

# Landesmuseum Zürich. SCHWEIZERI SCHES NATIONALMUSEUM. MUSÉE NATIONAL SUISSE. MUSEO NAZION ALE SVIZZERA. MUSEUM NAZIUNA L SVIZZ

Geschichte Schweiz  
Histoire de la Suisse  
Storia della Svizzera  
History of Switzerland



for  
children and  
families

# Welcome to the “History of Switzerland” exhibition.

You are about to travel into the past and find out exciting facts about life in former times. You will look at some of the most important events for each century. You will start in the middle ages and continue from room to room until the last room brings you back to the present day.

Enjoy the trip! Here we go!



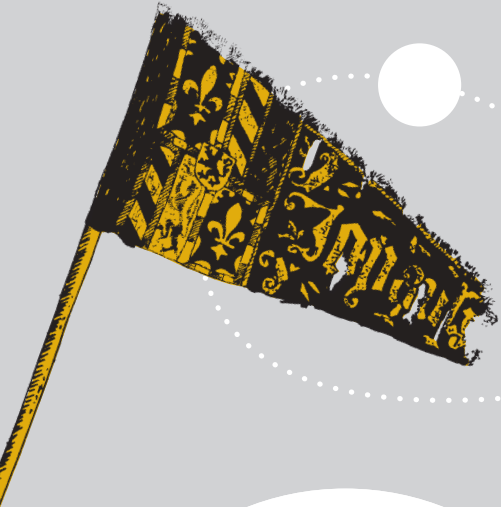
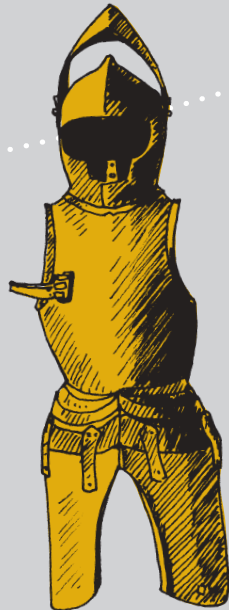
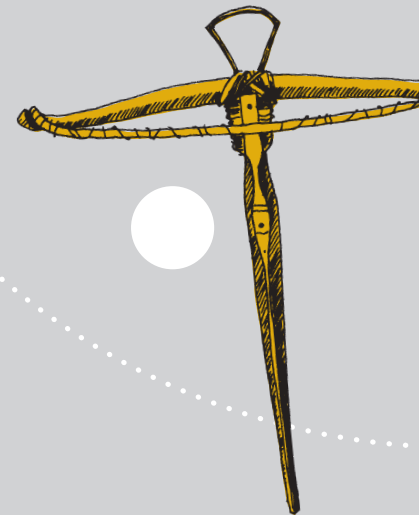
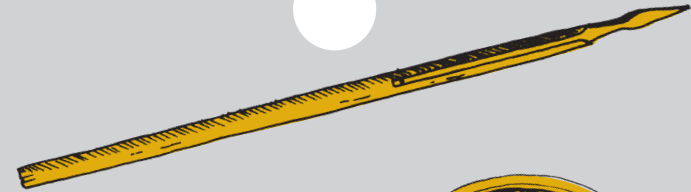
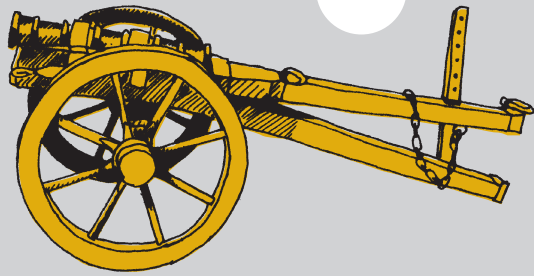
On every page you will find an activity for the exhibition, such as finding an object.



The answers can be found in the back of the booklet.

## 1400-1500

The Swiss confederates were known as brave fighters. They fought as mercenaries for the King of France, the Pope, or for other foreign rulers. The pay they received for their services was called "sold" back then, and this is where the term "soldier" comes from.



This is a halberd.  
This weapon was used to stab  
or strike the enemy.



Which of these objects  
can you see in the  
exhibition? Tick them!

