Virginia International Tattoo

Wednesday, April 20, 2016
Thursday, April 21, 2016
Friday, April 22, 2016
10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Scope Arena, Norfolk

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Doe den tap toe!

That's Dutch for "Turn off the taps!" It's a phrase used four hundred years ago when British soldiers were stationed in the Low Countries, now the Netherlands and Belgium. When the troops weren't off fighting, they joined the local townspeople at taverns and inns, enjoying fellowship and drinking ale.

To summon the soldiers back to their quarters for the night, a single military drummer would march through the towns beating a "doe den tap toe" message to the innkeepers to turn off the ale taps, or stop serving ale.

This signal was eventually trimmed to "tap toe" and then "tattoo," perhaps because of the drum's "rat-a-tat" sound. But while its name was shortened, the size and scope of the ceremony grew as the British Army brought the tradition back home to the United Kingdom.

Over the centuries, music and marching were added to the tattoo. Massed military bands dressed in colorful uniforms and playing drums, fifes, bagpipes, and other instruments marched in impressive formations. The tattoo, once a simple command to close the taverns, became a mighty display of military pageantry.

In Scotland, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, established in 1950, is one of the most popular of these exhibitions. Every year 200,000 people attend the tattoo at historic Edinburgh Castle.

Other countries also host tattoos, such as the Norwegian Military Tattoo and the Royal Nova Scotia Tattoo of Canada. Each event is different and shaped by the culture of the country in which it is presented. Today, most tattoos include civilian entertainment as well as military bands and honor performers from nations outside of the host nation.
Now in its 20th year, the Virginia International Tattoo brings together hundreds of performers from around the world in a spectacular exhibition of music, marching, and more. Massed pipes and drums, drill teams, marching bands, dancers, and choirs perform together, creating the largest show of its kind in the United States.

**2016 Virginia International Tattoo Cast**

**AUSTRALIA**
- 51 ACU Swan Regiment Drums and Pipes
- OzScot Australia Highland Dancers
- Presbyterian Ladies’ College Pipe Band

**CANADA**
- Canadian Forces Base 8 Wing Trenton Pipes and Drums

**GERMANY**
- Heeresmusikkorps Kassel (German Army Band Kassel)

**JORDAN**
- Jordanian Armed Forces Bagpipe Band

**NETHERLANDS**
- Band of the Netherlands Mounted Arms Regiment

**SWITZERLAND**
- Top Secret Drum Corps

**UNITED KINGDOM**
- Inveraray and District Pipe Band

**UNITED STATES**
- Colonial Williamsburg Fifes and Drums
- Rhythm Project
- U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Band
- U.S. Coast Guard Drill Team
- U.S. Marine Corps FAST Company
- U.S. Marine Corps Quantico Band
- U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Band
- Virginia International Tattoo All-American Chorus
- Wake & District Pipe Band

**Virginia International Tattoo 2016**

A Time to Celebrate 20 Years of Spectacular Performances

A Time to Remember 20 Years of Service and Sacrifice

Over the past 20 years, the Virginia International Tattoo has hosted groups from:

- Albania
- Australia
- Belgium
- Bermuda
- Canada
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Jordan
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Oman
- Republic of Korea
- Russia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Tonga
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- United States of America
... of Service and Sacrifice

Adapted from 2016 Virginia International Tattoo “Letter of Thanks” by Joe Galloway

This 20th edition of the Virginia International Tattoo is dedicated to the three million men and women of America’s armed forces who have protected our freedom during the last 20 years. They’ve stood tall and proud during a turbulent time, and along with our NATO allies, they continue to stand guard today.

Over the last two decades, our men and women in uniform have been called upon for peace-keeping missions throughout the Middle East, Africa, and Eastern Europe. They have guarded our embassies and evacuated our citizens when war and rebellion were only two streets away. They have stood watch in the Sinai Desert; in Bosnia, Kosovo, Albania, and Serbia; in East Timor; in Syria, Somalia, and Yemen. Then came the tragic events of September 11, 2001, which shocked our nation and the world.

Within weeks, we had tracked the origins of the attacks to Afghanistan, and young Americans stepped forward by the thousands to enlist. Allied retribution was swift and deadly. The terrorists and their Taliban government hosts were swept from power and into exile. That was the beginning of the longest war in American history, a conflict that began in October of 2001 and continues today.

