



*Past-Times*

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Webquest Heritage

## Web Quest Title: What a heritage!

**Key competences: cultural awareness and expression; digital competence; social and civic competence; teamwork; critical thinking; creativity; communication.**

**Key words: Belgian culture; cultural traditions; intangible culture; UNESCO; online research; teamwork.**

### Introduction

In today's interconnected world, culture's power to transform societies is clear. Its diverse manifestations – from our cherished historic monuments and museums to traditional practices and contemporary art forms – enrich our everyday lives in countless ways. Heritage constitutes a source of identity and cohesion for communities disrupted by bewildering change and economic instability. Creativity contributes to building open, inclusive and pluralistic societies. Both heritage and creativity lay the foundations for vibrant, innovative and prosperous knowledge societies.

Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was adopted by UNESCO in 1972.

UNESCO plays a key role in convincing that no development can be sustainable without a strong culture component..

UNESCO's renowned cultural conventions provide a unique global platform for international cooperation and establish a holistic cultural governance system based on human rights and shared values. These international treaties endeavour to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage including ancient archaeological sites, intangible and underwater heritage, museum collections, oral traditions and other forms of heritage, and to support creativity, innovation and the emergence of dynamic cultural sectors.

There are several world heritage sites in Belgium, and intangible cultural heritage of humanity recognized and inscribed in the list.

The aim of this Web Quest is to introduce you to some of these heritage sites and values, and to spark your interest in travelling to visit them!

### Task

You and your friends want to experience something different, try new food, see new things, learn more about European Countries' history and culture.

Now you and your friends are interested in learning more about Belgium, and you are sure that the sites and traditions recognised by UNESCO could be an appropriate way of interpreting the peculiarities of this small country.



You can choose one, or draw a path based on thematic or geographical topics.

What is it that sets UNESCO heritages apart? To better understand a different European culture, you need to appreciate their cultural traditions, at least. To help you to decide where you will visit, you are given the task of researching online for Belgium's Cultural and Natural Heritage recognised by UNESCO. You will then share ideas with your friends and together you will choose the places to visit. Will it be religious sites or traditions that spark your interest? A tour in Vallonia or in Flanders? Or the most recent national achievement: beer culture on the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list? Determining this will help you to choose your destinations and design your path!

Each one of you will complete research tasks on his/her own and everyone will select the traditions they would like to visit, then each of you will informally present these traditions to the group and together you will decide which ones to visit. When you have settled on your topics and conducted your research online, you must draw your path and put together a presentation, using PowerPoint or Google Slides, so that you can present your suggestions to other friends and invite them to be involved in your trip and reflect on the richness of Belgium's culture and traditions.

## **Process:**

### **Step 1: What "Heritage" means?**

The first step is to begin with a definition of what heritage is. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, heritage is described as: "features belonging to the culture of a particular society, such as traditions, languages or buildings, that were created in the past and still have historical importance"

You can find further definitions of the term 'heritage', at the links reported in the "resources" paragraph.

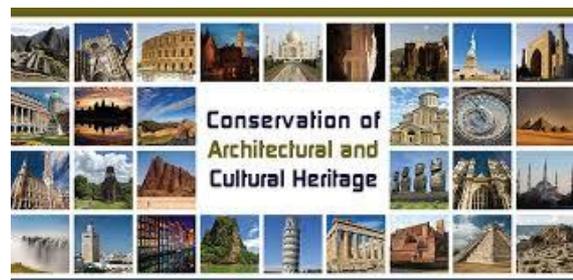


### **Step 2: Why is heritage important?**

We all know certain traditions – even if we don't take part in festivals or events that are traditional to our culture, but why is it important that certain traditions persist? And why is it even more important that we continue to practice our traditions across the world?

Why are some places or buildings so significant?

The links suggested may help you to answer some of these questions and to appreciate why it is important to uphold them.



