



Lifelong
Learning
Programme

PRESENTATION OF BELGIUM

C.E.C.S. La Garenne





The ***Kingdom of Belgium*** is situated in the west of Europe, bordered to the north by the Netherlands, to the east by Germany and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and to the south and the west by France.

Although its surface area of 30,528 km² makes it a small country, its location has made it the economic and urban nerve centre of Europe.

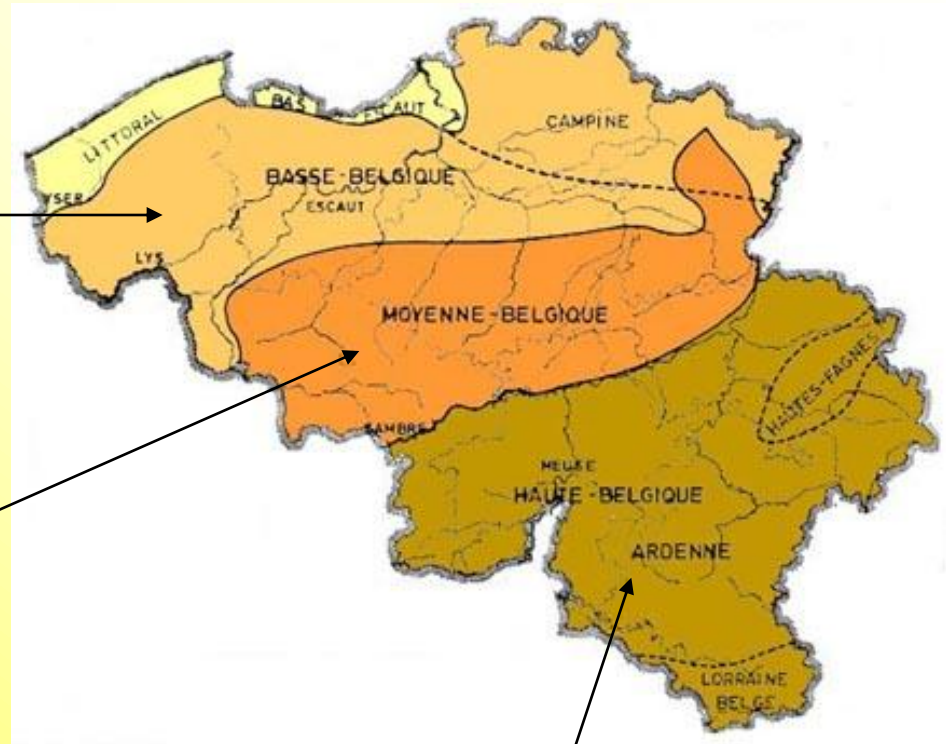
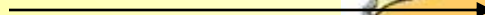


It is a founding member of the European Union and hosts its headquarters, as well as those of other major international organizations, including NATO. It has a population of about 10.7 million.

The geography of Belgium has three major areas

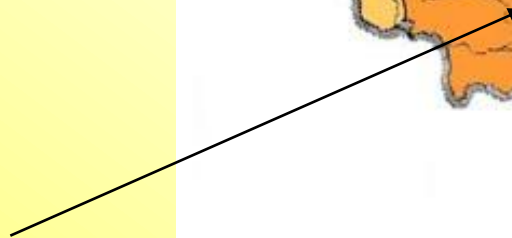
Lower Belgium

(up to 100m above sea level)



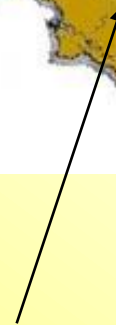
Central Belgium

(between 100 and 200m above sea level)

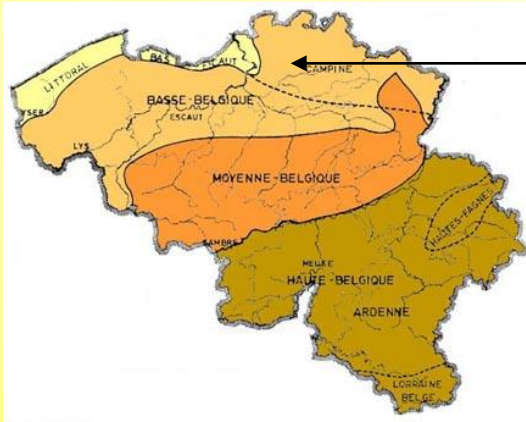


Upper Belgium

(between 200 and 694m above sea level)



The geography of Belgium has three major areas



Lower Belgium

Begins in the west at the coast, with beaches and dunes which extends in a straight line for 65 km.

