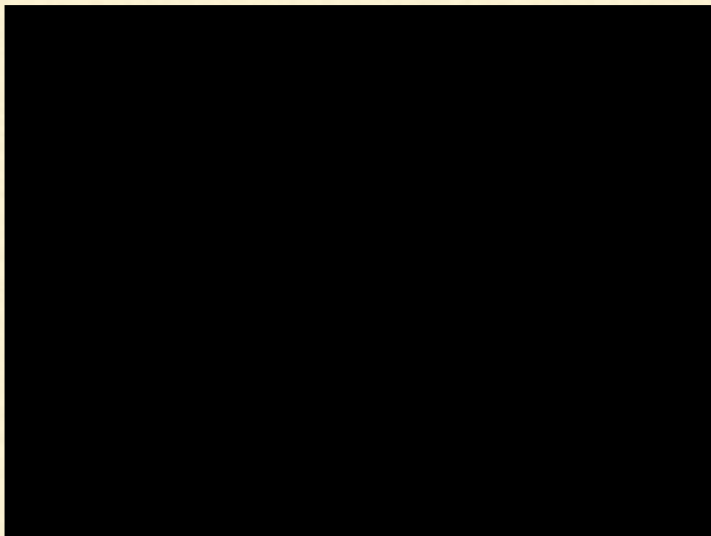
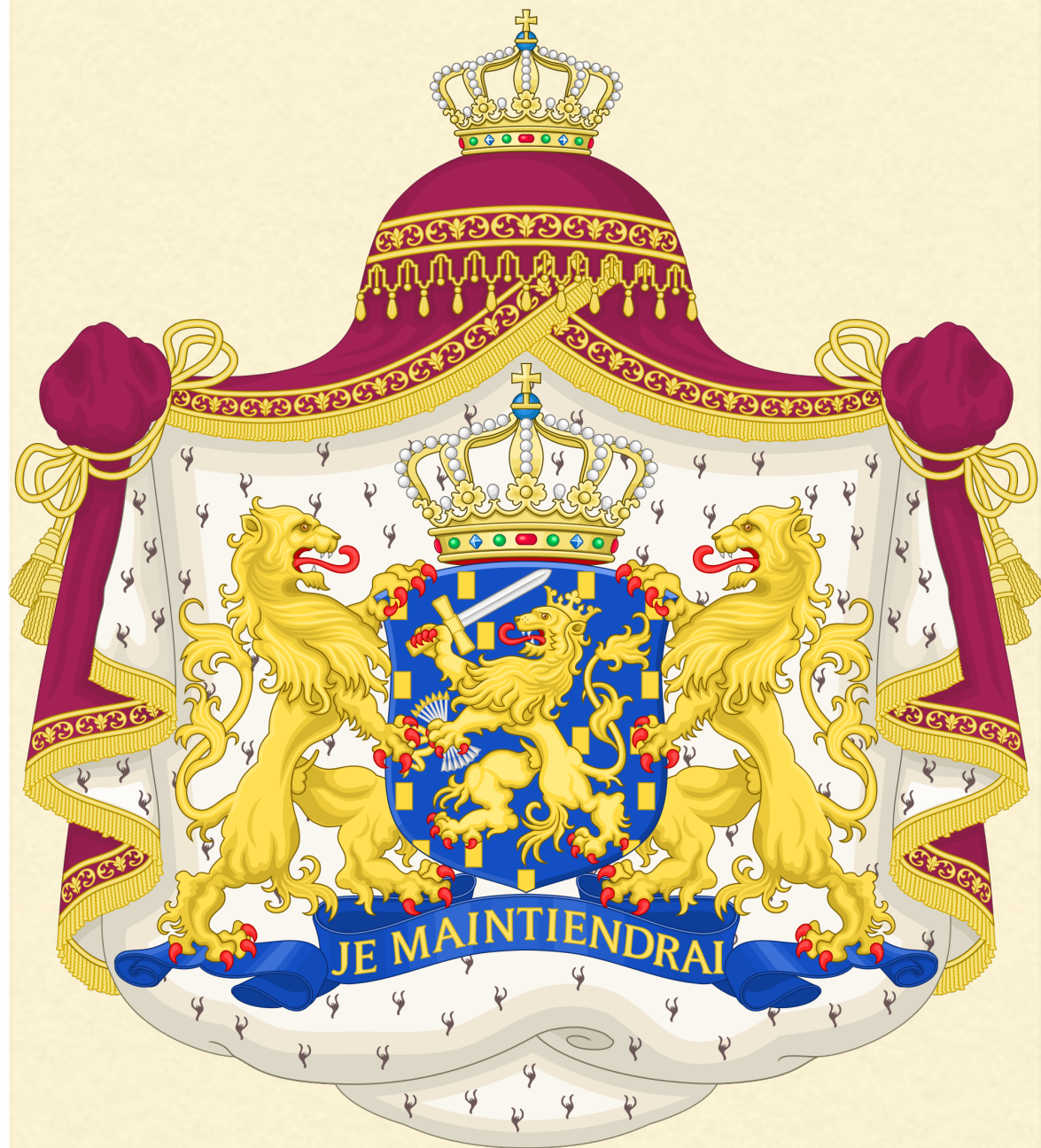




THE NETHERLANDS





GEOGRAPHY



- Almost 40% of the country is below sea level
- At the southern end of the country are the Ardennes Mountains
- Has many navigable canals, most important is North Sea Canal
- Important rivers are the Waal, Rijn, Rhine, Maas

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- 16,033 square miles (41,526 square km)
 - Closest to Maryland in land area, about 2x the size of New Jersey
 - Located in NW Europe
 - Northern and Eastern hemispheres
 - 52 30 N, 5 45 E
-

GEOGRAPHY CONT.