Over two million American and allied troops would be called on to fight in Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom, and in Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom - our nation’s second longest war. With an all-volunteer military, our troops would have to deploy to combat over and over again.

Over the years there have been countless acts of daily heroism on patrol in and over the rugged mountains and valleys of Afghanistan and in the cities, towns, and deserts of Iraq. That heroism often goes unseen and unheralded by all but the few who were there at a sudden and deadly moment in time.

Although we have wound down our involvement in Iraq to small numbers of trainers and advisers, and the Americans still in Afghanistan are likewise focused on training and advising, the danger of duty there and elsewhere around the world is still very real.

In a nation with a population of 320 million, less than 2 million wear the uniform today. Less than one percent do all the serving and sacrificing, along with their families. How great a debt we owe those men and women. We can never thank them enough for all they have done and all they have endured. But we can try. We thank all of you who wear the uniform today and all the veterans who went before you.
What You’ll See and Hear

The Virginia International Tattoo is an extravaganza of amazing sights and incredible sounds. Here’s what you can expect:

Musical instruments: Long ago, before radio or digital communications, musical instruments were an essential part of military life. Drums provided rhythms for marching. Bugles, trumpets, and fifes relayed orders from commanders to soldiers in the field. In the UK, Scottish bagpipers served in the military as far back as the 1600s. As the bagpipes were played into battle, their big, bold sound motivated the troops and struck fear in the hearts of the enemy.

Marching: In most countries, marching is part of basic military training. Obeying marching orders, known as drill commands, requires discipline. To march in formation, or as a single unit, each individual in the group must keep in mind his or her dress, cover, interval, and distance.

Dress: alignment with the person to either side
Cover: alignment with the person in front
Interval: space between the person to either side
Distance: space between the person in front

Military uniforms: Perhaps you wear a uniform at school, in your scout troop, or for your sports team. The uniform identifies you as a member of that group. Members of military organizations wear uniforms to show that they belong to the armed forces of a particular nation. A country’s military uniform often reflects its history and tradition. In the UK, for instance, soldiers from the Scottish Highlands wore tartan—what we in America call plaid—into battle. In that mountainous area of Scotland, the various clans who lived there could be distinguished by the unique colors and patterns of their tartan kilts.

Dancing: The Highland dance style comes from the Highlands area of Scotland. It’s a technical form of dance requiring great strength and stamina. Centuries ago Scottish soldiers used Highland dancing as exercise to keep fit for battle, it’s believed. Until the early twentieth century, Highland dancing was performed mostly by men. During the World Wars, Scottish women learned to dance, too, preserving the tradition while the men were away. Today, both males and females dance. Highland dance students practice many hours and train for many years. The laced leather shoes Highland dancers wear are called ghillies.
Hopping kangaroos, the dazzling sea creatures of the Great Barrier Reef, and a friendly greeting of "G'day, mate!" You'll find all of these in Australia.

Australia is often called the Land Down Under because it's located "down under" the equator in the southern hemisphere. It's the world's smallest continent and largest island, situated between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Australia is also the only continent made up of a single country.

Australia enjoys a warm, sunny climate. With beaches, mountains, forests, grasslands, and deserts (known as the outback), Australia is home to a wide variety of unique animals, birds, flowers, and trees. Some of the better-known creatures that make Australia their habitat are the platypus, kangaroo, koala, wombat, dingo, emu, and kookaburra.

Stretching 1,300 miles off Australia's northeastern coast, the Great Barrier Reef is the largest area of coral reefs and islands in the world. More than four hundred species of coral build colonies here, where 1,500 species of colorful tropical fish swim.

The first inhabitants of Australia migrated from Asia thousands of years ago. Later immigrants called these nomadic hunters and gatherers "aborigines." Descendants of these early people still live in Australia; some Aborigines reside in modern cities and towns, others live a more traditional lifestyle. Aboriginal painting—on bark, rock, even in sand—music, and dance are an important part of Australian culture.

In 1770 Captain James Cook, a British explorer, claimed Australia for Great Britain. On January 26, 1788—now celebrated in the country as Australia Day—eleven ships full of prisoners and guards
Free settlers also arrived from Great Britain, and the single colony in Australia grew to six. The settlers brought with them many British customs, including tea drinking. In 1901, the six colonies became the six states of a new nation, the Commonwealth of Australia.