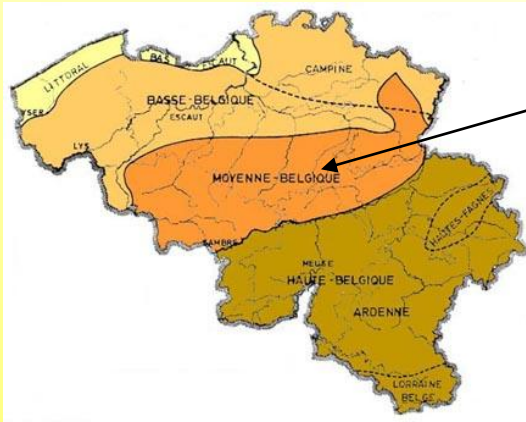
Inland from the coast lie the 'polders'. This flat and fertile land used to suffer from flooding by the sea in the past but is now totally dry, thanks to the sluices which protect it from tidal erosion.

Between the western polders, the Leie and the Scheldt, are the Flemish lowlands, a sandy region which is hilly in places such as the Kemmelberg and the Kluisberg.

The Kempen lie in the east of the country. The soil in the Kempen is poor and the landscape comprises coniferous woods, heathlands, ponds, marshes, pastures and corn fields.



The geography of Belgium has three major areas



Central Belgium

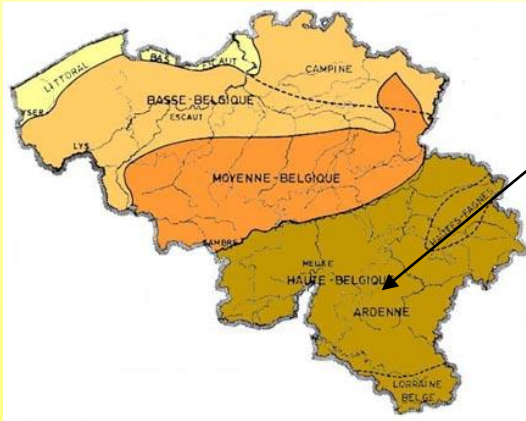
Beyond the Flemish lowlands and the Kempen, gradually rising to the Sambre and Meuse valleys, lies central Belgium, with its low and very fertile clay plateaus.

The heavily urbanised Brabant has its own lush green carpet, the forest of Soignes, a forest area and a remnant of the earlier Forest of Cologne, which covered a large part of the country in Roman times.

Furthermore, central Belgium boasts Hainaut in the west and Hesbaye in the east, both fertile areas with large farms and extensive fields and pastures.



The geography of Belgium has three major areas



Upper Belgium

The most sparsely populated and densely wooded part of the country, a fertile area which is regarded primarily as a tourist attraction on account of the beautiful valleys...



Further to the south are the Ardennes, a natural tourist attraction, and its southernmost part, Belgian Lorraine, has a milder climate than the rest of the country.



There are 3 communities and 3 regions



The community of Flanders



The French community



The German speaking community



The Flanders region



The Brussels-Capital region



The Wallonia region

The communities relate to language and culture.

The regions relate to economic interests.



We have 3 official languages: French, Dutch and German.

***The country is further divided into 10 provinces
and 589 municipal councils***



Belgium is a constitutional monarchy

The King, Albert II.

The Queen, Paola.



What about tourism in Belgium?



