Swaziland changes its name to eSwatini

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The king of the tiny African nation of Swaziland has changed his country's name to eSwatini. The new name means "land of the Swazis" in the local Swati language. King Mswati III is an absolute monarch, which means he has the power to manage his country as he likes. He renamed his land on Thursday at celebrations marking 50 years of Swazi independence from Britain. The day also coincided with his 50th birthday. Speaking at the nation's Golden Jubilee celebrations, he said: "African countries, on getting independence, reverted to their ancient names before they were colonized. So from now on, the country will officially be known as the Kingdom of eSwatini."

The change of name has been talked about in official circles for years. The king has regularly referred to Swaziland as eSwatini in addresses in his country's parliament, at the United Nations General Assembly and to the African Union. Swaziland gained independence from Britain in 1968, but unlike other former British colonies, it retained its colonial-era name. Nyasaland became Malawi, Northern Rhodesia renamed itself Zambia, Bechuanaland changed its name to Botswana, and Rhodesia became Zimbabwe. King Mswati said that from now on, people would not confuse his country with Switzerland. The UN, Google Maps and Internet companies now have to add eSwatini to their databases.

Sources: mpumalanganews.co.za / allafrica.com / nytimes.com

Writing

Why is a country's name important? Do you like the name of your nation?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

tiny / nation / local / language / power / celebrations / independence / ancient / official circles / regularly / parliament / colonies / Switzerland / Google Maps

True / False

a) The country name eSwatini means "land of the Swati". T / F

b) King Mswati III is 50 years old. T / F

c) The renamed eSwatini just celebrated its 50th year of independence. T / F

d) The king followed other African nations in choosing a pre-colonial name. T / F

e) The change of the country's name was first talked about last year. T / F

f) King Mswati often used the name eSwatini in the UN General Assembly. T / F

g) The colonial name of Botswana was Nyasaland. T / F

h) The article said Google Maps has already changed Swaziland to eSwatini. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**tiny**	a.	legislature
2.	**monarch**	b.	old
3.	**reverted**	c.	occupied
4.	**ancient**	d.	mistake
5.	**colonized**	e.	sovereign
6.	**parliament**	f.	period
7.	**former**	g.	very small
8.	**era**	h.	henceforth
9.	**from now on**	i.	one-time
10.	**confuse**	j.	went back

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you know about Swaziland?

b) What do you think of the new name of eSwatini?

c) Should there still be absolute monarchs in the world?

d) What is the point of having a monarch?

e) What should happen in a country's independence celebrations?

f) How much do you like your country's name?

g) How did colonization change the world?

h) What do you know about King Mswati III?

Phrase Match

1. The king of the
2. land of
3. King Mswati III is an absolute
4. he has the power to manage
5. the nation's Golden Jubilee
6. talked about in official
7. addresses in his country's
8. Swaziland gained independence
9. people would not confuse his country
10. add eSwatini

a. monarch
b. from Britain
c. celebrations
d. to their databases
e. the Swazis
f. parliament
g. tiny African nation
h. with Switzerland
i. his country as he likes
j. circles

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think about what you read?
b) What would you change your country's name to?
c) How many countries would you like to visit?
d) Will the number of countries increase or decrease in the future?
e) How good are you at naming the world's countries?
f) How are Switzerland and Swaziland similar and different?
g) How does a name change affect a country and its people?
h) What questions would you like to ask King Mswati III?

Spelling

1. King Mswati III is an absolute <u>cmahrno</u>
2. <u>ecetabnilosr</u> marking 50 years
3. the nation's Golden <u>ibJeuel</u>
4. reverted to their <u>aetninc</u> names
5. before they were <u>oolzcedin</u>
6. known as the <u>gKnomdi</u> of eSwatini
7. talked about in <u>cfiaoifl</u> circles for years
8. regularly <u>efrderre</u> to Swaziland
9. in his country's <u>mitparalen</u>
10. Swaziland gained <u>eecdpdnieenn</u> from Britain
11. retained its <u>naolocli</u>-era name
12. <u>secfonu</u> his country with Switzerland

Role Play

Role A – A Colourful Flag
You think a country needs a colourful flag most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a national anthem, a sea port or a monarchy.

Role B – A National Anthem
You think a country needs a national anthem most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a colourful flag, a sea port or a monarchy.

Role C – A Sea Port
You think a country needs a sea port most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a national anthem, a colourful flag or a monarchy.

Role D – A Monarchy
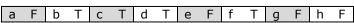You think a country needs a monarchy most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a national anthem, a sea port or a colourful flag.

Speaking –

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things for a country at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- a monarchy
- regular elections
- a sea port
- railways
- an old name
- a colourful flag
- a national anthem
- a strong army

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. a	7. i	8. f	9. h	10. d

Answers – True False

a F	b T	c T	d T	e F	f T	g F	h F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.