### Step 3: Understanding Heritage of Belgium

Before you begin to conduct research online, we will give you a short summary of some of the world heritage that we hold in Belgium:

- Flemish Béguinages. The Bégiones were women who dedicated their lives to God without retiring from the world. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century they founded the béguinages, enclosed communities designed to meet their spiritual and material needs. The Flemish béguinages are architectural ensembles.....
- La Grand-Place, Brussels, is a remarkably homogeneous body of public and private buildings.....
- Historic Centre of Brugge. Brugge is an outstanding example of a medieval historic settlement....
- Major Town Houses of the Architect Victor Horta (Brussels). These four major town houses, located in Brussels, were designed by Horta, who was one of the earliest initiators of Art Nouveau.....
- Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and other Region of Europe. This transboundary property stretches over 12 countries.....
- Belgium beer culture. By inscribing Belgium's beer culture on the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list, UNESCO has recognised Belgian beer as playing a key role in daily life of Belgians.
- Aalst Carnival, inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, too. It's a 660-year-old-ritual, constantly recreated by new generations....



These are just some of the places/traditions recognised by UNESCO that you can experience in Belgium, but you can conduct online research to find more examples!

The suggested links might be useful to support your research.



### Step 4: What about the context?

Once you have found out more information about these heritage items, you should learn a bit the history and the geography of this country, so you can better appreciate those heritages and draw your paths.

Belgium is a federal constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system. Its institutional organisation is complex and is structured on both regional and linguistic grounds. It is divided into three highly autonomous regions: Flanders in the north, Wallonia in the south, and the Brussels-Capital Region. Brussels is the smallest and most densely populated region, as well as the richest region in terms of GDP per capita.



Belgium is one of the six founding countries of the European Union and its capital, Brussels, hosts the official seats of the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, and the European Council, as well as one of two seats of the European Parliament (the other being Strasbourg). Belgium is also a founding member of the Eurozone, NATO, OECD, and WTO.

Belgium is a developed country, with an advanced high-income economy. It has very high standards of living, quality of life, healthcare, education, and is categorized as "very high" in the Human Development Index. It also ranks as one of the safest or most peaceful countries in the world.

The suggested links might be helpful to support your further research of the history of Belgium.

### Step 5: Belgian heritage in Depth

From reviewing all of the links in the previous step, you should have a better understanding of some of the heritage that is still upheld in Belgium today. You should have a list of 3-4 places/traditions that you are interested in researching more about.

Remember that you will have to discuss and share your choices in your group, so it is important that you will be able to describe them.



To convince others you will therefore need to demonstrate their importance, their peculiarity, and also to illustrate the ways in which the site of your visit can be reached.

### Step 6: Group Discussion

Now your group can discuss the findings and decide together which heritage sites you are interested in visiting.

Since in the end you will have to plan a feasible and coherent path to see all sites, it is important that you debate and discuss every proposal and choices.

If you are not accustomed to teamwork but want to do it in a structured way, you can use the suggested links first.



### Step 7: Definition and presentation of the path

Finally you can draw the path and propose this fantastic hypothetical tour to your colleagues.

Share the parts that each of you will have to present. Remember to explain why in your opinion the choices made best represent the typical features of Belgian heritage. Also remember to highlight the difficulties and surprises that you encountered during the research.



Try to convince your team members of the charm of the "journey" you are proposing, and to reflect on the wealth and cultural diversity that such a small country can offer