## 1500–1600

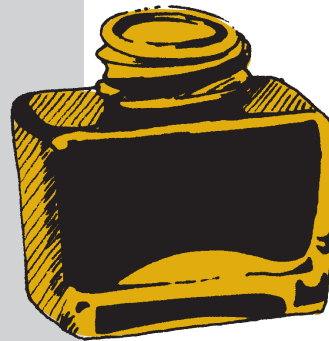
The Swiss Confederation was made up of thirteen cantons. It didn't have a government, and each region was independent. However, representatives of the cantons would meet for important negotiations. The decisions they made were of importance to all of the cantons in the Confederation.



What would you do  
if you could enact laws  
for your country?  
Draw or write  
them down.



The representatives of the thirteen  
cantons met once a year.  
Which cantonal coats of arms  
do you recognise?





This is the family of bailiff Bodmer. Do you see how well-behaved the children are at the table? Discipline and order were very important!



## 1600-1700

Craftsmen joined together to form guilds. For example, there were bakers' guilds, butchers' guilds, and cobblers' guilds. They were represented in the city council, where important decisions were made. In the parts of the countryside controlled by the city, the Landvogt (or "bailiff") made sure laws were enforced.



"Don't lick your plate, that's the cat's job."



"Don't put your elbows on the table."



"Don't talk with your mouth full."



"Wash your hands before you come to the table."



"Don't itch and scratch at the table. It isn't right."



"Trim your long fingernails before you sit at the table."



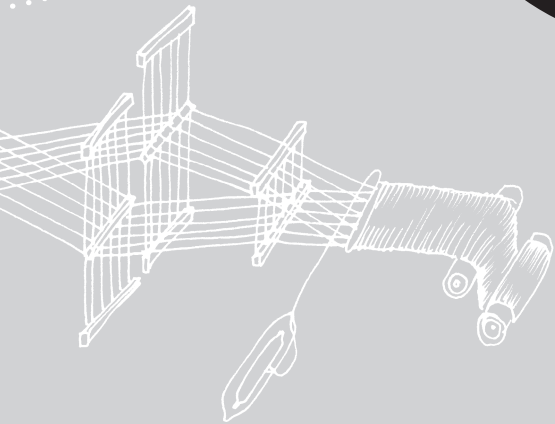
Which table rules from back then does your family observe today? Mark them.

# 1700-1800

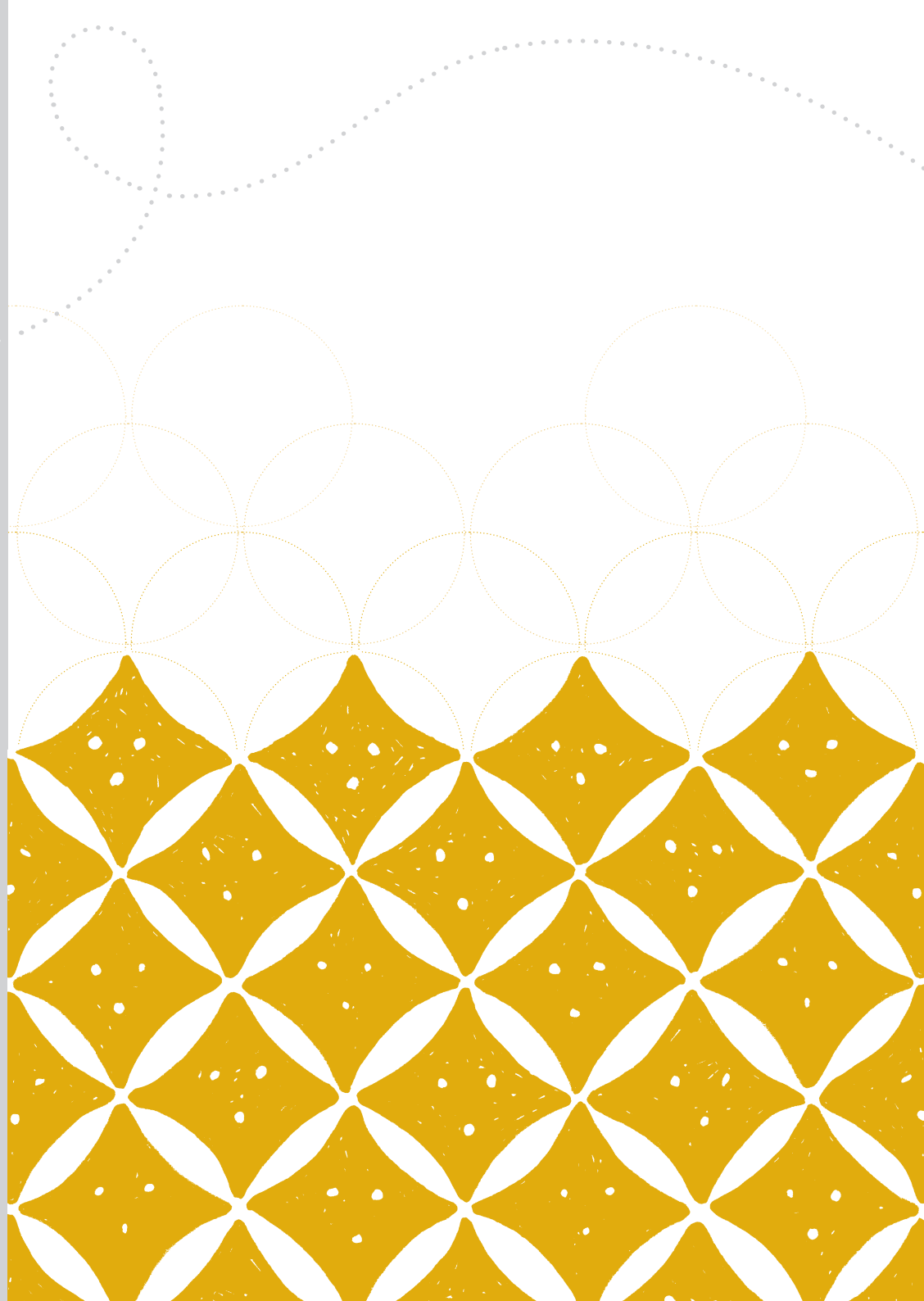
Most men and women worked in the fields as farmers 300 years ago. Poor farmers could earn extra money by continuing to work once they were home. They spun thread and wove textiles.



