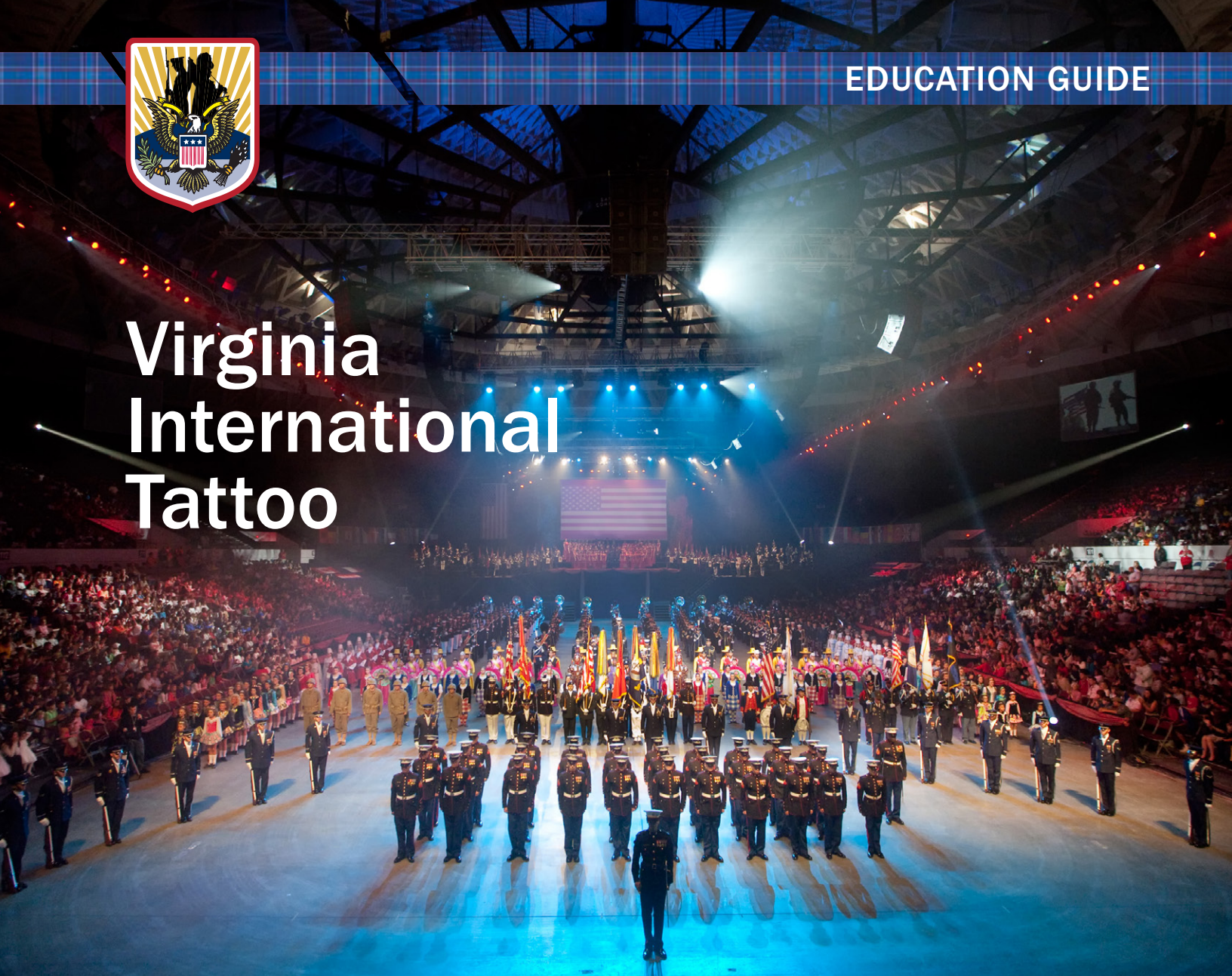




Virginia International Tattoo



VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL 2024

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WHAT IN THE WORLD'S A TATTOO?

