

TEACHER NOTES

UNIFICATION OF ITALY

I. Factors against Unification:

- A. Italy was broken into nine states.
 - 1. Getting all of these states to agree would be difficult.
- B. The **Apennine Mountains** run north and south, splitting the country in half.
- C. The **Po River** runs east and west, splitting the country in half.
- D. The Pope wanted to keep control of the **Papal States**.
- E. Other European countries didn't want to see a strong Italy.
 - 1. This would upset the balance of power in Europe.

II. Factors for Unification:

- A. Nationalism
 - 1. Country had come together in a war against Austria to get back the provinces she had taken in a previous war.
 - 2. Birthplace of the Renaissance
 - a. This gave the Italians a sense of pride and accomplishment.
- B. Good leadership:
 - 1. **Mazzini**
 - 2. **Count Cavour**
 - 3. **Garibaldi**

III. Steps towards Unification:

- A. A secret society, known as the **Risorgimento**, had supported revolutions in the 1820's and 1830's with hopes of creating an Italian state.
- B. **Young Italy** was another nationalistic group, and its leader was Mazzini.
- C. The strongest of the small Italian states was **Sardinia**.
 - 1. The king of Sardinia was **Charles Albert**.
 - a. The major fighting was over the provinces of **Lombardy** and **Venetia**.
 - b. Unfortunately for Sardinia, the Pope decided that he didn't want to fight against another Catholic country, and he

- withdrew his troops.
 - c. The nationalists were so angry with the Pope that they stormed the city, and the Pope fled.
 - d. France sent some troops to restore the Pope, and French troops still guard the **Vatican** today.
 - e. The prime minister of Sardinia was **Count Cavour**.
2. In 1849 **Victor Emmanuel II** became the king of Sardinia.
- a. He understood that Austrian influence over Italy had to be dealt with before Italy could become a nation.
 - b. Cavour made alliances with France and Britain in the 1850's.
 - 1. He joined with them in the **Crimean War** against Russia.
 - 2. He also agreed to give France a small amount of territory.
 - c. Cavour provoked Austria, and Austria declared war in 1859.
 - 1. With the help of the French, the Austrians were defeated.
- D. Events in the South:
- 1. **Garibaldi**, with his **red shirts**, freed Sicily and southern Italy from its **Bourbon King** who controlled **Sicily**.
 - 2. Garibaldi wanted to march to Rome, but Cavour persuaded him to stop. It was feared that French troops might come and protect the Pope.
- E. In 1860 some of the provinces from the Papal States agreed to join Sardinia.
- 1. Also in 1860, Sicily and Naples agreed to join with Sardinia.
 - 2. This represented most of Italy, and **Victor Emmanuel II** was made the new king of Italy, with **Florence** as its capital.
- F. **The Papal States** and Venetia became part of Italy later.
- 1. In 1866 Italy allied itself with Prussia, and when Prussia defeated Austria, Italy was rewarded with Venetia for staying out of the war.
 - 2. In 1870 the French withdrew their troops from Rome, and the Italians moved in and seized the Pope's territory.
 - 3. Victor Emmanuel II then moved the capital to **Rome**.

ITALIAN UNIFICATION QUESTIONS

1. List the three men that had the most to do with Italian Unification.
2. What was the Risorgimento?
3. Why do French troops still guard the Vatican today?
4. Who are the red shirts? What role did they play in the Unification of Italy?
5. How did Italian help against the Russians in the Crimean War contribute to the Unification of Italy?
6. Who was the first king of Italy?
7. How did geography hinder Italian Unification?
8. What were the Papal States, and how did the Pope hinder Italian Unification?
9. What city was the first capital of the partially united Italy?
10. What city is the capital of Italy today?

ANSWER KEY

1. Garibaldi, Count Cavour, Mazzini
2. A secret organization that worked for Italian unification
3. Because they were sent to guard the Pope and the Papal states during the fighting for Italian unification
4. The followers of Garibaldi who helped bring about unification in the southern part of Italy
5. Countries such as Britain and France stayed out of the internal struggle for Italian unification
6. Victor Emmanuel II
7. The mountains and rivers of Italy make communication difficult.
8. The Papal States was the area controlled by the Pope. This land was in the center of Italy and was needed if Italy was ever to become a unified nation.
9. Florence
10. Rome