Figure out how to work with this weaving loom!



Draw the continuation of the pattern on this material.



Switzerland

Official name of the country:

Capital:

Number of cantons:

Languages:

Heroes: ♂ and ♀

Hallmarks:

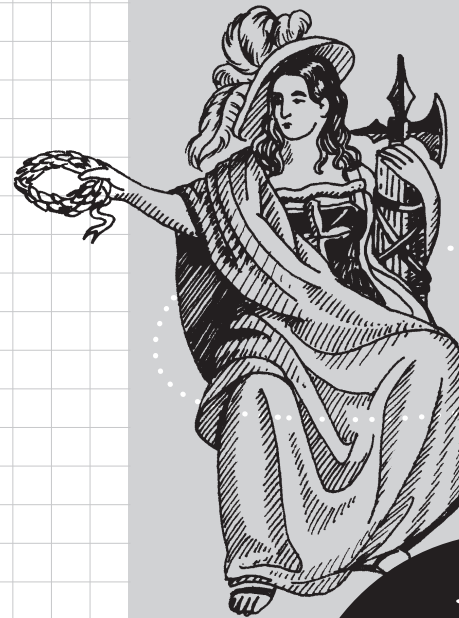
Sketch of the country's borders:

## 1800–1900

With the signing of the Swiss Federal Constitution in 1848, the Swiss Confederacy was transformed into the Switzerland we know today. It is a federation of twenty-two cantons. The Swiss Federal Constitution is the country's fundamental law.



There are 114 articles in the Swiss Federal Constitution of 1848. Who do you think the woman at the top might be?



Complete the fact sheet for modern-day Switzerland.

# 1900-2000

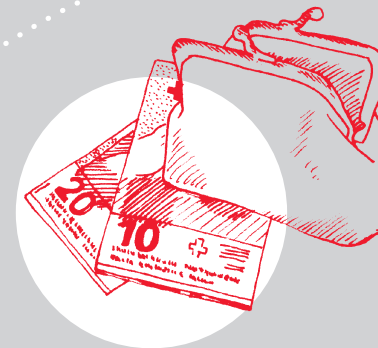
There were two world wars during the past century. Switzerland remained neutral and was spared the ravages of war. After the war years, wages rose and people could afford more and more goods. New appliances such as refrigerators and washing machines made life easier. More and more people had access to motorised transport, such as the Velosolex.

Connect the text to the matching picture.