The Ardennes

The Ardennes, situated in the south-east of Belgium, are one of nature's unspoilt areas, rich in fauna and flora, with vast forests of broadleaf and fir, hills and fast flowing rivers.

Visitors can wander through the many picturesque villages nestling in the valleys where traditions and folklore still live on, and where the region's arts and crafts can be enjoyed.

Springtime in the Ardennes is the season for walking, cycling, fishing, canoeing and kayaking. Horse riding, climbing and mountain biking are other examples of popular sports in the Ardennes.

In winter, the Ardennes are a paradise for downhill and cross country skiers.



What about tourism in Belgium?



The Belgian coast

The 65-kilometre-long stretch of sandy coastline has 15 resorts, each with its own character and unique atmosphere. The sandy beaches are ideal for children.

The Belgian coast offers a wide range of sport and recreation facilities : here you can hire a bicycle or a buggy, or go sailing or fishing. The wide beach is ideal for ball games, horse riding and beach surfing.

The summer months are the busiest period for the coast. However, other seasons have their own charm, even if sunbathing is not part of it.



What about tourism in Belgium?



Cities of Art

For a small country, Belgium has a remarkable number of cities of art: Bruges, Brussels, Antwerp, Mons, Liège, Ghent ...

All cities of art in Belgium have sufficient diversity and quality to provide you with an agreeable stay.

But...

Tourists from all over the world are attracted to Belgium and its cosmopolitan capital, ***BRUSSELS !***



Gastronomy

Our **chips**, **mussels**, **waffles**, and many other things are well-known all over the world.

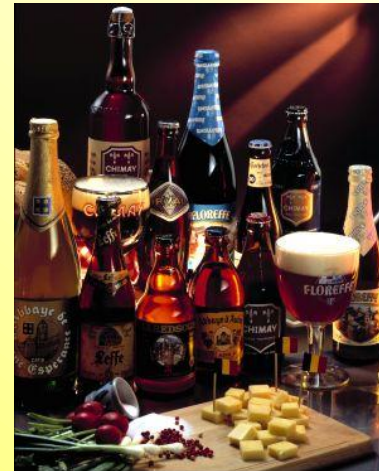


*Belgium plays an important role in the **gastronomic** life of Western Europe.*

*Of course, we are famous for our **beer** and **chocolate**.*



*We have lots of famous chocolate makers:
Neuhaus, Galler,
Leonidas...*



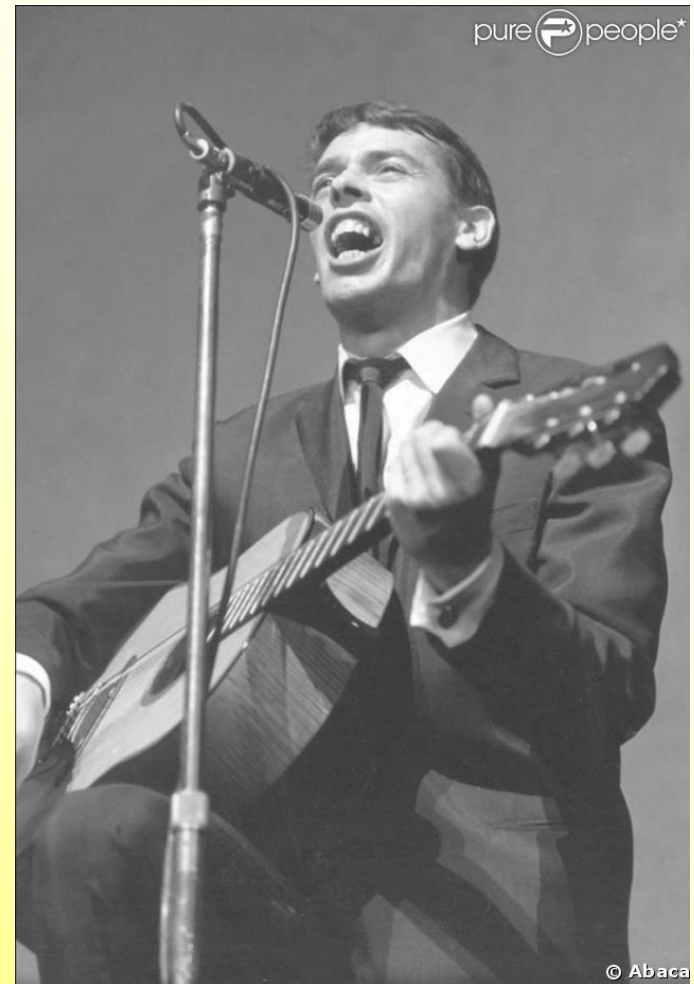
*We have over 700 different varieties of beer:
Trappist beers,
Abbey beers,
Lambic beers ,
Lager, Brown ale, White beers....*

