowned for being one of the richest and most democratic in the world. Up to four times a year, the entire electorate, comprising some 5.5 million individuals out of a total population of 8.6 million, goes to the polls to have its say on a wide range of issues relating to both the country's future and everyday life. The system's been in place for nearly a century and a half! (...)

(taken from "GEO" magazine, August 2021, special issue on Switzerland published in no. 510 "La Suisse, ce voisin si méconnu"  
<https://www.geo.fr/geopolitique/la-suisse-une-democratie-modele-206671>)

## Group 1 investigation

**What do you think: is Switzerland a model democracy?**

Begin your investigation!

Your initial hypothesis:



## Step 2

Enter the **A right to happiness?** and **Free and liberated** rooms and look for the four historical stages in the struggle for women’s rights in Switzerland. What have you found?

To access the information on the historical context of these objects, see the iPads in the two rooms.

Event	When did this historical event take place?	Which object is linked to this event?	Describe the object (inscription, material, colours, etc.). One example: a plastic whistle
<b>The March on Bern</b> ("A right to happiness" room)			
<b>Women's right to vote and stand for election</b> ("Free and liberated" room)			
<b>Article in the Swiss Constitution</b> (collection of legal texts defining the institutions of state) recognising equality between men and women ("A right to happiness" room)			
<b>The Women's Strike</b> ("A right to happiness" room)			
<b>Abortion rights law</b> ("Free and liberated" room)			

What about today? How do things stand regarding gender equality in Switzerland? Do inequalities still exist? If yes, please specify which.

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Hypotheses validated: Give reasons for your answer

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partly	
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Find the mystery letter for Group 1 by answering the following question:

Which female politician gave a speech on Parliament Square during the March on Bern in 1969?

E \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Mystery letter

Mystery word: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

## OPTIONAL

### Congratulations, your group's quick!

You still have a little time to continue your investigation into democracy and Switzerland.

Watch the Ovomaltine commercials on the old television in the "Free and liberated" room and analyse them.

- What type of programme is this? Fiction, factual report, commercial, documentary?

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- Who are the principal characters? Journalist, expert, witness, actor, political leader?

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- What era do the commercials evoke?

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- What information do they add to your investigation into democracy and Switzerland?

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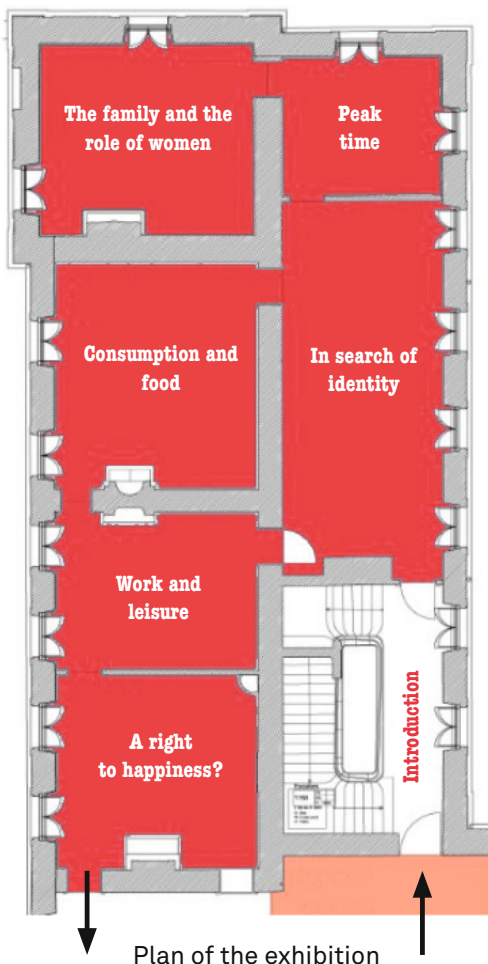
## Workbook: Years 9–10

You're a trainee historian and you've been sent to Château de Prangins to explore the exhibition "What is Switzerland?"

Your task is to investigate **the story of Heidi as told in the novel by Johanna Spyri**. It describes Switzerland as "a country of free and happy mountain dwellers and shepherds"! Is that true?

You're going to examine some objects and testimonies from the past that will help you conduct your investigation and, as historians, find out whether the novel is based on truth or fiction.

You have 30 minutes to find the objects, answer the questions and collect the missing letters so that, when the whole class comes together again, you can put together the final mystery word!



“ The next morning the sun came out early as bright as ever, and then Peter appeared with the goats, and again the two children climbed up together to the high meadows, and so it went on day after day, till Heidi, passing her life thus among the grass and flowers, was burnt brown with the sun, and grew so strong and healthy that nothing ever ailed her. She was happy too, and lived from day to day as free and light-hearted as the little birds that make their home among the green forest trees.”

