

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## An Overview of Italy

Italy is bordered on three sides by water. Its neighbors to the north are France, Switzerland, and Austria. Italy is a long, narrow country. It is known for its art treasures and its rich history.

The capital of Italy is Rome. Rome ruled most of the world for 600 years. The walls of ancient buildings still stand.

Antonio lives in Rome. His friends call him Tony. He is in grammar school and will go to junior high school next year. In many ways, he is like most school-age boys. For fun, he plays basketball. On Sundays, he and his family drive to the beach. Sometimes they take Sunday strolls, or walks. They walk past the ruins of 2000-year-old buildings.

In the heart of Rome is the Colosseum. In ancient times, it was a sports center. Parts of its walls have fallen. When Tony walks by the Colosseum, he can look into the past.

Tony lives in a concrete apartment building. His parents shop for food at outdoor markets. They eat a lot of pasta, or noodles. Spaghetti is a type of pasta. Most people think spaghetti was first made in Italy, but it first came from China. For snacks, Tony eats pizza, just like kids in the United States. He also eats cheese and fruit.

The people of Italy work at many types of jobs. Some of them make cars. Others work in shops and restaurants where the tourists stop. Tony's parents make clothes. Many of our fashions have started in Italy.

Tony speaks Italian. He may learn one or more languages other than Italian when he is in high school.



### Use the story to answer the questions.

1. What borders Italy on three sides? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who are Italy's neighbors to the north? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does Tony's family do on Sundays? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the name of a very old sports center? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where does Tony live? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What does Tony eat? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What language does Tony speak? \_\_\_\_\_