Famous people

Jacques Brel

(8 April 1929 – 9 October 1978)

was a Belgian singer-songwriter. He composed and recorded his songs almost exclusively in French.



Famous people

Kevin and Jonathan Borlée

(Born on 22 February 1988)

are well-known athletes

(runners) and twin brothers



Famous people



René Magritte



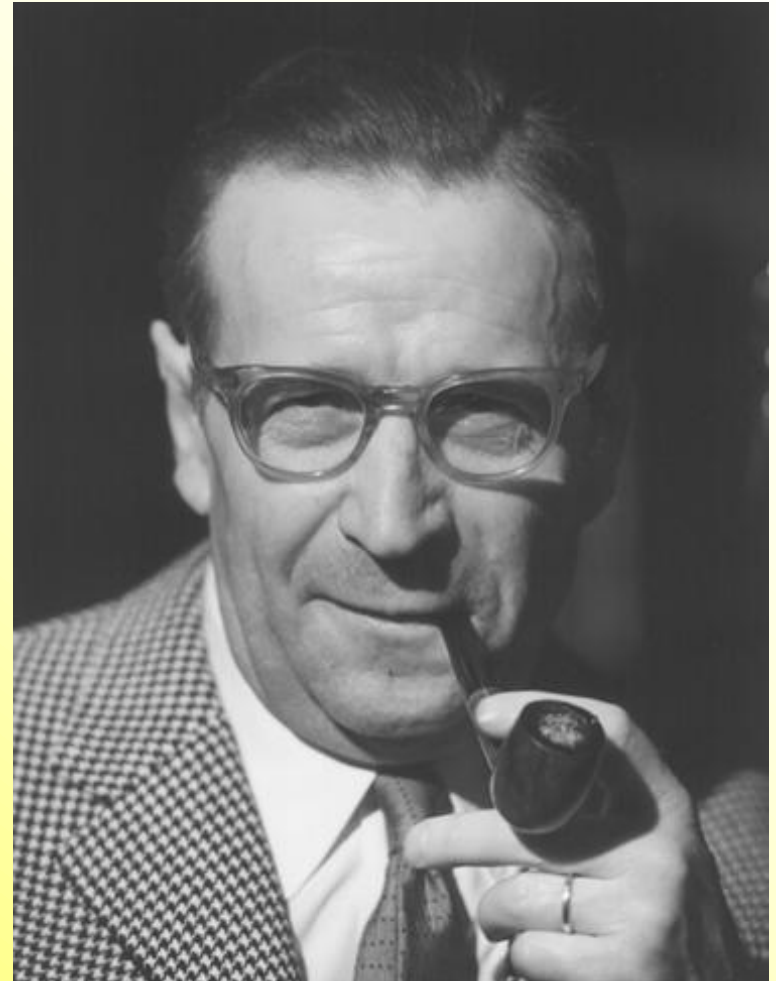
(21 November 1898 – 15 August 1967) was a **Belgian surrealist** artist. He became well known for a number of witty and thought-provoking images. His intended goal for his work was to challenge observers' preconditioned perceptions of reality and force viewers to become hypersensitive to their surroundings.

Famous people

Georges Simenon

(February 13, 1903 –
September 4, 1989)

was a Belgian writer.
A prolific author who
published nearly 200
novels and numerous
short works, Simenon is
best known for the creation
of the fictional detective
Maigret.



