

Destination: The Netherlands



Guide

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Maker's Studio: Watercolor Tulips

Person of Interest: Anne Frank

Good Ideas

Printables

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A Helpful Guide

How

The Purple Primer is a resource designed to give you everything you need to make your community a true center for Lifelong Learning.

Every month the new topic will be presented through reading, writing, art appreciation, hands-on crafts, recipes, and profiles of people. Used as the backbone of your programming, these activities give you a foundation to present an engaging, diverse and dynamic lifelong learning environment.

Why

Why do we present these activities in topic-centered bundles?

While each activity is a great stand-alone learning opportunity, these bundles are designed specifically to promote **Layered Learning**.

When we engage in one topic in a number of different ways, our neural pathways light up and create more meaningful learning, not only of new information, but we reignite pathways of things remembered. This leads to improved self-esteem, greater sense of community, and is the magic bullet against isolation and depression. *Because when we learn as a group, we always have something to talk about.*

Below you will find the meaning behind the icons you see sprinkled throughout the study.



Read before group gathers: This information will help you better understand the goal of the lesson.



Read Aloud: This information will be shared with the seniors in your group.



Pause for discussion: Pause and ask open-ended questions to promote discussion, and assess if your group is still following along.



Supplies: This will let you know that materials will need to be gathered in order to continue.



White Board: A whiteboard offers the opportunity to work on a writing project collectively.



Supplemental information: Some ideas on how and where to look to take a deeper dive into the topic.

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Reading 1: A Tour of the Netherlands



Before you dive into this reading, it's a great idea to have a **world map** handy. This lets everyone fix our destination visually in their minds, and allows us to see where we exist in proximity to it. Enjoy this Imagination Vacation!



Introduction: The Netherlands is known as the land of tulip fields, windmills, canals, and coffee shops, but there's more to this wonderful country than meets the eye.



Q: *What comes to mind when you think of the Netherlands?
Have you ever visited this part of the world?*

So, which is it?

People are often confused about whether to refer to 'the Netherlands' or 'Holland' when talking about the country. ***The Netherlands consists of 12 provinces with Holland as the biggest and most famous.*** Holland was the area that contributed the most to the Dutch kingdom's economy and wealth, and became a common name to indicate the entire country. In ***January 2020*** the Dutch government officially dropped its country's nickname, 'Holland', referring to itself as **The Netherlands**, in an effort to rebrand its image around the world.

During the 17th century the provinces of the Netherlands were known as the Dutch republic. The Dutch republic was the wealthiest country in the Western World. It was known for its network of trading ships, scientific research, its art and its military. Dutch ships sailed from Amsterdam to the Baltic Sea, North America, and Africa, as well as present-day Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, and Brazil, forming the basis

of a worldwide trading network. Amsterdam's merchants had the largest share in both the Dutch East India Company and the Dutch West India Company. These companies acquired overseas possessions that later became Dutch colonies.

The modern-day Kingdom of the Netherlands, reflects this worldwide influence with provinces in Western Europe and the Caribbean. The majority of the country is in Europe sharing a border with Germany and Belgium. The country also includes islands in the Caribbean, including ***Aruba, Curaçao and Saint Maarten***. In Europe, the Netherlands is divided into provinces, including ***Friesland, Gelderland, Zeeland and Groningen***. Each with proud histories, national anthems and unique cultures.

The official language of the Netherlands is Dutch. Dutch is considered fairly easy for English speakers as it has similar roots in German and Latin languages.

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Reading 1: A Tour of the Netherlands

The Land

A tourist visiting the Netherlands would immediately notice the lack of elevation in this country. In fact, the name *Netherlands literally means “lower countries”*. Over half of the country is less than 3 feet above sea level with many areas well below sea level. The marshy land is often difficult to build on but is excellent at growing crops, in fact it is the world’s second-largest exporter of food and agricultural products, owing to its fertile soil, and mild climate.

Did you know that Dutch Farmers are responsible for orange carrots?

Back in the 10th century, carrots were originally white, purple, or pale yellow. The story goes that when William of Orange (King William III) helped the Dutch win independence from Spain in the 17th century, Dutch farmers honored the King by selectively growing only orange carrots. Not only were these orange carrots very popular, they grew better in the marshy soil of the Dutch farms. The color orange is still the Netherlands official color and the color of the Dutch Royal family.

Tourism

Nearly 20 million tourists visit the Netherlands each year. One of the most popular destinations includes the Capital of the Netherlands, **Amsterdam**. From the canals to the world-famous museums, it is considered one of the

most beautiful cities in Europe. Originating as a small fishing village in the late 12th century, Amsterdam became one of the most important ports in the world during the Dutch Golden Age of the 17th century and became the leading center for finance and trade.