Johanna Spyri, Heidi, translated by Marian Edwardes

### Group 2 investigation

**In your opinion, is Switzerland a country of free and happy mountain dwellers and shepherds?**

Begin your investigation!

Your initial hypothesis:

## Step 1

Go to the **In search of identity** room, which looks at images and myths of Switzerland.  
Go over to the big wall where you can see the scenic wallpaper called **Little Helvetia**.

### Look at this picture and analyse it:

#### 1. Description of the picture

- What does the picture show?

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- How many scenes can you see?

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- Who created this scenic wallpaper? Was he Swiss?

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- What factory made this wallpaper, and when?

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- Who was it made for? Could people order it to paper their own home?

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#### 2. Analysis of the picture

*You can find some information on the touchscreen next to “Little Helvetia”.*

- Why is this wallpaper called “Little Helvetia”?

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- What “typically” Swiss features can you find in it?

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- What was the creator’s intention, or what message did he want to convey?

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- Look at the peasants and shepherds. What emotion(s) do they express: sadness, joy, carefreeness, tiredness...?

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- Do you think the landscape exists in real life or is it the product of its creator’s imagination?

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Compare this picture from the wallpaper with the testimony of Ulrich Bräker, a Swiss peasant and artisan.

His testimony is in the **A time for work and a time for leisure** room in the iPad containing the image below:

**The poor man of Toggenburg (SG)**

Franz Niklaus König, *Portrait of Ulrich Bräker and his wife Salomé*, around 1800, pencil drawing, watercolour, Bern. LM 57060.11



What does this testimony tell us about the living conditions of Swiss peasants at the time?

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Find another object in this room which tells us about the living conditions of peasants in the 18th and 19th centuries.

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Based on the answer you gave above, what contradictions particularly strike you?

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Comparing the extract from the testimony of Ulrich Bräker with the depiction of the people in the “Little Helvetia” wallpaper, what conclusions can you draw regarding the statement in the article that “Switzerland is a country of free and happy mountain dwellers and shepherds”?

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## Step 2

Move into the **In search of identity** room and go to the big library of collections. What Swiss figure symbolises this country of mountain dwellers? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Look for three objects in which that person is depicted. Examine them carefully and complete the table. You can find some helpful information by using the touchscreen.

Event	Object 1	Object 2	Object 3
What type of object is it?			
When does it date from?			
What is it used for?			
How is the person represented:			
as a hero of freedom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
as a proud crossbowman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
as a real mountain peasant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
as a loving father	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ask yourself why he is shown in the permanent exhibition "What is Switzerland?"			

The story of this person is part of one of Switzerland's most important myths\*. In your opinion, what qualities are attributed to this person?

List at least three adjectives. \_\_\_\_\_

\***Myth** (plural: myths): A myth is a story. The word comes from Greek and means discourse, tale or fable. Almost every people on Earth has its own myths. They tell of, for example, the beginning and end of the world, or the appearance of gods and human beings. They attempt to explain the origins of peoples, and the reasons why human beings live together in a certain way.

Hypotheses validated: Give reasons for your answer

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partly	
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Find the 3 mystery letters for Group 2 by answering the following questions:

Find two other figures in this library who are emblematic of Switzerland, but female this time:

..... is a female figure personifying  -  - Switzerland and whose name is also used to refer to the country.

**Mystery letters**

**Mystery letter** ←  is a character in Swiss literature. She is a young shepherdess who lives with her grandfather in the mountains.

**Mystery word:** \_\_\_\_\_



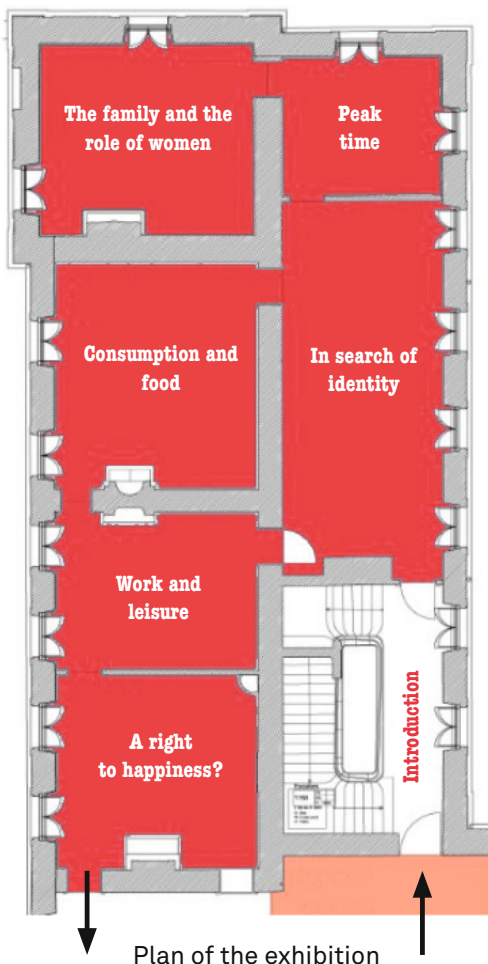
## Workbook: Years 9–10

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You have 30 minutes to find the objects, answer the questions and collect the missing letters so that, when the whole class comes together again, you can put together the final mystery word!