Today, Australia enjoys a standard of living among the highest in the world. With its remarkable natural beauty, diverse population, and rich history and culture, it’s no wonder nearly 22 million people call Australia home and 6 million visit every year.

Learn more at:
National Geographic Kids
www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/australia

TIME for Kids
www.timeforkids.com/destination/australia

Did You Know?
• The name Australia comes from the Latin words *terra australis incognita*, meaning “unknown southern land,” an early name for the land that explorers expected to find in the southern ocean.

• The Sydney Opera House is Australia’s most recognizable building and a masterpiece of modern design and engineering. Completed in 1973, it took sixteen years to construct its soaring roof-shell sails atop a massive granite platform. The performing arts center includes a concert hall, opera and drama theaters, a playhouse, and a studio.

• It takes fourteen hours to fly in a plane nonstop from Los Angeles, California, to Sydney, Australia. And it might already be tomorrow in Australia—the US East Coast is fifteen hours behind the Australian East Coast!
Capital: **Ottawa**  
Official Language: **English and French**

With a third of its land located within the Arctic Circle, it’s no wonder Canada’s often referred to as the Great White North! Those arctic regions stay frozen for up to nine months a year, so most Canadians live near the country’s border with the United States, where the climate is milder. And that border? At 5,525 miles, it’s the longest international boundary in the world.

Canada is a vast country—the second largest on the globe—with areas of rugged mountains, forested valleys, and rolling plains. Many native Canadians, also called First Nations people, live in the icy north. They hunt and fish amid the glaciers, just as their ancestors did when they arrived in North America from Asia thousands of years ago.

Half of Canada is covered with forests. Forest wildlife includes bears, deer, wolves, moose, and beaver, the country’s official animal. Arctic creatures such as caribou, polar bears, and seals live in the frozen north. There are thousands of lakes in Canada, which, along with the country’s rivers, contain almost 20 percent of all fresh water on the planet. Niagara Falls, the most powerful waterfall in North America and a popular tourist attraction, is shared by both Canada and the United States.

The first non-native to reach Canada was Viking explorer Leif Eriksson around 1000 CE. British and French settlers arrived in the 1500s, but disagreements between fur traders and farmers resulted in a series of wars between 1689 and 1763. The British kept control of Canada after the last of these conflicts, the French and Indian War, but the French influence remains. Canada became an independent nation in 1931, though it still recognizes the Queen of Great Britain as its head of state.

Canada is made up of ten provinces and three territories. Canada’s population is diverse, including First Nations peoples and descendants of the British and French settlers, plus other European, Asian, and African immigrants. Though Canada is slightly larger than the United States, it has only 11 percent as many people. It is one of the least densely populated countries in the world.

The distinctive maple leaf on the Canadian flag is a time-honored symbol of the country’s heritage. Long before the first European settlers arrived, Canada’s native peoples discovered that maple sap, which they gathered every spring, could be used as food. The maple leaf became a Canadian symbol as early as 1700, appearing in military and government settings, on currency, even in song. The red maple leaf design became the official flag of Canada in 1965.
Another well-known symbol of Canadian culture is the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The Mounties are Canada’s national police force. Established in 1873 to keep law and order in the country’s untamed northwest, the Mounties rode horseback in their bright red dress uniforms. Today, the Mounties patrol in vehicles, showing off their horse riding skills only in public exhibitions.

Did You Know?

• Canada is home to the world’s safest highways—for animals! Wildlife overpasses and underpasses in Banff National Park are used by bears, wolves, coyotes, cougars, moose, elk, deer, bighorn sheep, wolverines, and lynx to cross busy roads.

• A body of water in the Canadian province of Manitoba is called Lake Pekwachnamaykoskwawaypinwanik. What a mouthful! The name is Cree for “where the wild trout are caught by fishing with hooks.”

• Canadians consume more macaroni and cheese than any nation on earth. Yum!

Learn more at:

National Geographic Kids
www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/canada

TIME for Kids
www.timeforkids.com/destination/Canada

Canadian Geographic Kids
www.canadiangeographic.ca/kids/
Germany—home of some of the world’s greatest composers, most beloved fairy tales, and most delicious foods, as well as a rich history marked by both tragedy and triumph. From the storybook landscapes of the Bavarian Alps and Black Forest to the modern skyscrapers of its bustling riverfront cities, Germany offers natural beauty, historic charm, and the latest technological advances.