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 marched in impressive formations, playing drums, fifes, bagpipes, and other instruments. 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 two hundred thousand people attend the tattoo at historic Edinburgh Castle.

Other countries also host tattoos, such as the Norwegian Military Tattoo and the Royal Nova Scotia International 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.

VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO



Now in its twenty-seventh 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, precision drill teams, resplendent marching bands, colorful dancers, and melodious choirs perform together, creating the grandest show of its kind in the United States. Based in Norfolk, Virginia, home to the world's largest naval base, NATO's North American headquarters, and the greatest population of active duty and retired military in the country, this year's tattoo is a patriotic and gratitude-filled commemoration of the eightieth anniversary of the pivotal D-Day landings of WWII, and the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of NATO, which safeguards freedom for the world.

2024 Virginia International Tattoo Cast

AUSTRALIA

51 ACU Swan Regiment Drums & Pipes
Scots College Pipes and Drums

CANADA

Royal Canadian Air Force Pipes and Drums

FRANCE

XV du Pacifique Army Rugby Team

GERMANY

Central Military Band of the Latvian National
Armed Forces

MULTINATIONAL

Virginia International Tattoo Highland Dance Company

NETHERLANDS

Marine Band of the Royal Netherlands Navy

SWITZERLAND

Top Secret Drum Corps

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Andy's Tartan Army
Camden County Emerald Society Pipes and Drums
Granby High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer
Training Corps
Hampton Roads Police Color Guards
Norfolk Fire-Rescue Honor Guard
Old Dominion University Concert Choir
Tidewater Pipes and Drums
U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band
U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team
U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command
Herald Trumpets
U.S. Marine Corps FAST Company
U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Band
Virginia Children's Chorus
Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus

TATTOO-RIFFIC! WHAT TO EXPECT

The Virginia International Tattoo is an extravaganza of amazing sights and incredible sounds. Here's what you will see and hear:

Musical instruments

Long ago, before radio or digital communications, musical instruments were a vital part of military life. Drums provided rhythms for marching. Bugles, trumpets, and fifes relayed orders from commanders to soldiers in the field. In the United Kingdom, Scottish bagpipers served in the military as far back as the 1600s. As the bagpipes were played into battle, their big, bold sound lifted the troops' spirits 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

You may 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 United Kingdom, 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 mountainous Highlands region of northern Scotland. It is a technical form of dance requiring great strength and stamina. It's believed that centuries ago Scottish soldiers used Highland dancing as exercise to keep fit for battle. 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.



✦ Did You Know?

Following in the Scottish tradition, the Virginia International Tattoo has its own tartan, designed and made in Scotland. The tartan is the inspiration of long-time Virginia Arts Festival Board Member Jim Hixon and therefore named the Virginia International Tattoo Hixon Tartan. The tartan's dominant "Festival Blue" color represents the Virginia Arts Festival and pays tribute to those who bring the arts to life. The red, white, and blue threads woven throughout symbolize the tattoo's patriotic themes and performances, while the blue hues symbolize the Virginia flag and the Norfolk seal. The gray stripes guarding the red, white, and blue represent the massive ships and mighty jets of our nation's military, many located here in our area.

REMEMBERING D-DAY: TURNING POINT OF WORLD WAR II

Eighty years ago, on June 6, 1944, nearly five years after the start of World War II, Allied soldiers invaded German-occupied France at Normandy by air and sea. Known as D-Day, the daring multinational effort initiated the eventual liberation of France and laid the groundwork for the Allied victory in Europe.

Here's what you should know about D-Day:

D-Day was the start of Operation Overlord.

D-Day was the first day of a military action called Operation Overlord, also known as the Normandy Invasion. By mid-1943, Nazi Germany and its Axis allies controlled much of continental Europe. To the east, Germany had invaded the USSR, or Soviet Union. With the goal of breaking Germany's European stranglehold, the three Allied leaders—Winston Churchill (Britain), Franklin D. Roosevelt (United States), and Joseph Stalin (USSR)—approved a complex plan called Operation Overlord. It called for two weeks of assembling Allied soldiers, tanks, trucks, and equipment at Normandy in northwestern France, to be brought over from Britain across the English Channel. This would be followed by a forceful push through France, driving the Germans out and liberating the country.