Amsterdam’s main attractions include its historic canals, crossed by 1,281 bridges, the Rijksmuseum (with an extensive collection of art by Rembrandt and Vermeer,) the Van Gogh Museum, and the Anne Frank House (the house where Frank hid during WWII.)

Another popular destination is the city of **Rotterdam**, the busiest seaport in Europe. It sustained extensive bombing during World War II, and is therefore a city of innovative, modern architecture.

Also included on any tour of the Netherlands is **The Hague**. This area was known as “The Counts Hedge” as early as 1242, and over time its name became shortened to The Hedge, or The Hague. Today the Hague is the home to most of the administrative branches of the government of the Netherlands including The International Court of Justice, the main judicial arm of the United Nations.

On the River Noord between Rotterdam and Dordrecht is the village of **Kinderdijk** (“Children’s Dike”); named from an incident during

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the St. Elizabeth's Day flood of 1421 after a child's cradle had been stranded on the dike. *Kinderdijk is the site of fantastically preserved 18th-century windmills.* Now UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the 19 windmills, built between 1722 and 1761, are the largest surviving concentration of windmills in the Netherlands.

Originally used to drain farmland, these majestic buildings with their impressive 92-foot sails are open to the public from April to October, including special Mill Days when the sails are set in motion.

Tulip Central

The Netherlands is known as *'the flower shop of the world'*. The country produces 80% of the world's flower bulbs and *produces 4.3 billion tulip bulbs each year.* Visitors to the Netherlands are often surprised to see Dutch tulip farmers cut the heads off the flowers as soon as they are about to open to reveal their colors. However, this strengthens the bulbs so that they can survive being mailed halfway around the world.

During the Winter of 1944, deep into the second World War, a December freeze started that would last several months. Starvation had become common when farmers began sharing their Tulip bulbs as a source of food. The high starch content in the bulbs helped the people of the Netherlands survive the winter.

Pedalling Paradise

The flat terrain of the Netherlands also helps it maintain its title as *the most bike-friendly country in Europe.* The Netherlands is home to more bicycles than people, with over 22 million bicycles in the country. Cycling is a necessary part of life in the Netherlands and is part of the reason the country consistently ranks as one of the healthiest in the world.

The Dutch use bicycles for over 25% of all trips. They often use *bakfiets*, a combination of a bike and a wheelbarrow, perfect for transporting the groceries or taking the kids to school.

Do the Dutch really wear wooden shoes?

You won't find many things more Dutch than a pair of wooden clogs. The Dutch have been wearing these hard shoes (or klompen) since medieval times to protect their feet. These shoes were ideal as they are sturdy, waterproof, and easy to clean. Although you will still sometimes see them in the fields in rural areas of the Netherlands, today they are mostly sold as tourist souvenirs.



Q: *After taking this brief tour of the country, what would you most like to see? Why?*

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Reading 2: Characters in Dutch History



Introduction: One way to explore a new place is by studying the people that had an impact on their nation. This reading will explore the lives of individuals that lived with courage, and made the world more beautiful.

Corrie ten Boom, born in Amsterdam in 1892, was the youngest of three children born to Casper ten Boom a watchmaker and jeweler. She trained to be a watchmaker herself, and in 1922, she became the first woman to be licensed as a watchmaker in the Netherlands. Corrie, her sister Betsie and other family members later helped Jews escape from the Nazis during World War II.

The Ten Boom home became a refuge for fugitives being hunted by the Nazis. This non-violent resistance against the Nazi-oppressors was the Ten Boom's way of living out their faith. During 1943 and 1944, there were usually 5 or 6 people hiding in the Ten Boom home.

In February of 1944, the Nazis raided the house. And although Corrie, her sister and her father were arrested, the soldiers could not find who they were really after. Safely hidden behind a false wall in Corrie's bedroom were two Jewish men, two Jewish women and two members of the Dutch underground. The house remained under guard, however, members of a local police resistance group were able to liberate the refugees from the hiding place. The four Jews were taken to new safe

houses, and three survived the war. All in all, it is estimated that around 800 Jews were saved by Ten Boom's efforts.

Corrie and her sister and father were taken to a concentration camp where Corrie miraculously survived. She went on to write about her experiences. Her most famous book, *The Hiding Place*, is a biography that recounts the story of her family's efforts and how she found and shared hope in God while she was imprisoned at the concentration camp.



Corrie ten Boom said "Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength."