Located in central Europe, Germany shares its borders with nine other countries—more than any other European nation. The country’s central and southern regions feature forested hills and mountains crisscrossed by the Danube and Rhine river valleys. To the north, a wide plain reaches to the North Sea.

The Black Forest, Germany’s largest and most famous wooded area, is located near the Swiss and French borders to the southwest. This vast mountainous region is full of dark pines and fir trees, and is known for yummy foods like Black Forest ham and cake, as well as carved-wood handicrafts like the cuckoo clock. It’s believed to be the setting for fairy tales like “Hansel and Gretel,” written by Germany’s Brothers Grimm. The Black Forest contains the source of the Danube, one of Europe’s longest rivers.

About five thousand years ago, the first people to speak a Germanic-type language lived in the region. Germany as we know it wouldn’t be created for thousands more years, though. Germany was comprised of several small states ruled by dukes and kings until 1871, when the country was finally united by the “Iron Chancellor,” politician Otto von Bismarck, in a series of wars.

Like other European countries, Germany raced to create colonies in Africa and Asia during the late nineteenth century. Competitive tensions led to World War I in 1914, the worst conflict the world had ever seen. Germany and its fellow Central Powers—Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria—lost the war to the Allied and Associated Powers, which included Britain, France, Russia, Italy, and the United States.

With the promise of making the nation great once more, Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party rose to power in Germany in 1933. When Hitler invaded Poland in 1939, it sparked World War II. Germany, Italy, and Japan’s Axis Powers fought against the Allies, which included the United States, Britain, and France. Hitler created camps where millions of Jewish people and others were murdered during the conflict. In 1945, the Germans were defeated and Hitler committed suicide, bringing the war to a close.

After World War II, Germany became part of a standoff between the West and the Soviet Union. In 1949, the country was divided into the Federal Republic of Germany, or West Germany, and the communist German Democratic Republic, or East Germany. The Berlin Wall, a concrete barrier erected in 1961 by East Germany that divided the city of Berlin, became a much-publicized symbol of the political conflict, known as the Cold War. In 1989, East Germany opened its borders, the Berlin Wall was torn down, and the Cold War came to an end. Germany was unified once more in 1990. In 2005, the country elected its first female chancellor, Angela Merkel, who is still in office today.

Germany is known as the “Land of Poets and Thinkers.” Great German writers and philosophers include Goethe, Schiller, Kafka, Kant, and Nietzsche.
Brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm were nineteenth-century German scholars who collected, modified, and published now-famous German folk tales such as "Cinderella," "Rapunzel," "Sleeping Beauty," and "Snow White." Groundbreaking scientists Johannes Kepler (astronomy), Max Planck and Albert Einstein (physics), and Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung (psychiatry) hailed from Germany as well. Germans are also particularly well represented in classical music. Germany’s famous composers include Bach, Brahms, Schumann, Wagner, and Beethoven.

Some of the most popular foods in the United States have their origins in Germany. Nothing’s more American than a hot dog at the ballpark, right? Think again. Historians believe it was a butcher from Frankfurt, Germany, who in the eighteenth century invented the sausage of beef and pork we now know as the “frankfurter” or hot dog. German immigrants coming to America brought the sausage with them, along with sauerkraut, the traditional fermented cabbage dish of Germany. Pretzels have long been part of German food culture; German immigrant to Pennsylvania, Julius Sturgis, founded the first commercial pretzel bakery in the United States in 1861. Now Pennsylvania produces 80 percent of our nation’s pretzels—whose roots stretch all the way to Germany!

Did You Know?

- The gummy bear was born in Germany. German candymaker Hans Riegel was so inspired after seeing trained bears at festivals across his country that in 1922 he created the "dancing bear," a fruit-flavored gummy candy in the shape of a bear. Today, his company, Haribo, produces over 100 million gummy bears each day!
- Neuschwanstein Castle, a nineteenth-century palace in the Bavarian Alps, was the inspiration for Disneyland’s Sleeping Beauty Castle. The Bavarian Alps are located in the German state of Bavaria, which borders Austria, Switzerland, and the Czech Republic.