Operation Overlord opened an important second front against Germany.

Opening this second front was crucial. It would relieve pressure on the Soviet Union in the east. It would weaken Germany's overall position in western Europe and drain German resources. And it would allow the Allies to establish a presence in northern Europe from which to ultimately defeat Germany. D-Day launched the opening of this vital second front.

D-Day required careful and coordinated planning.

Allied leaders chose springtime of 1944 for the invasion, to be led by American General Dwight Eisenhower. The final plan called for more than 150,000 men to land on five beaches on the Normandy coast. The troops would be supported by nearly 7,000 naval and



merchant vessels and nearly 12,000 aircraft, and would be preceded by parachutists and gliders landing strategically behind enemy lines. Though Germany had already fortified the entire French coast, deception campaigns were developed to trick the Germans into believing an invasion would occur at a coastal location farther east. The original date chosen for the Normandy landing, June 5, 1944, had to be scuttled at the last minute due to a storm; Eisenhower took advantage of a break in the bad weather twenty-four hours later, making June 6 the infamous D-Day. The armed forces of a dozen nations took part in the coordinated international effort.

D-Day was the largest air, land, and sea invasion in history.

Shortly after midnight on June 6, 1944, thousands of Allied paratroopers were dropped behind enemy lines to blow up bridges and railroads to keep additional German forces from reaching the invasion beaches. A few hours later, thousands of naval vessels, including battleships, destroyers, and other assault ships, bombarded the enemy as landing craft carried ground troops to the sands of five beaches: American soldiers landed at Omaha and Utah beaches, and British and Canadian troops took Juno, Gold, and Sword beaches. The soldiers landed under heavy artillery fire, and the shore was loaded with landmines, barbed wire, stakes, and other obstacles. Fighting was fiercest on Omaha, as the Germans, positioned with their machine guns high on steep cliffs, turned the beach into a killing field. Of the 34,000 soldiers who came ashore at Omaha, 2,400 were killed; 4,400 Allied soldiers were killed on all five beaches that day. But by nightfall on D-Day, approximately 175,000 Allied troops and 50,000 vehicles were ashore at Normandy, which would expand to nearly a million more soldiers that summer. France would be liberated in August, and after months of fierce fighting, Nazi Germany would finally be defeated in May 1945.



Learn more at:

<https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/D-Day/603911>

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/d-day-allies-invade-europe>

Photos courtesy of The National WWII Museum.

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS STRONG: WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT NATO



- NATO stands for North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
- NATO is a political and military alliance of thirty-two North American and European countries. These nations work together to best pursue security and defense of their shared democratic values.
- In addition to the United States, NATO member nations include Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- At NATO's core is the principle of collective defense, which says that an attack on one NATO member nation is considered an attack on all.
- Founded in 1949, NATO played a unique role in maintaining stability and security in the trans-Atlantic area during the Cold War. The Cold War, which developed after World War II, was the undeclared battle for global power between democratic nations—like the United States and most western European countries—and the communist USSR, or Soviet Union. The Cold War ended in 1991 when the USSR dissolved into several independent republics, including Russia. Some of these formerly communist countries of the collapsed USSR joined NATO for unity with Europe and protection from Russia, which remained communist.
- NATO's more recent operations include security missions in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Libya, counter-piracy efforts off the Horn of Africa, and humanitarian and disaster relief efforts around the world.



- Prompted by Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, two of Russia's close neighbors who were not NATO members—Finland and Sweden—applied for NATO membership to ensure their own security. All NATO member countries must give their approval before a new member can join. Finland's membership was approved in 2023; approval of Sweden's membership came in early 2024. Though Ukraine is not a NATO member, several NATO countries have granted the country's request for assistance by sending weapons, supplies, and other aid for use in its defense against Russia. Ukraine hopes to join NATO once Russia ceases its war.
- NATO's European headquarters are in Brussels, Belgium. NATO's North American headquarters are in Norfolk, Virginia.