Q: *What does this quote mean to you?*

Vincent van Gogh, was born in Zundert, Netherlands in 1853. Although he enjoyed drawing from the time he was a young boy, he did not work as an artist until he was 27 years old. He worked as a teacher in London and then as a minister. He also worked in a book store, and as a missionary. Van Gogh eventually took up painting as a way to treat his depression. Much of what we know about van Gogh comes from letters he wrote to his brother Theo.

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Reading 2: Characters in Dutch History

Theo worked in an art gallery and supported Vincent, encouraging him to pursue his art and also by helping him financially.

In 1888 van Gogh moved to **Arles, France**. He loved the vibrant colors and the bright sun of Arles. Van Gogh began painting with intensity and emotion. Vincent created hundreds of paintings during this time. In 1889 van Gogh committed himself to a mental hospital. He still continued to paint, and finished one of his most famous paintings, ***Starry Night*** while in the hospital. Van Gogh's mental state continued to deteriorate. On July 29, 1890 he died from a self-inflicted bullet wound to the chest. Despite the hundreds of paintings, he created, only one was sold during his lifetime. It was called ***The Red Vineyard***.



Van Gogh suffered from mental illness, which would eventually claim his life in 1890, shortly after his 37th birthday.

Q: *How has our understanding of the importance of mental health care changed over the course of your lifetime?*

Daniel Bernoulli, was born in Groningen, in the Netherlands, in 1700, into a family of distinguished mathematicians. Daniel's father Johann Bernoulli was one of the earliest devel-

opers of calculus. His uncle, Jacob Bernoulli was an early reasearcher in probability theory.

Daniel was one of the most prominent mathematicians during his time. His greatest work was in ***fluid mechanics***, and while that may sound a little boring, Bernoulli's principle influenced technology that has changed our world forever.

His work eventually led to the design of the airplane wing. Airplane wings are designed to be curved on top, which creates an imbalance of air pressure on either side of the wing, resulting in lift. Bernoulli's principle is of critical use in aerodynamics.

Baseball offers another example of where Bernoulli's principle is very visible. When a pitcher throws a curveball, he puts a spin on the ball as it leaves his hand. As the ball travels through the air, the spin causes the ball to disturb the air around it.

Cool science brought to you by an 18th century mathematician!

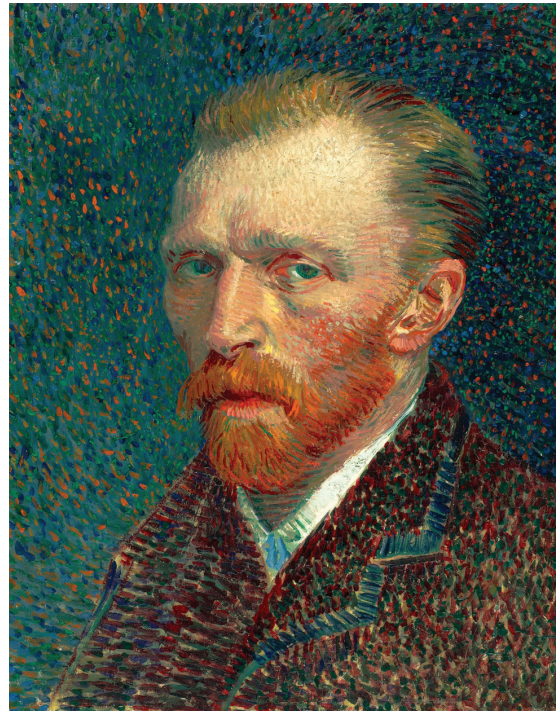


Q: *Who are the artists, heros, and scientists that helped to shape our own country?*

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^ Corrie ten Boom (1922)



^ Vincent Van Gogh (Self portrait 1887)



^ Red Vinyards by Vincent Van Gogh

Daniel Bernoulli (circa 1750) >



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Piet Mondrian



Tips for leading an art study with your group:

- Make sure everyone has a good view of the art, either print individual copies of the art or have it displayed on a screen or tablet.
- Introduce the art, artist, title and date it was painted.
- Take time to quietly look at the art, let the art speak.
- Use questions to stimulate discussion.
- Use open ended questions that will solicit opinion.



Introduction: The windmill is a national symbol of The Netherlands. Historically, windmills in Holland served many purposes. The most important was pumping water out of the lowlands and back into the rivers so that the land could be farmed. Windmills were also widely used for grinding grain and sawing wood.

Artist: Piet Mondrian (1872 –1944)

Artist's Birthplace: Amersfoort, Netherlands

Piet Mondrian was a Dutch modern artist. His early paintings show abstract landscapes in post-impressionist and cubist styles. The windmill theme had an important place in Mondrian's work. He was inspired by views of the world around him. The flat, Dutch landscape and the contrast of the simple vertical windmill led the artist to focus on the horizontal and vertical forms created by the windmills. Mondrian experimented with several different styles in the artwork included in this study.