In 1968, dissatisfied young people rebelled against strict social rules and fought for more participation in the decision-making process.

There were two world wars in the twentieth century. As a neutral country, Switzerland did not fight in the wars. Many refugees crossed the border into the country.



Women won the right to vote in 1971.

In 1947 Switzerland introduced obligatory pensions for men and women older than sixty-five. This ensures security for the aged.



Electrical household appliances made life easier.



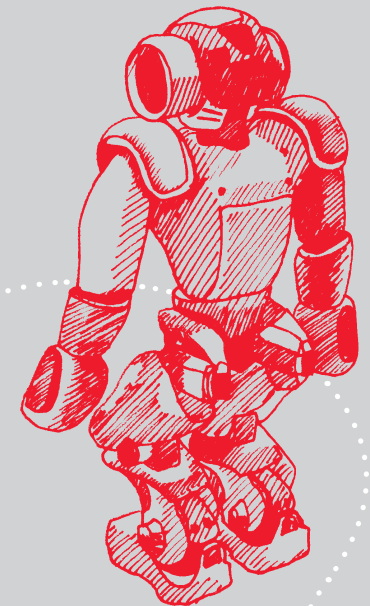
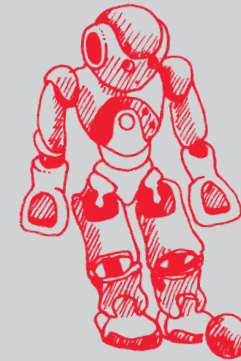
Voilà, a bicycle with a motor!  
Find the motor, tank, exhaust,  
and headlight.





## 2000-...

Many new things are being invented that will influence our lives in the future. We now have robots that are controlled by computer programs and can carry out an increasing number of tasks. In Switzerland there are important research centres where robots are being developed.



What are some other new inventions?  
What would you like to invent? Draw and describe it.



# Answers

## 1400–1500

In the exhibition you can find armour, crossbow, sword, spear.



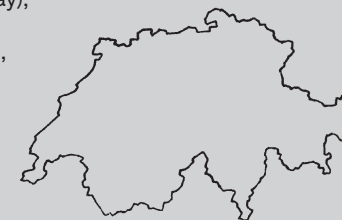
## 1500–1600



## 1800–1900

Fact sheet

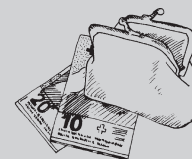
Official name of the country: Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft (Swiss Confederation)  
 Capital: Bern  
 Number of cantons: 26 (today), 22 (in 1848)  
 Languages: German, French, Italian, Romansh  
 Heroes: ♂ William Tell / ♂ Winkelried / ♀ Helvetia  
 Hallmarks: neutrality, wealth ...



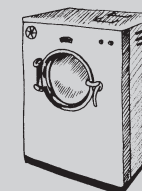
The figure of the woman is Helvetia enthroned with laurels and poleaxe. Next to her we see William Tell and Winkelried.

Sketch of the country's borders

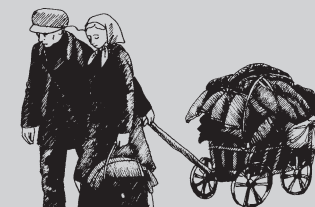
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# Answers



## Imprint

### Idea, concept and content

Landesmuseum Zürich

Education team: Stefanie Bittmann, Lisa Engi, Maria Iseli

### Specialist editor

Denise Tonella

### Design and illustrations

Regula Baumer

### Translation

Tradukas GbR

### List of illustrations

Halberd axe with a wide, flat point, hook, and two shaft rings, 1450–1500.

Swiss Diet in Baden in 1531, print, 1793, Peter Vischer, Basel. Dry point on paper.

Painting of the Bodmer family: Table rules, family portrait, 1643, most likely Johann Jacob Sulzer, most likely of Zurich. Oil on canvas. Depot.

Weaving loom, frame with warp beam or loom beam, 1800–1900,

Siat. coniferous wood, steel, cotton.

Swiss Federal Constitution of 1848, Laurenz Lüthi, Solothurn. Gouache on paper, calligraphy.

Velosolex 3800, 1966–70, Solex, France.

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Mon–Fri 9:00 am to 12:30 pm | Tel. +41 44 218 66 00

[reservationen@nationalmuseum.ch](mailto:reservationen@nationalmuseum.ch)