### Resources

Below the resources you have to use to accomplish your task

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|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Step 1:<br>What<br>"Heritage"<br>means?                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/heritage">https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/heritage</a></li> <li>- <a href="https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/heritage">https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/heritage</a></li> <li>- <a href="https://www.wordreference.com/enit/heritage">https://www.wordreference.com/enit/heritage</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Step 2:<br>Why is<br>heritage<br>important?            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="https://web.law.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/microsites/gender-sexuality/What%20is%20tradition.pdf">https://web.law.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/microsites/gender-sexuality/What%20is%20tradition.pdf</a></li> <li>- <a href="https://www.franksonnenbergonline.com/blog/7-reasons-why-traditions-are-so-important/">https://www.franksonnenbergonline.com/blog/7-reasons-why-traditions-are-so-important/</a></li> <li>- <a href="https://savingplaces.org/stories/six-reasons-save-old-buildings#.XVUF2egzaUk">https://savingplaces.org/stories/six-reasons-save-old-buildings#.XVUF2egzaUk</a></li> <li>- <a href="http://whc.unesco.org/archive/convention-en.pdf">http://whc.unesco.org/archive/convention-en.pdf</a></li> <li>- <a href="http://whc.unesco.org/en/compendium/">http://whc.unesco.org/en/compendium/</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Step 3:<br>Understand<br>the<br>Heritage of<br>Belgium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/855">http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/855</a></li> <li>- <a href="http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/857">http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/857</a></li> <li>- <a href="http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/996">http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/996</a></li> <li>- <a href="http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1005">http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1005</a></li> <li>- <a href="http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133">http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133</a></li> <li>- <a href="https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Cultural_heritage_of_Belgium?uselang=it">https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Cultural_heritage_of_Belgium?uselang=it</a></li> <li>- <a href="http://www.unesco.org/new/en/brussels/about-this-office/single-view/news/unesco_has_listed_belgiums_beer_culture_among_the_intangibl/">http://www.unesco.org/new/en/brussels/about-this-office/single-view/news/unesco_has_listed_belgiums_beer_culture_among_the_intangibl/</a></li> <li>- <a href="https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/aalst-carnival-00402">https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/aalst-carnival-00402</a></li> </ul> |
| Step 4:<br>What<br>about the<br>context?               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="https://www.everyculture.com/A-Bo/Belgium.html">https://www.everyculture.com/A-Bo/Belgium.html</a></li> <li>- <a href="http://walloniabelgiumtourism.co.uk/en-gb/3/i-love/heritage-and-culture">http://walloniabelgiumtourism.co.uk/en-gb/3/i-love/heritage-and-culture</a></li> <li>- <a href="https://www.visitflanders.com/en/">https://www.visitflanders.com/en/</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Step 5:<br>Belgian<br>heritage in<br>Depth             | Free search                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Step 6:<br>Group<br>Discussion                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="http://sixminutes.dlugan.com/group-discussion-plan/">http://sixminutes.dlugan.com/group-discussion-plan/</a></li> <li>- <a href="https://www.managementstudyguide.com/tips-for-successful-group-discussion.htm">https://www.managementstudyguide.com/tips-for-successful-group-discussion.htm</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## Learning outcomes

| Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | skills                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Attitudes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Factual knowledge of meaning of heritages and their importance</li> <li>- Knowledge about diverse heritage in Belgium.</li> <li>- Basic knowledge about history, traditions in Belgium</li> <li>- Basic knowledge about geography of Belgium</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research skills to find information</li> <li>- Analysis skills to select findings</li> <li>- Ability to synthesize to argue choices</li> <li>- Teamwork skills to complete the project.</li> <li>- Ability to contextualize and relate about findings</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awareness of the wealth and cultural diversity existing</li> <li>- Appreciation of Belgian traditions and heritage</li> <li>- Awareness of how traditions characterize the difference between cultures</li> <li>- Respect for all opinions</li> <li>- Increased pleasure in working in groups and sharing</li> <li>- Be rigorous in realize own tasks</li> </ul> |

## Conclusion

History, arts, customs and traditions define the identity of a country.

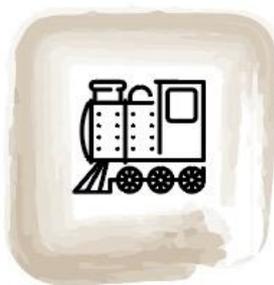
Knowledge of them helps us to understand the world in which we live and therefore makes us better citizens.

Differences, and characteristic features, make all places and people interesting. Our understanding and appreciation of these differences makes us all richer.



We hope that this WebQuest has stimulated your desire to learn more about heritage in your country and in other countries across Europe!

# PAST-TIMES



*Stories, Tales and Customs to Raise Intercultural Awareness*



inn<sup>o</sup>ventum



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