### Switzerland is the world's fifth most prosperous country

According to the Legatum Institute think tank, the Confederation is in first place for economic quality and second for safety and security. Switzerland is still one of the world's most prosperous countries, according to the ratings issued by the London-based Legatum Institute think tank. However, it has fallen two places and is now in fifth position. Switzerland is in first place for economic quality and second for safety and security [...], the Legatum Institute writes on its website on Thursday. It ranks slightly lower in terms of living conditions (6th), governance (7th), natural environment (7th), and education (8th) [...].

Taken from the newspaper 24heures: <https://www.24heures.ch/la-suisse-est-le-cinquieme-pays-le-plus-prospere-au-monde-663985734723>

## Group 3 investigation

**In your view, has Switzerland always been a rich and prosperous country?**

Begin your investigation!

Your initial hypothesis:

## Step 1

Go into the **A time for work and a time for leisure** room.

**Once you're there, look for two objects that show Switzerland wasn't always a rich and prosperous country in the 18th and 19th centuries.**

Here are some clues to help you find the two sources:

- The first object belonged to a woman who worked as a domestic servant
- The second object is a picture of a peasant and his wife. Read the husband's testimony on the iPad.

What do these two objects teach us about the living conditions of peasants and workers in the 18th and 19th centuries?

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**Look for a picture showing the interior of a spinning works (a factory where yarn is made) in the late 19th century.**

- What type of picture is it?  Painting  Engraving  Drawing  Photograph

- What does the picture show? \_\_\_\_\_

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- Who is in the picture? \_\_\_\_\_

- What details help you to recognise these people?

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**You can find more information in the iPad corresponding to this picture.**

- When is compulsory schooling written into the Constitution (the text that lays down a state's political organisation)?

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- Below what age does the 1877 Factories Act ban children from working in factories?

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- Is the law complied with? What does the picture show? \_\_\_\_\_

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- Why do you think children were made to work at this time? Is it something that still happens today in Switzerland or other places in the world?

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## Continuation of step 1

Move into the room devoted to food and go over to the cash register.

**In the 19th century, how much of its income does the working class spend on groceries?**

Complete the table below, with the help of the turntable in the cash register.

Number of hours worked in 1890 to afford...	Reeler (worker who monitors the winding of the thread)	Worker in a brewery	Typographer (worker who sets a text using lead characters)
Coffee			
Bread			

Who earns the most, and why? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you notice about the price of groceries such as bread and coffee between 1890 and 1910?

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## Step 2

Go to the **A time for work and a time for leisure** room.

What enabled Switzerland to become prosperous in the 19th century?

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**In this room, find:**

- One object from Swiss industry: \_\_\_\_\_ (title and reference of the object)
- One picture of a Swiss factory or manufactory: \_\_\_\_\_ (title and reference of the picture)

What types of Swiss industry flourish from the late 19th century onwards?

(name two) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**Find some extracts from the written or audio testimonies of Henri Tronchet and Lotti Kunz.**

What do they tell you about working conditions in factories:

- The number of working hours in a day?

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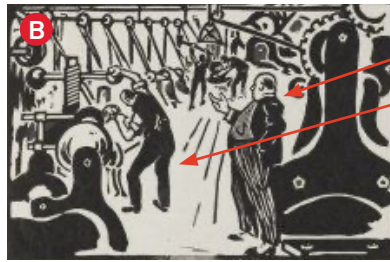
- Days off?

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- Wages?

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Analyse and compare these two pictures in the room.



Who are these people?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How can you tell them apart?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Creator \_\_\_\_\_

Type of picture \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Creator \_\_\_\_\_

Type of picture \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Do these two pictures convey the same message?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the viewpoint of the creators of these pictures? Which picture do you think is more objective and neutral?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In your view, what did the creator of picture B want to express?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

On the basis of the items you found in steps 1 and 2, what can you conclude about the statement that “Switzerland has always been a rich and prosperous country”?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Today, Switzerland is considered a rich country, but is everyone who lives here really rich? Is there a form of “hidden” poverty?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Hypotheses validated: Give reasons for your answer

Yes

No

Partly

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Find the 2 mystery letters for Group 3 by answering the following question:

Mystery letters



Illustration B is a   c \_ \_ t \_ \_ e, depicting certain kinds of human physical characteristics or behaviour in an exaggerated way.

Mystery word: \_\_\_\_\_