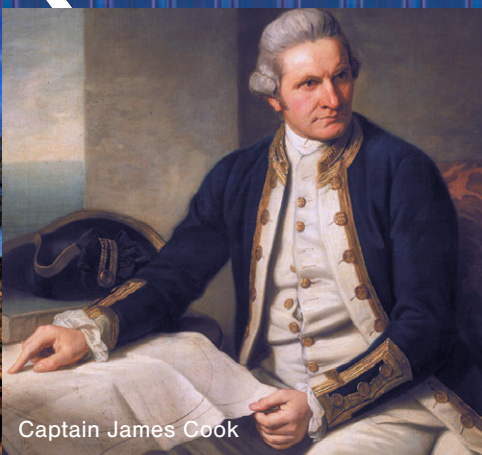
Learn more at:

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/North-Atlantic-Treaty-Organization/353543>

<http://www.nato.int/nato-welcome>



Outback



Captain James Cook



Coral of Great Barrier Reef - Credit: Hudson

SPOTLIGHT ON
AUSTRALIA

CAPITAL: Canberra
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: English



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. 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 400 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. Descendants of these Aboriginal people still live in Australia; some reside in modern cities

and towns, while 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 arrived from Great Britain. Britain had decided Australia would be the perfect place to establish a penal colony, or a settlement for convicted criminals!

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 more than 25 million people call Australia home and many millions visit every year.

✦ Did You Know?

- Because Australia is in the southern hemisphere, its seasons are the reverse of those in the northern hemisphere, where the United States is located. While we bundle up in December, January, and February, Australians are enjoying summer!
- When leaves drop from the trees in the United States, we call the season fall. Australians don't call their autumn season fall because most of its trees are evergreen!
- The kangaroo and koala are marsupials, mammals whose young are carried in their mother's pouch. The platypus is a monotreme, a mammal whose young hatches from eggs.



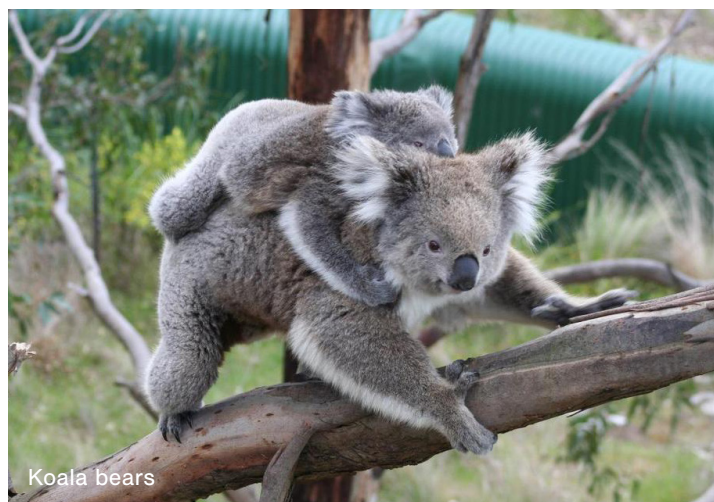
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Platypus



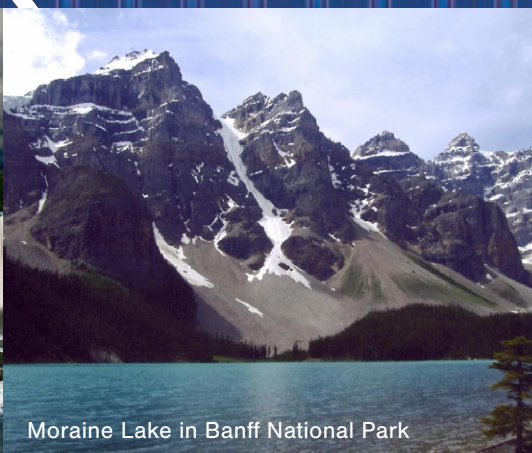
Kangaroos



Koala bears



Niagara Falls - Credit: Dmitri Markine



Moraine Lake in Banff National Park



Beaver - Credit: D. Gordon E. Robertson

SPOTLIGHT ON
CANADA

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 beavers, 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 British monarch 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 immigrants from around the world. 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, generally showing off their horse riding skills only in public exhibitions.