Learn more at:
National Geographic Kids
http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/germany/#germany-munich-city-scene.jpg

Time for Kids
http://www.timeforkids.com/destination/germany

Germany for Kids
http://www.germany.info/kids

- German-made automobiles are considered some of the finest in the world. German car manufacturers include Audi, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Porsche, and Volkswagen.
Capital: **Amman**  
Official Language: **Arabic**

Since the dawn of civilization, Jordan’s central Middle Eastern location has served as a crossroads connecting Asia, Africa, and Europe. A well-traveled bridge between east and west, Jordan is a land of great beauty and stunning contrasts. From shifting desert sands to the shimmering waters of the Red Sea, from ancient wonders like the sandstone city of Petra to the vibrant capital of Amman, multifaceted Jordan offers visitors plenty to do and see. Despite the turmoil in other parts of the Middle East, Jordan is considered one of the safest countries in the region.

Archaeologists have found evidence of people living in what is modern-day Jordan as far back as 7250 BCE. Many ancient kingdoms would settle or conquer the land over the centuries, including the Hittites, Egyptians, Israelites, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, and Romans.

One of the most notable Jordanian civilizations was the Nabataean Kingdom, which ruled between 400 BCE and 106 CE. The Nebataeans carved their capital city from the rose-colored rock at Petra, which became a major trade center for the region. In 2007, the “Rose City” of Petra was named one of the new Seven Wonders of the World, and many thousands of tourists flock to it every year.

The city of Jerash is one of the largest and best-preserved sites of Roman architecture in the world outside of Italy. The Roman streets, theaters, plazas, and arches have been remarkably preserved; they were buried under sand for centuries after an earthquake and wars devastated the city. The ruins were discovered in 1806; excavation began in 1925 and continues to this day.

Jordan was part of the Ottoman Empire from 1516 until the end of World War I, when it was awarded to the United Kingdom by the League of Nations. The British created the Emirate of Transjordan, ruled by Prince Abdullah but under British rule. In 1946, Jordan was granted full independence from Britain and Abdullah became king.

After the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, Jordan joined its Arab neighbors to fight the new country. Jordan took over the West Bank and East Jerusalem. King Abdullah was assassinated in 1951; later his grandson, the late King Hussein, would rule until his death in 1999. After Israel won the Six Day Arab-Israeli War in 1961, it regained control of Jerusalem and the West Bank and Palestinian refugees fled into Jordan. In 1994 Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty, and in 1999 King Abdullah II assumed the throne. Jordan has since enjoyed relative peace, stability, and economic growth.

Jordan is a land of great natural beauty. Wadi Rum, also known as the Valley of the Moon, is a stark, scenic valley cut into the sandstone and granite of...
southern Jordan, east of the Red Sea. The native Bedouin people here have developed eco-adventure tourism into a profitable industry, welcoming rock climbers and hikers and offering Bedouin tent camping as well as camel, horse, and jeep safaris through the red desert wilderness.

The Jordan River, better known as the River Jordan, from which the country takes its name, runs along Jordan's western border. The river is important in both Judaism and Christianity as the place where the Israelites crossed into the Promised Land and where Jesus was baptized.

The River Jordan feeds the Dead Sea, a large body of water that, as the name suggests, does not support any plant or animal life. This is because of an extremely high salt and mineral content—almost nine times the saltiness of the world’s oceans—caused by rapid evaporation. The salts and minerals are used in agriculture and industry, as well as in medical and therapeutic treatments. Sinking while you swim in the Dead Sea is nearly impossible. The water’s high density keeps the body afloat on the surface!

Did You Know?

• Hollywood loves Jordan. Several scenes from the blockbuster movie Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom were filmed in the rock-cut city of Petra. Most of Lawrence of Arabia was shot in Wadi Rum, as were the “Mars” scenes in The Martian.

Did You Know?

• The Western numerical system was originally derived from Arabic numbers. Unlike Arabic words, though, which are read from right to left, Arabic numerals are read from left to right, the same as Western numerals.

• Jordan is a primarily Muslim country, although the freedom of all religions is protected. Muslim women’s clothing often covers their arms, legs, and hair. Conservative dress is smiled upon for both men and women – shorts are rarely worn by either sex, even though temperatures can rise to over 100 degrees in the summer.