Q: *What do you notice about these paintings?*

How are the Windmills similar?

How are they different?

If you could hang one of these paintings in your living room which would you choose? Why?

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Title: *Mill of Heeswijk Sun*
Date: 1907

Artist: Piet Mondrian
Style: Impressionism

Destination: The Netherlands



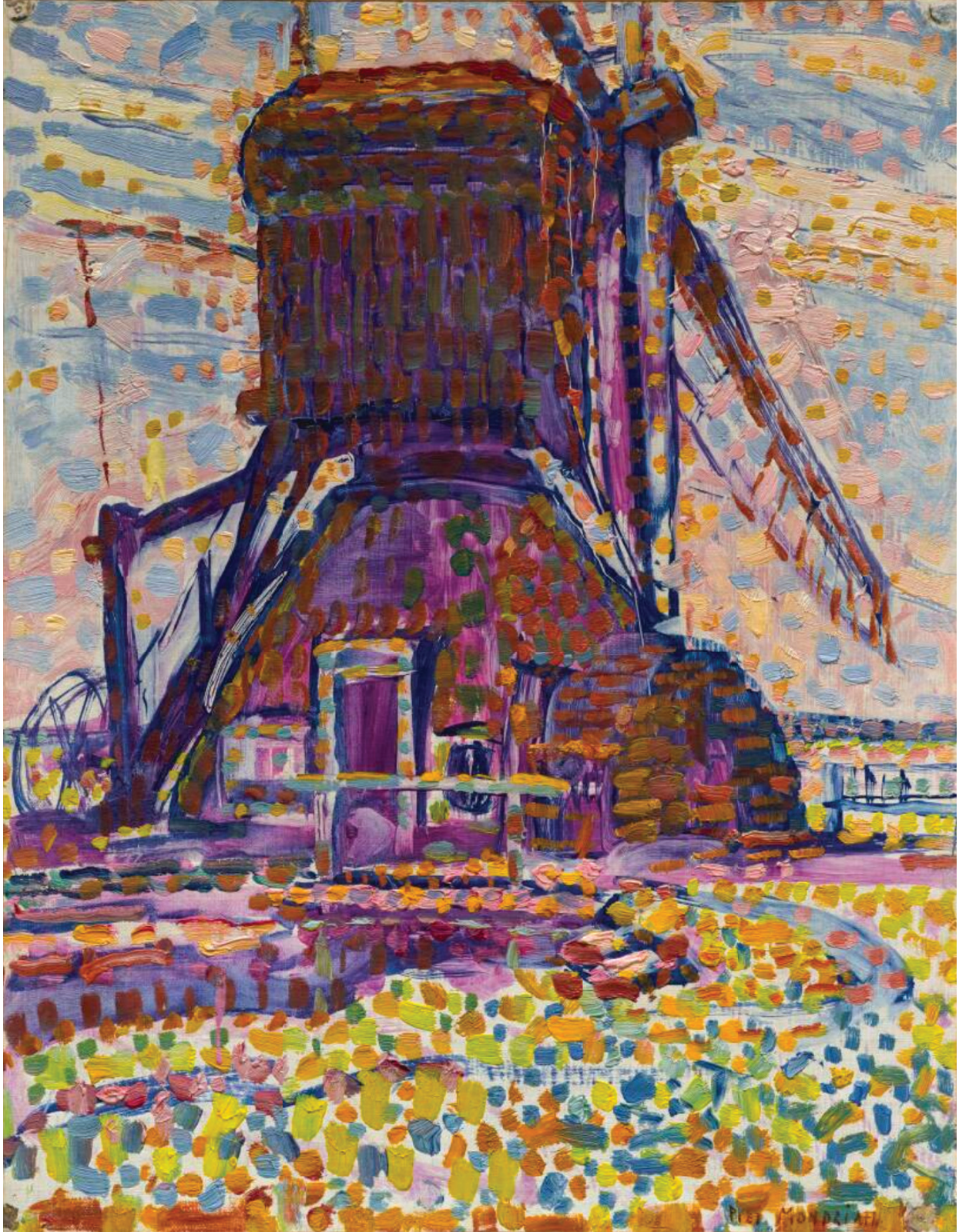
Title: *Mill in Sunlight: The Winkel Mill*

Artist: Piet Mondrian

Date: 1908

Style: Fauvism / Neo Impressionism

Destination: The Netherlands



Title: *The Winkel Mill, Pointillist Version*
Date: 1908

Artist: Piet Mondrian

Style: Pointillism

Destination: The Netherlands



Title: *Windmill* Artist: Piet Mondrian
Date: 1917 Style: Impressionism

Destination: The Netherlands

Diamond City



- This workshop will encourage seniors to reach for words in order to create a Diamante Poem.
- Diamante poems have the shape of a diamond and follow a few simple rules. It is this set of rules that encourages seniors to really stretch their imaginations and offers a gentle and creative cognitive workout.