✦ Did You Know?

- A body of water in the Canadian province of Manitoba is called Pekwachnamaykoskwawpinwanik Lake. What a mouthful! The name is Cree for "where the wild trout are caught by fishing with hooks."
- Drumheller Valley in the province of Alberta is home to many dinosaur fossils, earning its nickname the Dinosaur Capital of the World.
- The province of Quebec produces most of the world's maple syrup. Pancakes, anyone?



Sugar making



Maple Syrup



Mounites



Canada Place in downtown Vancouver

Learn more at: National Geographic Kids
www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/canada



Nice



Napoleon

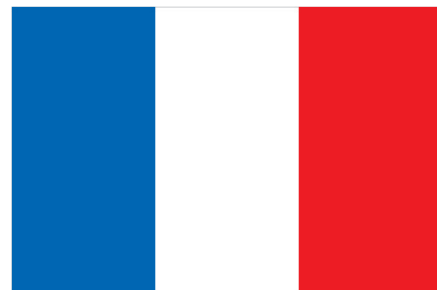


Pont du Gard, Roman aqueduct

SPOTLIGHT ON FRANCE

CAPITAL: Paris

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: French



Incredible art, delicious cheese, fine wine, fancy perfume, high fashion—the world has France to thank for these things and more! France has made rich contributions in the areas of politics, philosophy, the fine arts, film, literature, cuisine, and sports.

France is the largest country in Western Europe. It's often described as having six sides: three are coastlines, three border land. France's varied landscape includes beaches, like those of the French Riviera on the Mediterranean Sea; mountains, such as the Pyrenees and Alps; and picturesque rivers, like the Seine, Rhone, and Loire.

The French capital of Paris, also known as the City of Light, is home to the country's most recognizable landmark, the Eiffel Tower. Gustave Eiffel designed and built the iron tower in 1889 for the World's Fair; it still stands today, eighty stories tall! Many important museums are located in Paris, like the Louvre, which houses the *Mona Lisa*, the most famous painting in the world. Works by French artists Monet, Cézanne, and Renoir can also be found at the Louvre.

French cooking is considered by many to be the best in the world. Perhaps you've tried some of these French culinary creations: quiche, crepes, croissant, mousse,

soufflé, and the long loaves of bread known as baguettes. Le Cordon Bleu, a prestigious school devoted to the culinary arts (cooking), was founded in Paris in 1895.

France was not always called France. When Roman emperor Julius Caesar conquered the territory in 51 BCE, it was known as Gaul. By 400 CE the Roman Empire was in decline, and neighboring tribes—including the Franks, after which France would be named—invaded. In 843, the territory of West Francia was established; this would later become France.

Several kings ruled France until the monarchy was overthrown in 1792 during the French Revolution. Not long after, Napoleon Bonaparte, a general during the revolution, took control and declared himself emperor. He waged several wars against France's neighbors until he was defeated in 1815 at the Battle of Waterloo.