Learn more at:

Time for Kids
www.timeforkids.com/destination/jordan
“Low countries”—that’s what the name Netherlands means. And most of this small European country would be underwater but for a variety of dikes, seawalls, canals, and pumps that keep the North Sea and a pair of major rivers at bay (no pun intended!).

The Netherlands, often called Holland, is nestled between Belgium and Germany in Western Europe. To the north and west, the North Sea pounds the nation, nearly half of which sits below sea level. To prevent their land from washing away, the country’s people, known as the Dutch, have built dikes, dams, and floodgates. River dikes prevent flooding from the Rhine and Meuse rivers that flow into the Netherlands. And a series of drainage canals and pumping stations—historically powered by windmills—keep the flat land dry, livable, and farmable.

The windmill, in fact, is one of the most recognizable symbols of the Netherlands. By the mid-1800s, about ten thousand Dutch windmills pumped water, ground grain, or powered sawmills. Today, there are just over a thousand windmills—some used for drainage, others used as museums to preserve the nation’s history.

Since the Netherlands is mostly coastal lowlands and has no mountain ranges or other natural borders, it was an easy target for invading neighbors over the years. Outsiders occupied parts of the country for centuries, including the Romans, Germanic tribes, Vikings, Franks, Austrians, and Spanish. In 1568 the Dutch battled Spain for their independence—known as the Eighty Years’ War—which they won in 1648.

During the war, the Dutch enjoyed a great blossoming of trade, industry, art, and sciences, known as the Dutch Golden Age. The Dutch were skilled seafarers and took the lead in world trade with the Dutch East India Company, the first multinational corporation, financed by shares in the first modern stock exchange. The Dutch traded spices in India and Indonesia and founded colonies in America, South Africa, and the West Indies. Perhaps you’ve visited New Amsterdam, the Dutch settlement now known as New York City!

The Dutch were tolerant of intellectual thought, so philosophers, scientists, writers, and artists felt free to explore, experiment, and create. Physicist Christiaan Huygen invented the pendulum clock, a major step in precise timekeeping, and scientist Anton van Leeuwenhoek laid the foundation for microbiology with his improvements to the microscope. What we call the Dutch Masters were a group of exceptional painters from the region, including Rembrandt, Vermeer, and Van Gogh.

The “blossoming” of the Dutch Golden Age also included a fascination with a flower, the tulip. First grown by the Turks, tulips were imported to the Netherlands in the sixteenth century. There, they became something of an obsession, a symbol of status and wealth. In the mid-seventeenth century, tulips were so popular that they created an economic bubble called “tulip mania.” As people bought up bulbs, they became so expensive that they were used as money until the market in them crashed!

During the Napoleonic Wars, France’s Napoleon Bonaparte took over the region and put his brother Louis on the throne in 1806. In 1814, the people
claimed independence from France, and for twenty-five years Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands were united as one country known as the Kingdom of the Netherlands. In 1839, the Netherlands became independent once more.

During World War II, Germany occupied the Netherlands for five years and killed many people who resisted or helped the Dutch Jews. You may be familiar with the story of a Jewish girl who went into hiding with her family in the Netherlands during the occupation. The Diary of Anne Frank is one of the world’s most widely read books. In Amsterdam today, memorials to Anne include the Anne Frank House museum and a beautiful bronze statue.

Did You Know?

• In the Netherlands, the bicycle is king—the country boasts three times as many bicycles as cars!
• You can still tiptoe through the tulips today in the “flower shop of the world.” Dutch tulips are cultivated in vast fields of beautiful colors, and tulip festivals can be found throughout the country in the spring.
• The Dutch are the tallest people in the world! On average, men are 6 feet tall and women are 5 feet 7 inches.

Learn more at:
National Geographic Kids
http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/netherlands/#netherlands-tulip-fields.jpg
**Spotlight on Switzerland**

**Capital:** Bern  
**Official Language:** Swiss German, French, Italian

With towering mountain peaks, dense forests, and sparkling lakes, Switzerland’s landscapes are postcard-perfect. This small, mountainous European country is sandwiched between France and Italy, and also shares borders with Austria, Germany, and Liechtenstein.

