

#11964 LOW [BENELUX] COUNTRIES

NEW DIMENSION MEDIA/QUESTAR, 2005

Grade Level: 6–10

30 Minutes



CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM RELATED RESOURCES

- [#3243 EUROPE: WESTERN REGION](#)
- [#3492 THE NEW WORLD EXPLORED](#)
- [#7983 NORTH HOLLAND](#)

TEACHER'S GUIDE
Grades 6 to 10 & Up

The Low Countries
Beyond Our Borders Series

Subject Areas: Geography, Social Studies, History, Architecture, Art

Synopsis: A visit to the timeless lands of Holland, Luxembourg and Belgium reveals sophisticated cultural traditions that have evolved from hundreds of years of intertwined histories. A brief review of European history stresses the remarkable achievements of merchants and artists of Holland's Golden Age whose influence is still evident in Amsterdam, Harlem, and Rotterdam. These cosmopolitan Dutch cities are compared with Luxembourg City where medieval architecture provides a backdrop to international banking concerns and a high standard of living. Similarly, Brussels, Antwerp, Bruges and the cities of Wallonia are shown in the richness of their mercantile traditions and the sophistication of their contemporary cultures.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to analyze why small countries such as Holland, Luxembourg and Belgium are influential in international trade and commerce.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to compare the contributions of the Dutch masters to the history of Western art.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to differentiate the typical styles of medieval and Gothic architecture.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to describe why the high standard of living and the appreciation of the arts are common in contemporary Lowland countries.

Vocabulary:

Benelux, antiquity, linguistic, economic union, dykes, tidal barriers, persistence, reclaimed land, polder, prosperity, patrician, ideological, freedom of conscience, progressive, savvy, tolerance, promontory, standard of living, sophisticated, political capital, guild houses, guilds, Gothic, fortified city, monumental, quality of life, art of living, intertwined histories

Pre-Viewing Questions and Activities:

- 1) Where is Holland located?
- 2) What European countries are known as the "Lowland countries"? Where are they located in Europe? Do you imagine these countries have had a similar history?

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- 3) During World War II, what famous person was hidden in an Amsterdam attic for several years?
- 4) What agricultural products do you associate with the Lowland countries?

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) What do legends and stories such as Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates tell about the character and stamina of the Dutch people?
- 2) Can you recall some historical events that prove that the people of Lowland countries are very tolerant of others?
- 3) If you could visit only one city in the Lowlands, which one would you choose? Why?
- 4) Why are Americans so well respected in the Lowlands?
- 5) What kinds of activities flourished in the Holland's Golden Age?
- 6) What architectural traditions can be found in Lowland countries?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Find further information about the role of windmills in Holland.
- 2) Discover the outstanding works of artists such Vermeer, Hals, Rembrandt, or Pieter Breugel, the elder.
- 3) Investigate the creation of Delft pottery from clay to finished product.
- 4) Investigate the shipping routes and shipping lines based in Rotterdam, Holland.
- 5) Investigate the Battle of the Bulge and its influence on military history.

FOR INFORMATION, OR TO ORDER CONTACT:

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