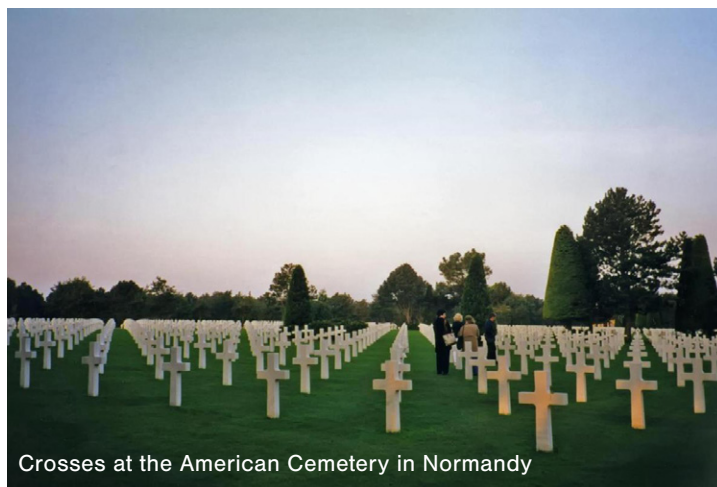
During World Wars I and II, France suffered great losses and was ultimately seized by the Nazis. The country was liberated in 1944 by a joint effort of the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada. France has since emerged as a prosperous and important world power and a popular tourist destination. Today more people visit France than any other country.

✦ Did You Know?

- Up, up, and away! Famous French inventions include the modern hot air balloon and parachute.
- The Eiffel Tower was intended to be torn down within twenty years of its construction for the 1889 World's Fair. It was allowed to stand because of its use as a wireless telegraph transmitter, and has since become the very symbol of France. The tower is repainted every seven years—with sixty metric tons of paint!
- The French were the first to use military camouflage, in 1915 during World War I. The word comes from the French verb *camoufler*, meaning “to disguise.” Guns and vehicles were painted by artists called *camoufleurs*.



Learn more at: National Geographic Kids
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/france>



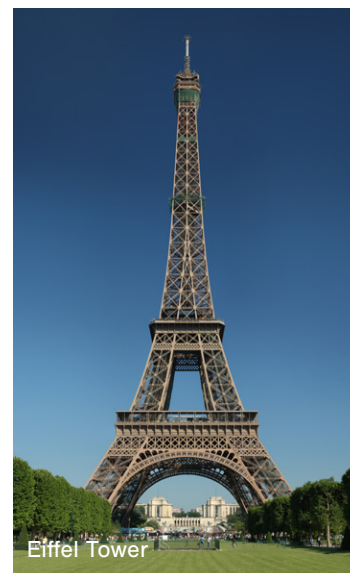
Crosses at the American Cemetery in Normandy



Le Louvre



Montgolfier brothers' balloon



Eiffel Tower



Zugspitze looking towards Austria



Ludwig van Beethoven



Schiltach, Black Forest, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. Credit: Tango7174

SPOTLIGHT ON
GERMANY

CAPITAL: Berlin

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: German



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 and 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 in Germany 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 global 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.

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 astronomer Johannes Kepler and physicists Max Planck and Albert Einstein 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 to America brought the sausage with them, along with sauerkraut, the traditional fermented cabbage dish of Germany. Pretzels have long been part of German religious and 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?

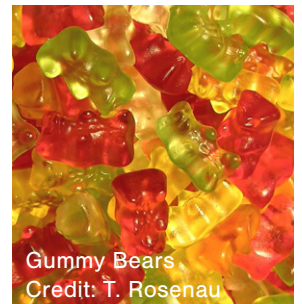
- German-made automobiles are considered some of the finest in the world. German car manufacturers include Audi, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Porsche, and Volkswagen.
- The gummy bear was born in Germany. German candymaker Hans Riegel was so inspired after seeing trained bears at festivals across his country 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!

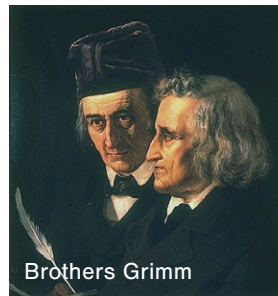
- Neuschwanstein Castle, a nineteenth-century palace in the Bavarian Alps, was the inspiration for Disneyland's Sleeping Beauty Castle. The Bavarian Alps are located in the German state of Bavaria, which borders Austria, Switzerland, and Czechia.