The Swiss Alps, which make up over half of Switzerland, are soaring, snow-covered mountains. The 14,692-foot Matterhorn is the most famous peak, and one of the country’s tallest, at the border of Switzerland and Italy. It’s a nearly symmetrical pyramid shape with four sides, each facing a different compass point. Skiing and other winter sports bring thousands of tourists to the Swiss Alps every year.

Glaciers in the Swiss Alps have shrunk in the past few decades, scientists have observed, possibly due to global climate change. Rapid melting of the glaciers may cause flooding and rockslides, which could damage the many villages below. Glacial melt may also affect the alpine wildlife, which include once-endangered mountain goats called ibex, another goat-like animal known as the chamois, red deer, and the marmot, a burrowing relative of the squirrel.

Much of Switzerland’s cultural heritage is connected to the Alps in some way. Yodeling is a form of singing that suddenly changes in pitch. In the Swiss Alps, it developed as communication between people from peak to peak or to summon grazing cows. Similarly, the alphorn, a distinctive long wind instrument, was used by alpine shepherds to call cows into the barn for milking and to communicate with herdsmen on neighboring Alps and with people in the valley below. In the 1800s, the alphorn became popular for making music.

Alpine dairy farming has a long history. It’s believed that the pastures above the mountains’ tree line were farmed as far back as 4,000 BCE. Cheese-making in the summer allowed people to preserve cows’ and goats’ milk and stockpile it for the long winter months. You may know a story of a girl who goes to live with her grandfather near an alpine farming village and makes friends with a young goatherd—the classic Heidi, by Swiss author Johanna Spyri, is among the best-known works of Swiss literature.

Between the Alps in the south and the Jura Mountains to the north is the plateau where most Swiss people live. Bern, Switzerland’s capital built around a crook of the Aare River, was founded in 1191 as a strategic military post, and the city has preserved much of its medieval heritage. Zurich is the country’s largest city, located on Lake Zurich, and is Switzerland’s financial, industrial, and cultural center. Banking is one of the country’s most important industries.
Spotlight on Switzerland, continued

For centuries the area now known as Switzerland was occupied by Celtic tribes, the Romans, and Germanic groups. In 1291 three of the region's cantons, or states, united to form Switzerland, which became an independent country in 1815. Today Switzerland is made up of twenty-six cantons and is led by an elected president.

Switzerland is a neutral country, which means that it doesn't take part in armed conflict. The country has remained neutral in conflicts around the world, including both world wars.

**Did You Know?**

- The giant dog breed called the Saint Bernard originally came from the Swiss Alps. These working dogs were used in search-and-rescue operations during avalanches and snowstorms. When a dog found a lost traveler, it would keep them warm until help arrived.

**Learn more at:**

National Geographic Kids
http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/switzerland/#switzerland-alphorns.jpg

TIME for Kids
http://www.timeforkids.com/destination/switzerland

From The New Book Of The Dog 1911, by Robert Leighton.

Emmental, a Swiss cheese variety. Photo by Christian Bauer

- Chocolate and cheese made in Switzerland are some of the world’s best. Great Swiss chocolate makers include Nestlé, Lindt, and Tobler. The country's Emmental region is famous for its namesake, a yellow, mellow cheese riddled with holes. The holes are created by carbon dioxide bubbles released in the aging process. We know this deliciously holey stuff by another name: Swiss cheese!

- Switzerland is known for its fine watchmakers; Swiss watch brands include the luxury Rolex, trendsetting Movado, and whimsical Swatch.
Capital: **London**  
Official Language: **English**

From Stonehenge to Buckingham Palace, the United Kingdom is known for its rich history and royal heritage. Located off the northwestern coast of Europe, the United Kingdom consists of four parts: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. England, Scotland, and Wales make up an island called Great Britain; Northern Ireland sits at the north of the island of Ireland, to the west of Great Britain.

It's believed that Stone Age man came to Britain via a land bridge that once joined the island to Europe. When melting ice raised the seas, Britain became a separate island. Around 2000 BCE one of the UK’s most famous landmarks was built: Stonehenge. This stone monument of giant columns and curved crosspieces was constructed even before the wheel had been invented. Scientists are still not sure exactly how and why the mysterious Stonehenge was created.

