

Belgium National Day (July 21, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? It's Belgium's National Day! It's a day of national unity with military parades, popular festivities, and fireworks.

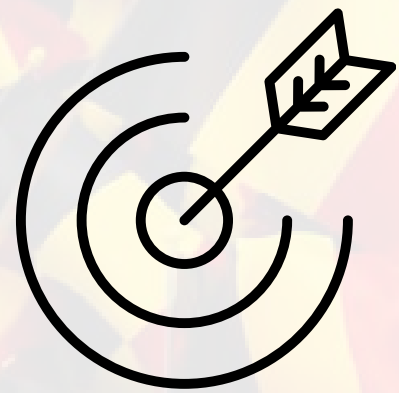
Who? Mainly in Brussels, the capital, where the grand military parade takes place in front of the Royal Palace. But celebrations also take place throughout the country (Liège, Antwerp, Namur, etc.).

Where? Belgians celebrate this day, and in particular the institutions of the Belgian state: the King, the government, and the citizens.

When? Every July 21st, since 1890.

Why is it important? Because we're celebrating the official birth of independent Belgium, proclaimed on this day in 1830, after its separation from the Netherlands.

For this activity, your goal will be to learn more about Belgium.



OBJECTIVES

- Discover the geography of Belgium and its main cities
- Recognize the cultural and culinary symbols of Belgium
- Locate Belgium in Europe and learn about its main characteristics
- Discover some of the country's iconic tourist sites
- Write a postcard using the information gathered



SUBJECTS

- **Social Studies / History**
 - The origins of Belgian independence
 - A national holiday and its symbols
 - Belgian culture
- **Geography**
 - Location of Belgium in Europe
 - Capital, area, population
 - Iconic tourist sites
- **English**
 - Information research in an encyclopedia
 - Reading comprehension
 - Writing a continuous text (postcard)



COMPETENCIES

- Search for and interpret information (text, image)
- Locate information in an online encyclopedia
- Organize your ideas
- Produce short and precise answers
- Write a coherent text for a specific recipient



DURATION

- Approximately 60 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students if they know Belgium and what they know about it.
- Show a picture of the Belgian flag and ask what its three colors (black, yellow, red) represent.
- Show pictures of Belgian waffles, fries, mussels, and beer.
- Ask the question: Why do you think these foods represent Belgium?
- Locate Belgium on a map of Europe.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — Discovering Belgium. Consultation of Wikipedia to complete the country's fact sheet and answers to four location questions about the main cities using Google Earth.

Q1 — A: Bruges

Q2 — B: Brussels

Q3 — C: Antwerp

Q4 — D: Liège

STEP 2 — Belgian Classics. Reading of a text and answers to four comprehension questions.

Q5 — In the 18th century

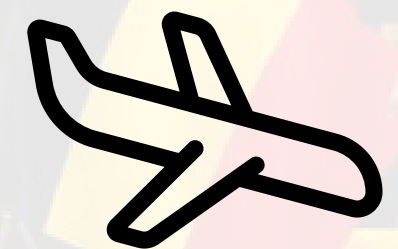
Q6 — Thanks to a special double cooking method

Q7 — Cooked with beer or cream

Q8 — Leffe or Hoegaarden

STEP 3 — A Postcard from Belgium! Choice of one tourist site from four options (Grand Place in Brussels, Manneken Pis, Atomium, Bruges), research of information, and writing of a postcard of approximately 100 words.

Q9 — Personal answer



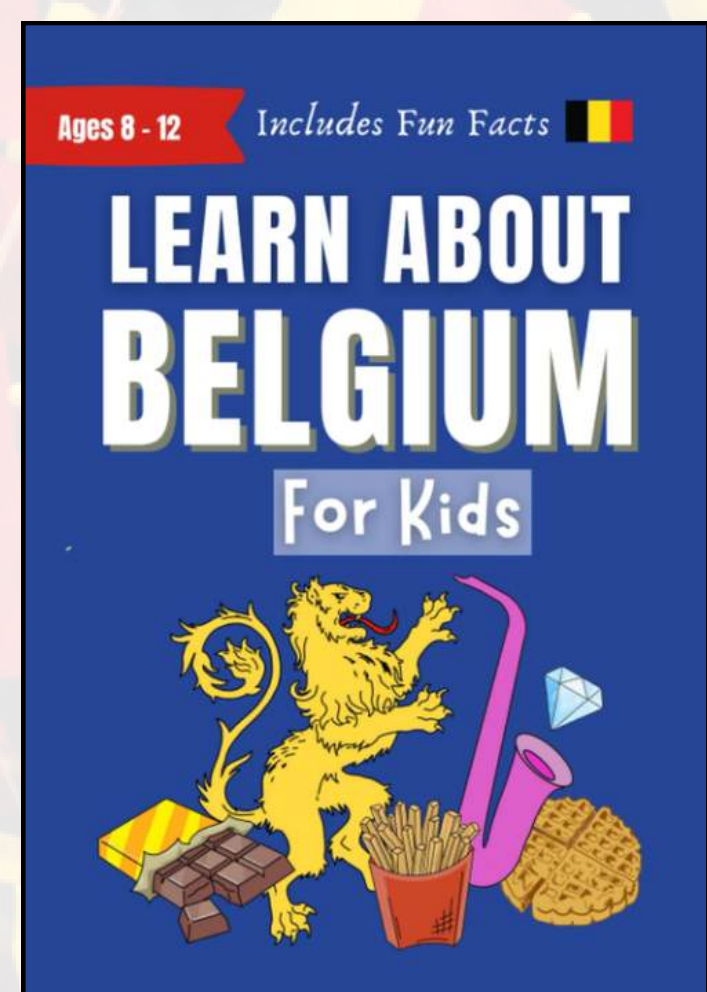
WRAPPING UP

- Have a group discussion about what the children have learned.
- Discuss what surprised them most (the size of the country, the variety of cities, the food).
- Ask: Why can a small country have such a large cultural influence?
- Compare Belgium with other small European countries.



FURTHER EXPLORATION

 *Learn About Belgium.* Meonatrip Editor.



The Kingdom of Comics

Tintin — Hergé — Georges Remi

The Smurfs — Peyo — Pierre Culliford

Lucky Luke — Morris — Maurice De Bevere

Gaston Lagaffe — Franquin — André Franquin

Blake and Mortimer — Edgar P. Jacobs — Edgar Felix Pierre Jacobs





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The Kingdom of Comics

Belgium is the kingdom of comics! This small country has given birth to some of the most famous characters in the world. Thanks to magazines like Spirou and Tintin, dozens of talented authors worked together and created legendary heroes. Today, comics are even considered a quintessential Belgian art form!

Did you know that many authors signed their works with a pseudonym, rather than their real name? It's up to you to discover who's behind these great classics. Use the internet (Wikipedia, Google, etc.) to help you find out.

Instructions:

▼ Here are five famous Belgian comics and their creators. It's up to you to put them all in order!

- Look carefully at the characters in the left-hand column.
- Place the title of the comic, the author's name (their pen name), and their real name in the correct boxes in the table.

Comics: Gaston Lagaffe • The Smurfs • Tintin • Blake and Mortimer • Lucky Luke
Authors: Morris • Hergé • Edgar P. Jacobs • Peyo • Franquin
Real names: Pierre Culliford • Georges Remi • Maurice De Bevere



Comics	Author	Real name