

European Geography & Cultures Class

Second – Fourth Grade

The Low Countries (The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg)

See related blog post on <http://CottonRidgeHomeschool.com> for free PDF Files and images.
The blog post also has links to Map Folder, Stamp Album, and Card File instructions.

A. Introduction to The Low Countries

1. Read

- Galloping the Globe page 99.
- Look What Came From the Netherlands (The images in the PDF file provided in the related blog post and my sample cards are based on this book.)

2. Map Folders and Stamp Albums

- Pass out Folders and Stamp Albums.
- Pass out postage stamps from The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg and stamp hinges.

B. Physical Geography of The Low Countries

1. Where on Earth

- **Find** the continent of Europe and the countries of the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg on a globe. Have students color these countries on the map on their folder.
- **Find** Europe and the Netherlands in the Atlas: start on page 76 of Where on Earth? Atlas, then find the country on page 78. Move on to page 80 to view the landscape, and to page 94 to see it by night.

2. Climate, Population and Wildlife

- The Netherlands have a temperate maritime **climate** influenced by the North Sea and Atlantic Ocean, with cool summers and moderate winters.
- To see pictures of some of the animals living in the Netherlands **visit** <http://www.discoverwildlife.com/travel/wildlife-travel-what-animals-can-i-see-netherlands>.
- **Read** page 52 – 53 of the DK Children's Atlas about The Low Countries. **Find out** about Dutch **agricultural** products, major **landforms**, and **water** bodies.

3. Card File – Follow General Card File Instructions.

- **Listen** to *Around the World Stories* from the Netherlands while working (subscription required: <https://www.aroundtheworldstories.com>).
- **Flag** and **Map** Country Cover Card PDF File
- Country **Information** Card PDF File
- **Category** Cards - plain index cards or pre-printed PDF File (you may want to provide samples for students to copy)
- **Images** PDF File for Category Cards

C. People

Choose the activities that interest you the most. Add to your Card File as you learn new things and complete activities. Listen to related music and/or stories while doing projects if possible.

1. Artists

✦ Rembrandt ✦ Vincent Van Gogh ✦ Jan Vermeer

- **Look** at art from one or more of these artists on the iPad or in a book from the library
- **Read** Where In the World? Around the Globe in 13 Works of Art, page 23.
- **Watch** Rembrandt for Children: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NR5sC5fu8-8>
- **Watch** Vincent Van Gogh for Children: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qv8TANh8djl>
- **Paint** a picture inspired by one of these artists.

2. Authors & Poets

✦ J. Slauerhoff ✦ Constantijn Huygens ✦ Margaretha Shemin

- **Read** or listen to The Little Riders by Margaretha Shemin (at library), or another Dutch story (list on page 100 of Galloping the Globe).

3. Composers

✦ Henriette Bosmans, 1895 – 1952 (there are several other composers, but she has a fascinating story)

- **Read** article online: <http://www.forbiddenmusicregained.org/search/composer/id/100018>
- **Listen** to her music: <https://amzn.to/2vP5HaZ>. (Physical CDs and Streaming both available.)

4. Prominent People

✦ Prince William of Orange ✦ Desiderius Erasmus ✦ Baruch de Spinoza

✦ King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima ✦ Anne Frank

- **Learn** about the King and Queen of the Netherlands:
<https://www.aroundtheworldstories.com/stories/kings-day-part-1/>.
- **Read** an age-appropriate story about Anne Frank. (Also in the Germany Lesson Plan.)

5: Scientists

✦ Anton van Leeuwenhoek (father of microbiology) ✦ Bernard D. H. Tellegen ✦ C. H. D. Buys Ballot

- **Read** or listen to a story about a scientist from the Netherlands.
- **Do** a related experiment.

D. Places & Food

Choose the activities that interest you the most. Add to your Card File as you learn new things and complete activities.

1. Landmarks & Attractions

✦ Kinderdijk Windmills ✦ Canals of Amsterdam ✦ Rijksmuseum ✦ Keukenhof Gardens
✦ Madurodam Theme Park ✦ Anne Frank House

- **Visit** Madurodam online: <https://www.madurodam.nl/en/the-park/all-attractions>. Cute video on <https://www.madurodam.nl/en/the-park/all-attractions/amsterdam> (turn sound down near the end – one curse word).
- **Make** a miniature village: <https://www.parents.com/fun/arts-crafts/kid/craft-village/>
- **Draw** Canal Houses: <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/e0/c9/0e/e0c90ee19fdf7b320d3be552f69ebee.jpg>
- **Take a virtual tour** of the Anne Frank Museum: <http://www.annefrank.org>.

2. Festivals & Events

✦ New Year's Day Dive ✦ Opening of Keukenhof Gardens ✦ Flower Parade ✦ King's Day
✦ The Hague Festival

- **Watch** a Dutch Flower Parade on YouTube
- **Watch** a King's Day Parade on YouTube
- **Plant** tulips (inside in a pot or outside, depending on season)

3. Food

- **Read** Eat Your Way Around the World, page 55 - 57.
- **Make** Cucumber Salad, Oliebollen, Pea Soup.

Find more ideas on my Netherlands Pinterest Board:

<https://www.pinterest.com/cottonridgellc/world-geography-cultures/the-netherlands/>

Checklist for Basic Materials:

- Globe
- Galloping the Globe
- Where On Earth? Atlas
- DK Children's World Atlas
- Look What Came From the Netherlands (or similar book)
- Map Folders, Stamp Albums, Stamps & Hinges
- Card File materials including printed PDF files (see general instructions)
- Music and/or Story CDs
- Stories from The Netherlands by <https://www.aroundtheworldstories.com>
- iPad or Computer with internet connection for research (optional)

Checklist for Projects:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Checklist for International Food Dishes:

- Eat Your Way Around the World cookbook *or* Recipes
- Recipe ingredients: _____
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- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____