Introduction: For more than 400 years, Amsterdam has been known as the *City of Diamonds*. Amsterdam began its long heritage in the diamond trade when a Jewish population from Spain and Portugal introduced the diamond cutting industry in the 16th century. By the 17th century, Amsterdam had the largest diamond manufacturing center in the world. The city's dominance of the diamond industry would last another 300 years.

Today, there are about a dozen diamond factories in Amsterdam, several of them offering guided tours to visitors of the city. Diamond cutters and polishers work in plain sight giving those unfamiliar with the craft of turning a rough diamond into a polished one a bit of an understanding of the process.

This exercise will have us turning 'rough' words and phrases into a polished gem!

What is a Diamante Poem? A diamante poem has **seven lines**. The first line is one noun. The second line is two adjectives. The third line has three participles (-ing verbs). The fourth line has four nouns. Then the pattern repeats in the opposite direction. The fifth line has three participles. The sixth line has two adjectives. The seventh line has one noun.

Here's an example of a Diamante Poem about an apple orchard:

1. One noun -----	Field
2. Two adjectives -----	Lush, fragrant
3. Three participles -----	Blooming, growing, giving
4. Four nouns -----	Flowers, apples, harvest, shade
5. Three participles -----	Climbing, reaching, picking
6. Two adjectives -----	Red, crisp
7. One noun -----	Trees

Destination: The Netherlands Diamond City



Activity: A poem defines something using colorful language or imagery, painting a picture for the reader. Since this study is about *the Netherlands*, begin this exercise by **brainstorming words** that come to mind when considering this part of the world. Don't forget to include 'feeling' words. Encourage participation from everyone in the group by asking for at least one word from each participant.

After brainstorming words, construct your poem using the rules above. Allow seniors to copy out the poem and take it home for reflection.

Keep in mind that you can use this form of poem-writing for any occasion: Birthdays, holidays, Mondays, where you live - even the weather!

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Pannenkoeken

Now that's a pancake!

Pannenkoeken, better known as Dutch pancakes, are a delicacy in the Netherlands. A Dutch pancake is usually larger and much thinner than American pancakes. (But not as thin as a crepe!) They may incorporate slices of bacon, apples, cheese, or raisins. Pannenkoeken are eaten as a main course, served warm. During the winter, pannenkoeken are sometimes eaten after *snert* (split pea soup) in a two-course meal.

Ingredients:

- 4 eggs
- 4 cups milk
- 1 tsp salt
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- Butter, for cooking

Optional add-ins:

- Chopped bacon
- Shredded cheese
- Thinly sliced apples
- Raisins
- Cinnamon sugar

Directions:

1. In a large bowl, beat the egg until slightly frothy. Add the milk and salt, whisking to combine. Add the flour, slowly, whisking as you go. Stir until the batter is smooth.

2. Heat a large skillet over medium heat. Add a little butter to coat the skillet.
3. Pour $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of batter to the pan, tipping to coat the pan. Sprinkle add ins over the pancake. Cook over medium heat until it is starting to get dry on the top, and releases from the pan.
4. Carefully turn the pancake over and cook for 1-2 minutes, until lightly golden.
5. Remove from the pan. Keep your stack of pannekoeken warm in an oven while you cook the rest of the batter.



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Watercolor Tulips



Working with watercolors takes a bit of practice, but good news: the more you paint with them the better you get! Encourage your seniors to forge ahead, afterall, beauty is in the eye of the beholder.



Watercolor Tulips:

The Tulip was first introduced to the Netherlands in the 1500's,

when a representative from the Ottoman empire presented a tulip to the Dutch King as a gift.

In fact, the word 'Tulip' comes from the Persian word for turban, which it resembles. Tulips became such a valuable commodity in the Netherlands that wealthy residents would hire guards to watch over their gardens.

Interesting fact: Some of the most prized varieties of tulips have bright stripes running up their petals. In 1931, biologists discovered that these stripes were the result of a *virus spread by aphids*. Today the virus is still used to alter the flowers DNA, but aphids are no longer used.