- Capital city: Amsterdam
 - Maritime Climate
 - 1°C to 5°C (34°F to 41°F) in January
 - 13°C to 22°C (55°F to 72°F) in July
 - Average precipitation: 76 cm (30 in)
-

TERRAIN



- Low Netherlands
 - Holocene Age
 - Clay and peat
 - Flat, intersected by waterways
 - Dunes and dikes
- High Netherlands
 - Pleistocene Age
 - Sand and gravel
- Polder - plots of land reclaimed from the sea



PHYSICAL FEATURES

CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

- Population : 16,857,00 (2014 est)
 - 495.80 per square km
 - Official language is Dutch, some also speak Frisian
 - Life expectancy: Male- 79.2 years, Female- 82.8 years, overall- 81.10 years
 - Literacy rate: 100% (ages 15 & up)
 - Currency : Euro (1 euro = 1.0816 dollars)
-

ETHNIC GROUPS

- Dutch - 80.7%
 - EU - 5%
 - Indonesian - 2.4%
 - Surinamese - 2%
 - Moroccan - 2%
 - Caribbean - 0.8%
 - Other - 4.8%
-

RELIGIONS

- Roman Catholic - 31%
 - Dutch Reformed - 11%
 - Calvinist - 6%
 - Other Protestant - 3%
 - Muslim - 5.8%
 - Other - 2.2%
 - No religion - 42%
-

GOVERNMENT



- Parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarch
- Heredity monarch = Head of State
 - King Willem-Alexander
- Prime Minister = Head of Government
 - Mark Rutte
- Seat of the government is located in The Hague

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS



- Jan 1 - New Years Day
 - April 5 - Easter
 - April 6 - Easter Monday
 - April 27 - King's Birthday
 - April 30 - Queen's Day
 - May 5 - Liberation Day
 - May 14 - Ascension Day
 - May 24 - Whit Sunday
 - May 25 - Whit Monday
 - Dec. 6 - St. Nicholas Day (Sinterklaas)
 - Dec. 25 - Christmas
 - Dec. 26 - Second day of Christmas
-

CURRENCY

- The euro
 - GDP: 870 billion
 - U.S.: 17.4 trillion
 - Average income: \$27,888
 - Unemployment rate: 7.0%
 - Main industries: food processing, petroleum refining, chemicals, electrical machinery, metal products, electronics
-

INDEPENDENCE

- Eighty Years War between provinces and Spain (1578-1648)
 - Northern half declared independence and formed the Union of Utrecht, King Philip II didn't like this so he continued the war until it finally ended in 1648 under the rule of King Philip IV
 - NED became major seafaring and economic power following this
 - Known as first thoroughly capitalist country in the world
 - A. Insurance, retirement funds, boom-bust cycle, asset-inflation bubble, Tulip Mania of 1636-1637
 - Shorty incorporated in the First French Empire under Napoleon
 - Kingdom of the Netherlands was formed in 1815 (Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg)
-

-
- 1506-1555 - The Netherlands under Charles V
 - 1566-1648 - Dutch Revolt and the Rise of the Dutch Republic
 - 1595-1640 - The Dutch Overseas
 - 1600-1690 - The Golden Age of the Dutch Republic
 - 1650-1715 - Dutch at war with its neighbors
 - 1780-1810 - Patriots, Batavian Republic and the French
 - 1800-1980 - Dutch as a Colonial Power
 - 1810-1848 - Kingdom of the Netherlands
 - 1935-1945 - World War II
-

SPECIALTY FOODS



- Poffertjes
 - Appeltaart
 - Bitterballen
 - Rookworst
 - Stroopwafels
 - Koffie Verkeerd
 - Hollandse Nieuwe Haring
 - Goudse Kaas
 - Chocoladeletters
 - Drop
-

TRADITIONAL DRESS



- Wooden shoes
- Differed based on region, occupation, married/ unmarried, etc.

MUSIC AND DANCE



- Listen to U.S. music
- Techno, hardstyle, gabber, trance, and hip hop are very popular
- Traditional music is Levenslied (song of/about life)
- Folk dance, tango, Hakken, Jumpen, zouk

CURRENT ISSUES

- Immigration - the Dutch are very open and understanding so they have a heavy flow of immigrants coming into their country and its starting to be too much
 - Climate change- rising sea level
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