

The Kingdom of Belgium



Geography of Belgium

- Belgium is a small country in the European continent. It's located in the Southwest of France, in the North of the Netherlands and the east of Germany and the Luxembourg.
- Belgium has only one coast so one sea: the North Sea. The surface of the country is 30 528 km² and has a population of over 11 million.
- In Belgium, there are 10 provinces and 10 administrative centers



Population and languages

- The inhabitants are the Belgians, and the capital is Brussels (which is the biggest city of Belgium). In Belgium, there are 3 official languages: French in Wallonia, Dutch in Flanders and German.
- The capital Brussels, is bilingual, it means people speak Dutch and French. In this city, there are also the siege of the European Union, the European Parliament, the Council of the Union and the European Commission.

History

- Belgium became independent since the October 4th in 1830 thanks to the Belgian Revolution. But we needed to wait the 20 January 1831 to be recognized by the other States. Before these dates, Belgium was conquered by several countries like Spain, Netherlands, France...
- In Belgium it has always been a King who managed the country.

History

- In 1944, Belgium united with the Luxembourg and The Netherlands to form the Benelux and to be more powerful. The slogan of our country is: "unity is strength". Belgium is also one of the 6 countries who created the European Union.

Art in Belgium

The « BD » (comic books)

- The most famous Belgian comic books are " Le Journal de Spirou ", created by Jean Dupuis in 1938 and, " Le Journal de Tintin " created by Hergé in 1946. They were known in Belgium and in the Western Europe in the 1950s.
- Here are the most famous Belgian comic books writers: Hergé (Tintin), Franquin (Marsupilami), Peyo (Smurfs), Ptiluc, Willy Vandersteem (Bob and Bobette), Midam (Paddle), Phillipe Geluck (The Cat(LeChat)).



Art in Belgium

Monuments

- The most famous monument in Belgium is undoubtedly Manneken Pis. It's one status, at the same time bronze fountain about fifty centimeters who is located in the heart of Brussels which represents a little boy who is urinating. We can say that it represents the Belgian humor as well.



Art in Belgium

Monuments

- There is also the Atomium, from the exhibition of 1958 who represents an iron crystal.



Art in Belgium

Belgian artists

- A lot of singers and French-speaking Belgian actors became famous such as: Jacques Brel, Axelle Red, Loic Nottet, Salvator Adamo, Stromae, ou Jean-Claude Van Damme.



Art in Belgium

Belgian artists

- It was in our country where the Saxophone was invented, in 1846, by Adolphe Sax.



Art in Belgium

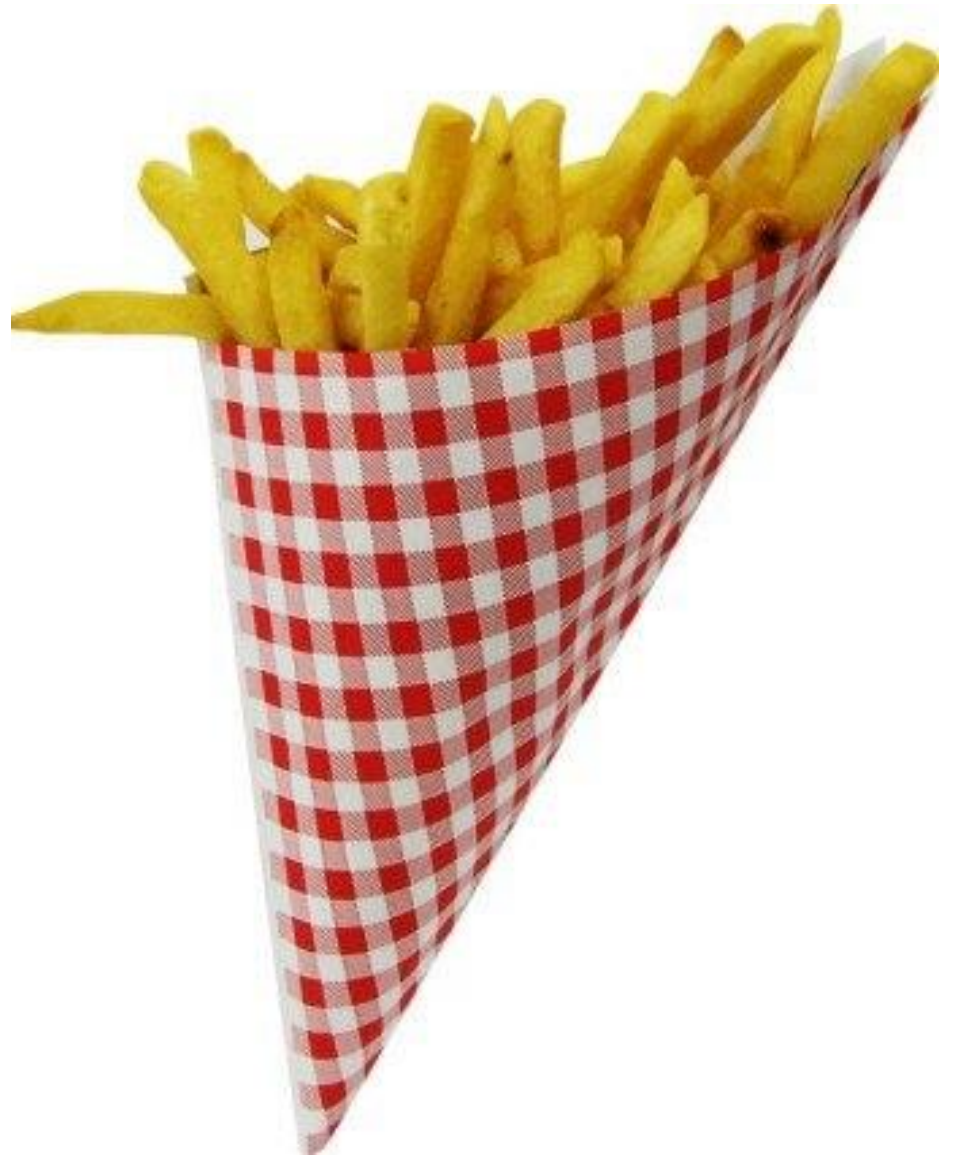
Belgian artists

- We also have Belgian very known painters like Rubens or René Magritte.



Food

. Belgium is famous for its fries which we taste with molds or steak. Our country is also considered as the biggest production of beer, waffles and known for the quality of the chocolate. We also cultivate a lot of fruits and vegetables such as grapes, strawberries...



Sport

- The National football team of Belgium, the Red Devils , is one of the better teams the world. Indeed, they are second in the world classification FIFA.
- We also have excellent athletes in athletics, hockey, tennis, cycling...

