

Belgium: My House in Belgium

My Beautiful House Series

Subject Areas: Social Studies, World Geography and Cultures, Multicultural Studies

Synopsis: Laura lives in a 150-year-old house in Bruges. This house is special as it adjoins a chocolate shop run by Laura's family. The backyard separates the living quarters from the shop. Laura enjoys making special Flemish delicacies; for Mother's Day, she prepares strawberries in white chocolate sauce!

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to compare and contrast their culture, family and activities with Laura's culture, family and activities.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to demonstrate an appreciation for the diversity of cultures on our planet.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to locate Belgium on a map or globe.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to identify cultural traditions of Laura's Village.
- Objective 5)** Students will be able to compare how Laura's basic needs are met with the way their own need for food, clothing and shelter are met.

Vocabulary:

Bruges, Belgium, centuries, mussels, carbonnade flammande (a northern Belgium dish), vitamins, traditional, museum, courtyard, typical, fashion, Beef Bourguignon, evidence

Pre-Viewing Activities:

- 1) Locate Belgium on a map or globe. Ask students on which continent Belgium is located. Point out Bruges, the English Channel, the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean on the map. Make sure viewers know where Belgium is in relation to the rest of the world, including the United States and North America.
- 2) Discuss general characteristics of Belgium such as climate, geographical features, the people, customs, etc.
- 3) Ask students to draw a map of their homes. Have them include the number of rooms, number of bedrooms, who lives with them, etc. Compare and contrast the different maps.

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Describe Laura's family. Describe her home. How many people live there? What does Laura's room look like? How is her room like your bedroom? Compare the village where Laura lives to your own town. How is it similar or different?

- 2) What is special about Laura's home? How would you like to live that close to a chocolate factory? When can Laura go to the factory? Why do you think she isn't allowed to go there without an adult? What happens when she does? Why did she go to the chocolate factory kitchen?
- 3) Compare and contrast Laura's activities to your own. How are they similar or different? What kind of toys does Laura like? What kinds of toys do you like? How does Laura help her mother at home? What do you do to help at home? What kind of food does Laura eat (besides candy)? What do you like to eat?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Have students draw a picture of their neighborhood or write a story about their family and home. Then, have the students read their stories or display and describe their drawings for the class.
- 2) Have students prepare a geographic profile of Belgium noting its size, location, climate, natural resources, and outstanding cultural traits. Have the students describe Belgium's history, people, language and major tourist attractions.

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