- Watercolor paper
- Watercolors (green, yellow, red, blue, purple)

- Black Crayon
- Medium round brush
- Water and paper towel

Instructions:

1. To inspire artist, show examples of tulips, included on the last page of this study. Pin these up, pass them around or project them. A live bunch of tulips to draw from is great as well!
2. Lightly sketch the tulips on the watercolor paper. Pay special attention to proportions.
 - Start by drawing an egg shape where the tulip will be, then draw the petals around the egg shape. Continue in this way until artists have as many tulips as they wish.
3. Once artists are happy with the sketch, trace the lines with a black crayon. The waxy crayon will help the colors pool while drawing attention to the shape of the leaves.
4. Add a generous amount of water to your watercolor paint.

Helpful Tip: The more water you use, the less control you will have over where the paint goes, however, the painting will be softer and the colors will run together allowing for interesting patterns.

5. Let the art remain flat until dry.

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Watercolor Tulips

Example

"Egg shape"

Black crayon outline

Lots of water added for soft effect

Less water added for crisp effect and more control



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Anne Frank



Set up the place and time: This study takes place in Europe at the dawn of the Second World War. Have a world map on hand in order to place this information in proximity to ourselves.



One of the most discussed Jewish victims of the Holocaust, Anne Frank gained fame with the 1947 publication of *The Diary of a Young Girl* in which she documents her life in hiding from 1942 to 1944, during the German occupation of the Netherlands in World War II.



Q: *Would our understanding of the Holocaust be the same if Anne Frank had not written her diary?*

Anne Frank was born in June of 1929 in Frankfurt, Germany. She had an older sister, Margot. The family lived in a neighborhood of Jewish and non-Jewish citizens. Anne's parents, Edith and Otto were devoted to their children, stressing the importance of education. When the Nazi Party took control of Germany, the Frank family moved to Amsterdam, Netherlands. Anne was four years old.

After moving to Amsterdam, Anne and Margot Frank were enrolled in school, Margot in public school and Anne in a **Montessori** school.

The Montessori method of education was developed by Italian physician Maria Montessori. Emphasizing independence, it views children as naturally eager for knowledge and capable of learning in a supportive and well-prepared learning environment. It discourages some conventional measures of achievement, such

as grades and tests.



Q: *How might this education style have led to Anne's interest in chronicling her days in hiding?*

Otto Frank was able to start a second company in his new country. He was a wholesaler of herbs and spices. In May of 1940, Germany invaded the Netherlands, and the occupation government began to persecute Jews by implementing restrictive laws; mandatory registration and segregation soon followed. Otto Frank tried to arrange for the family to emigrate to the United States, but his application for a visa was never processed.

For her thirteenth birthday in 1942, Anne received an autograph book, bound with red-and-white checkered cloth and with a small

The Netherlands

Anne Frank

lock on the front. She decided she would use it as a diary, and began writing in it almost immediately. In her entry dated June 20th, 1942, she lists many of the restrictions placed upon the lives of the Dutch Jewish population.

Into Hiding

As persecutions of the Jewish population increased, Otto and Edith Frank planned to go into hiding with the children. When Margot received a call-up notice ordering her to report for relocation to a work camp, they were forced to move the plan forward. Shortly before going into hiding the Frank family left a note for their neighbors, asking them to take care of their cat **Moortje**. The Franks went into hiding in some concealed rooms behind a bookcase in the building where Anne's father worked.

During the two years recorded in her diary, Anne deals with confinement and deprivation. Anne's diary, the observations of an imaginative, teenage girl, ends on August 1, 1944. The Frank family was betrayed to the Nazis and arrested on August 4, 1944.

Deportation

The Franks were deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp and in October, Anne and Margot Frank were relocated to the Bergen-Belsen camp. A typhus epidemic spread through the camp, killing 17,000 prisoners, including Anne and her sister.

Otto, the only survivor of the Frank family, returned to Amsterdam after the war to find that Anne's diary had been saved by his secretary, and his efforts led to its publication in 1947. It was translated from its original Dutch version and first published in English in 1952. *The Diary of a Young Girl* has since been translated into over 70 languages.



Many German Jews fled to Holland because it was known to accept refugees.

What is the importance of a nation's ability to 'welcome the stranger'.

After the Nazi invasion of the Netherlands in May 1940, the Dutch people were immediately faced with the question of how to respond to the Nazi occupation.

Tens of thousands of Dutch people followed Hitler, and others looked the other way. Eventually, a resistance movement began to grow.