Neuschwanstein Castle



Gummy Bears
Credit: T. Rosenau



Brothers Grimm



Oktoberfest



Learn more at: National Geographic Kids
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/germany>



Windmills



Canal



Tulips

SPOTLIGHT ON

THE NETHERLANDS

CAPITAL: Amsterdam

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES: Dutch



“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, sometimes 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—like New Amsterdam, now New York—in America, South Africa, and the West Indies.

The Dutch were tolerant of intellectual thought, so philosophers, scientists, writers, and artists felt free to explore, experiment, and create. Physicist Christiaan Huygens invented the pendulum clock, a major step in precise timekeeping, and scientist Antonie 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.

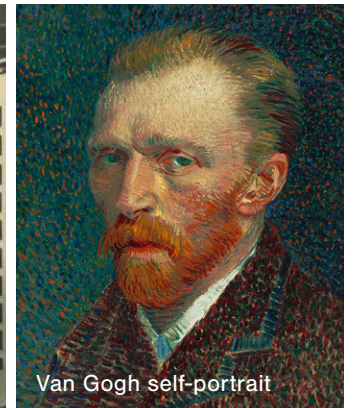
The “blossoming” of the Dutch Golden Age also included a fascination with a flower, the tulip. Likely first grown in Persia in the tenth century and further developed by the Turks, tulips were imported to the Netherlands in the sixteenth century. There, they became something of an obsession, a symbol 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 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 Jewish people and 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.



Anne Frank



Van Gogh self-portrait



Bike parking ramp

✦ 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 six feet tall and women are five and a half feet.

Learn more at: National Geographic Kids
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/netherlands#netherlands>





Grindelwald Alphorn Festival



Matterhorn



Alps

SPOTLIGHT ON SWITZERLAND

CAPITAL: Bern

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: German, French, Italian, and Romansh



With towering mountain peaks, dense woodlands, and sparkling lakes, Switzerland's landscapes are post-card-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, likely 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 4000 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.

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 and adopted its constitution in 1848. Today Switzerland is made up of twenty-six cantons and is led by a president who is elected annually by the country's Federal Assembly.

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.
- 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 also known for its fine watchmakers; Swiss watch brands include the luxury Rolex, trendsetting Movado, and whimsical Swatch.

Learn more at:

National Geographic Kids

www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/switzerland



RESOURCES

Virginia Standards of Learning

Dance: K.6–8; 1.6–8; 2.6–8; 3.6, 7; 4.6, 7; 5.6, 7; 6.5–7; 7.6, 7; 8.6, 7; DI.5–7; DII.6; DIII.6; DIV.11

Music: K.6, 7, 9, 11; 1.5–7, 9, 11; 2.5–7, 9, 11; 3.5–7, 9, 11; 4.5–7, 11; 5.5–7, 11; EI.5–7, 10, 11; 6.5–7, 10, 11; 7.5–7, 11; 8.5–7, 11; MIB.5–7, 10, 11; MII.5–7, 11; MIAD.5–7, 11; MCB.5–7, 11; MCI.5–7, 11; MCAD.5, 6, 11; HM.5–7, 11; HMT.5–7, 11; HIB.5, 6, 11; HII.5–7, 11; HIAD.5–7; HIAR.5–7; HCB.5, 6; HCI.5–7; HCAD.5–7; HCAR.5–7

English: K.9, 1.10, 2.8, 3.6, 4.6, 5.6, 6.6, 7.6, 8.6, 9.5, 10.5, 11.5, 12.5

History and Social Science (2023): Skills K–3, VS, USI, USII, WG, WHI, WHII, VUS; 3.1; CE.7; WHII.9, 10, 12; VUS.14, 15; WG.1, 3, 5, 11, 17

Science: 1.5, 7; 2.5, 7; 3.4, 5, 7; 4.3; 5.8; 6.6; LS.7



FEEDBACK FORM

We need your feedback to make our Education Programs even better! Please take a moment to complete this form and either return it to the Virginia Arts Festival office at 440 Bank Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, fax it to (757) 605-3080, or e-mail your answers to education@vafest.org.

Event: _____

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