Around 500 BCE, the Celtic people arrived in Britain from mainland Europe, followed by the Romans in 43 CE. The Romans ruled for nearly four hundred years. They built forts, roads, and bathhouses, the ruins of which can still be seen today all over Britain. They also brought the practice of medicine and law and key ideas about government on which the UK’s parliamentary system is based. Many words in the English language come from the Latin language of the Romans. You may have studied some Latin root words in school.

By 500 BCE, Germanic tribes called the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes invaded Britain. The name England comes from the Angles; English people became known as Anglo-Saxons. Viking, Danish, and Norman invaders ruled England from the 900s to the 1400s. In 1485, Henry Tudor from Wales became king, the first of five Tudors to claim the crown. Later, kings and queens came from other families.

During the reign of Queen Victoria (1837–1901,) Britain became one of the most powerful and wealthy nations in the world, thanks to trade and a growing overseas empire. Most of Britain's colonies gained their independence after the two World Wars, though, as the nation was drained of its might. Many people from the former colonies in the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia migrated to the UK, creating the diverse British population of today.
It was under Queen Victoria’s rule that Buckingham Palace in London became the official residence and workplace of the British monarchy. A favorite tourist attraction is the daily guard-changing ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Dressed in traditional red coats and tall, black bearskin hats, a group of soldiers—the Queen’s Guard—stationed at the royal residence exchanges duties with a new group.

Many of the greatest names in literature came from the United Kingdom, including playwright William Shakespeare, poet Robert Burns, novelist Charles Dickens, and children’s writer Roald Dahl. You may have also heard of British author J. K. Rowling, who wrote a series of books about a boy wizard named Harry Potter!

Did You Know?

- Big Ben is actually the name of the mighty bell, not the clock tower, at this most recognizable London landmark.

- If you order fish and chips in the UK, you’ll get fish and french fries. If you’re hungry for potato chips, ask for crisps. And if you’d like a cookie, ask for a biscuit!

- London was the first city in the world to construct an underground subway system. Known as the Tube, the London Underground opened in 1843. Today the Tube’s eleven lines total over 250 miles above and below ground, transporting 3 million people daily.

Learn more at:
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Imagine the cafeteria at lunchtime—students laughing and chatting, bags and wrappers crinkling, trays banging and utensils clinking. Now imagine trying to share a story or joke with the entire room. Would anyone hear you? Probably not, right?

Luckily, the performance space isn't the cafeteria. And when we enter the arena, we all agree to a certain code of behavior so that everyone can enjoy the show. That's called audience etiquette.

Here are a few audience etiquette tips:

• Be quiet. If you talk during the performance, you may disturb other audience members around you and distract the performers. Clap and cheer for the performers, but don’t carry on conversations with your neighbors.

• Silence your cell phone or other electronics that may make noise during the show.

• Stay in your seat. Use the restroom before the performance begins.

• Enjoy the show! The performers have worked hard to present an exciting event; thank them by paying attention and expressing your appreciation with applause. Bravo!

**VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING**

**Dance:** DM.12, 14-20; DI.12-14, 16-18, 20-23; DII.10-11, 14-21

**Music:** K.11-12; 1.11-12; 2.10-11; 3.11, 14-15; 4.10, 14-15; 5.9, 11-13; MS.5, 7-9; HS.5-9; IB.21-25; II.21-25; IAD.22, 24-26; IAR.21, 24, 26-27; CB.13-14; CI.13-14; CAD.15-16; CAR.15-16

**Foreign Language:** WI.7-9, 12; WII.7-8, 11; WIII.6-7, 9-10; WIV.6-7, 9-10; NWI.7-8, 11-12; NWII.7-8, 10-11; NWIII.6-7, 9-10; NWIV.6-7, 9-10; NWV.6-7, 9-10; GI.7-9, 11-12; GII.7-8, 10-11; GIII.6-7, 9-10; GIV.6-7, 9-10

**History:** WG.1, 3-4
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How did your students respond to the performance?

How did you prepare your students for this performance? Did you use the Education Guide? If so, how? Did students enjoy the materials?

How did this performance contribute to experiential learning in your classroom?

What role do the arts play in your school? In your classroom?

If you could change one thing about this experience, what would it be?

Please include quotes and comments from your students as well!

(Optional)
Name: ________________________________
School: ________________________________ City: ________________________________
Would you like to be part of our database?  □ Yes  □ No
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