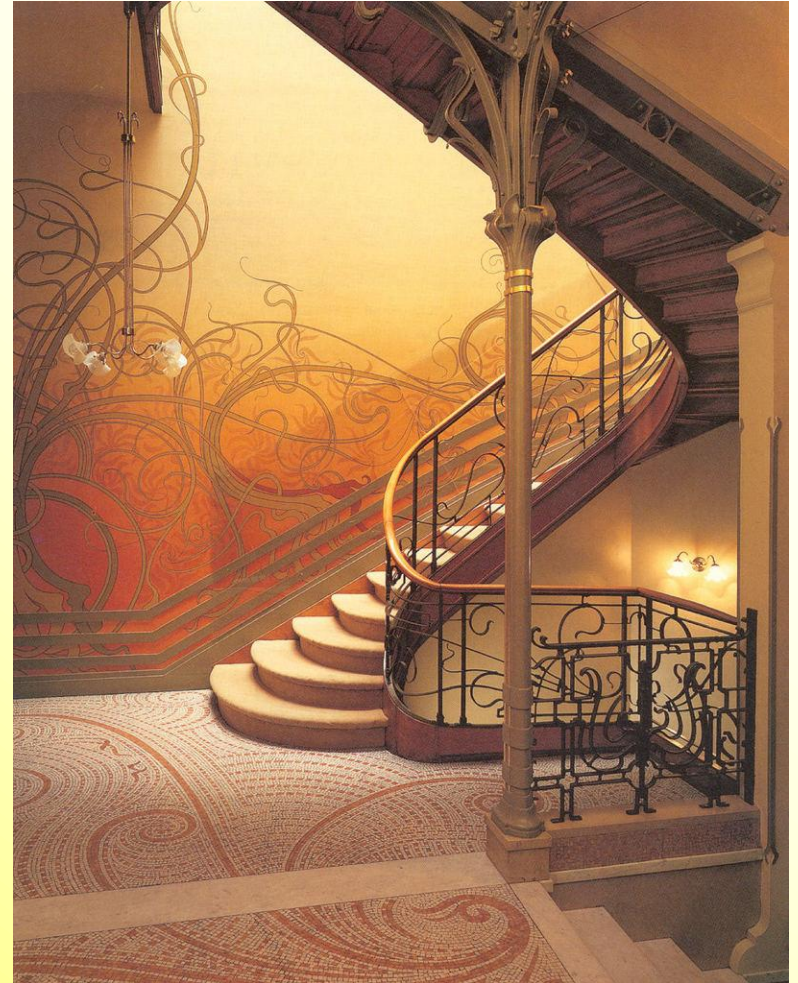
Famous people



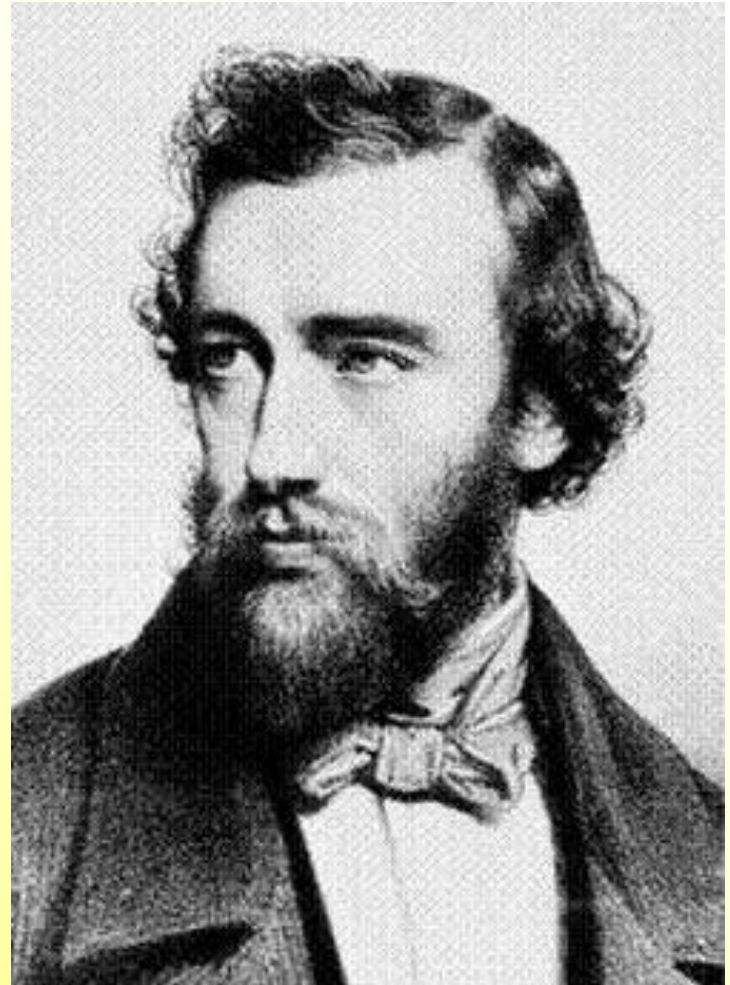
Victor Horta

(1861 - 1947)

was an architect famous for working in the Art Nouveau style.



Famous people



Adolphe Sax

(November 6, 1814 – February 4, 1894)

was a Belgian musical instrument designer and musician (clarinetist), best known for inventing the **saxophone**.



Comics

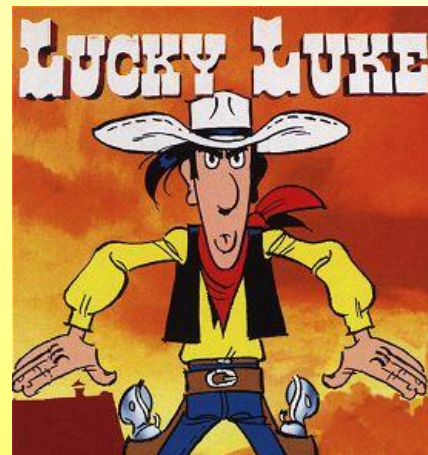
Belgium has numerous well-known cartoonists, such as



The Adventures of Tintin (*Hergé*)