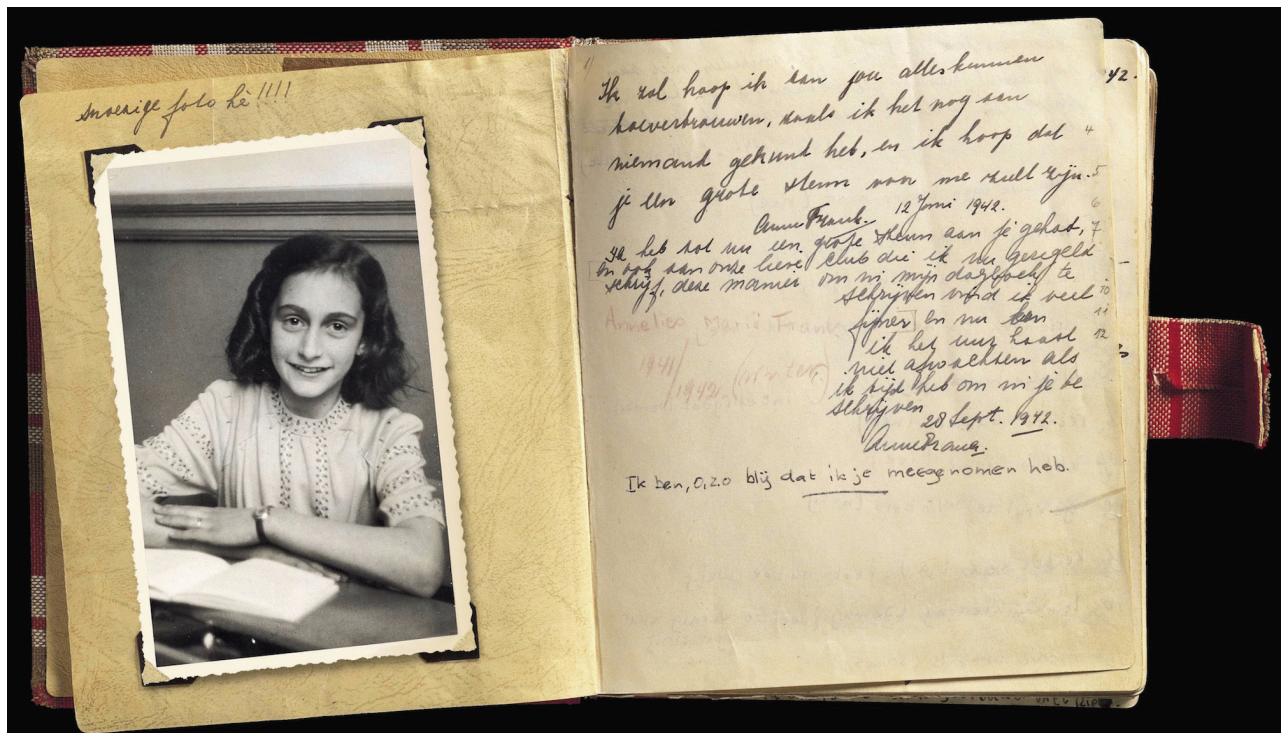
What would have encouraged someone to put their own life in danger and join the resistance?

Do you think these factors were based on personal characteristics or political beliefs?

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Anne Frank, school photo, 1940



A page from Anne's first diary.

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This section is full of bonus material to help you put the learning into high gear. Consider it a spring-board for creative ways to expand this topic and reach more of the seniors in

your care. Movie Nights, Men's Groups, Book Clubs and more "Good Ideas" to explore our exciting destination: The Netherlands!

Watch

Girl with a Pearl Earring (2003)

Girl with a Pearl Earring is a film that was adapted from the 1999 novel of the same name by **Tracy Chevalier**. Scarlett Johansson stars as Griet, a young 17th-century servant in the household of the Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer (played by Colin Firth) at the time he painted Girl with a Pearl Earring (1665) in the city of Delft in Holland.

The Diary of Anne Frank (1959)

During World War II, a teenage Jewish girl named Anne Frank and her family are forced into hiding in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands.

This film won three Academy Awards in 1960, including Best Supporting Actress for **Shelley Winters**. Shelley later donated her Oscar to the **Anne Frank Museum**.

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Research

The Netherlands economic picture.

The Netherlands is among the richest countries of the European Union. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita was the third highest in the EU in 2006, only surpassed by Luxembourg and Ireland.

Assign research groups for these topics and report back:

What countries make up The Netherlands and what is the GDP of each?

What are some of the things The Netherlands exports?

What is the economic theory of "Dutch Disease"?

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Learn Together

Take a virtual museum tour

The Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam is the museum of the Netherlands. Its world-famous masterworks from the **Dutch Golden Age** include *The Milkmaid* by Vermeer and Rembrandt's *Night Watch*. In 80 galleries 8,000 objects tell the story of 800 years of Dutch art and history.