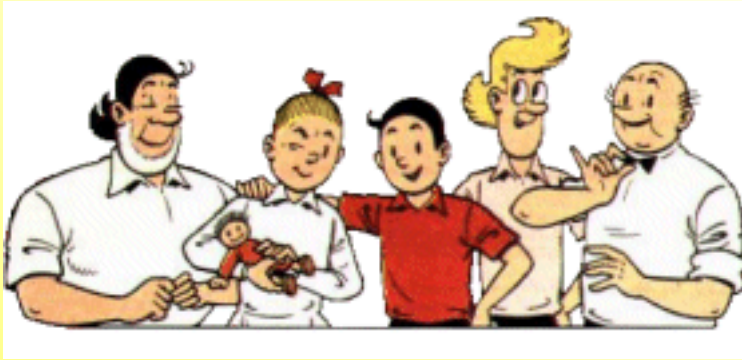


The Smurfs (*Peyo*)



(*Morris*)

Comics



Spike and Suzy (Willy Vandersteen)



Blake and Mortimer (Edgar P. Jacobs)



Spirou and Fantasio, Marsupilami, Gaston Lagaffe (Franquin)



Folklore



Carnival in Binche.

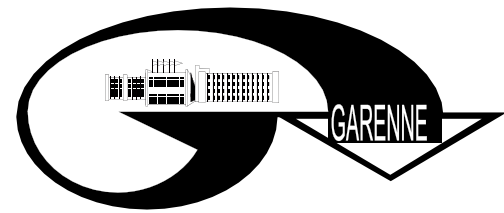
Festivals play a major role in Belgium's cultural life.

Nearly every city and town has its own festival.



Doudou in Mons.





***CENTRE EDUCATIF
COMMUNAL SECONDAIRE
LA GARENNE***

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