This link allows you to browse the paintings and the story behind them. Project it for a group or use a tablet for one on one visits.

<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/rijksmuseum>

Artists Study

Check out large art books from your local library. Spend a day with **Vermeer, Mondrian and Van Gogh**.

Brew a pot of tea, and enjoy discussing art. Be sure and elicit opinion from everyone in your group. With art, there are no right or wrong answers!

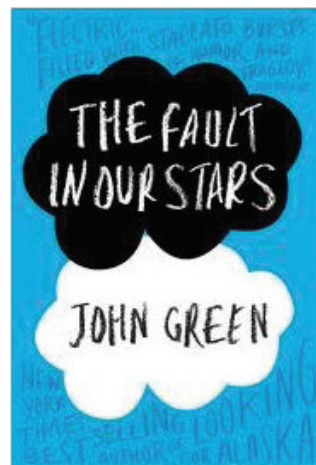
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Book Club

Who says young adult novels are just for the young? Reading **Young Adult fiction** offers adults a world and perspective not often found in novels written strictly for adults. Young adult fiction has a nostalgic aspect when read by adults. Mix things up in your book club this month and get ready for some lively conversation!

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green (2012)
This best-selling young adult novel tells the story of cancer patients **Hazel and Augustus**, who – after reading an incomplete novel – decide to track down its author, a mysterious

man who agrees to meet them at his home in the Netherlands. In Amsterdam, the star-crossed teenage lovers experience several revelations and the city becomes something of a playground to them.



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Men's Group

Did you know that each monthly theme can be crafted into an *ongoing series* for the men in your community? We know the men can

need extra encouragement to “join in”, so the interactive nature of this programming will help seniors strengthen ties with each other.

Men's Discussion Group: *What was The Netherlands role in WWII?*

After sharing this brief summary (below) allow time for seniors to discuss WWII.

A map of Europe would be helpful here.

On **September 1st 1939**, the German army invaded Poland. Two days later, England and France, both allies of Poland, declared war on Germany.

In 1940, the Dutch foreign policy called for neutrality. The Netherlands had avoided getting involved in international conflicts and would only take sides when attacked. The strategy worked during the First World War. The Netherlands remained neutral and the war passed the country by. The Dutch government was careful not to take an official stand on the situation in Nazi Germany.

The goal of the Germans was to conquer France. They wanted to bypass the French defense line at the eastern border by going

through the Netherlands and Belgium. Their occupation of the Netherlands would also prevent England from setting up a base of operations on the European mainland. Germany planned to defeat Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg by catching them off guard in a swift attack, the so-called Blitzkrieg.

In the early morning of **May 10th 1940**, Dutch observers saw bombers from the German **Luftwaffe** flying in the direction of the North Sea. They assumed that they were on their way to England. Once over sea, the planes turned and flew back to attack the Netherlands. It was the start of five days of fighting that resulted in the occupation of the Netherlands.

Men's Movie Matinee: *Diamonds Are Forever (1971)*

A diamond smuggling investigation leads **James Bond** from The Netherlands to Las Vegas, where he uncovers an evil plot involving a rich business tycoon. Check out some interesting scenes from Amsterdam in this film.

Bonus fun: Use the World of Words activity in this study, and whip up a snazzy Diamante Poem about this movie!

This month's topic:

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Why are carrots orange?

How many paintings
did Van Gogh sell
in his lifetime?

Where is
“The City of Diamonds?”



Join us all month long and get your
Certificate of Completion as we board the ship
for Destination: The Netherlands!

Certificate of Completion Program

A certificate of completion will serve as a reminder that seniors are being valued as lifelong learners.
(Consider printing on fancy paper or card stock!)

Certificate of Completion

on the topic of

Destination: The Netherlands

is hereby awarded to



**Lifelong
Learner**

on this date

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Learner**

on this date

Planner for:

Destination: The Netherlands

Activities:

- ☐ Read All About It
Reading 1: Tour of The Netherlands
 - ☐ Read All About It
Reading 2: Characters in History
 - ☐ World of Words: Make Diamante Poems
 - ☐ Whip This Up: Dutch Pancakes: Pannenkoeken
 - ☐ An Eye for Art: Piet Mondrian
 - ☐ Maker's Studio: Watercolor Tulips
 - ☐ Person of Interest: Anne Frank
 - ☐ Movie: _____
 - ☐ Music: _____
 - ☐ Book Club: _____
 - ☐ Men's Group: _____
 - ☐ Other: _____

Supplies:

[illegible]