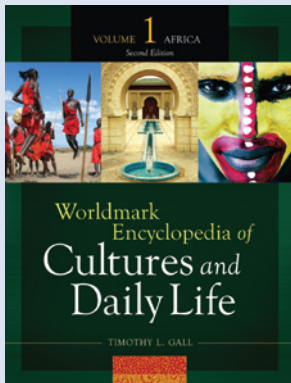


Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life

Fascinating insight into more than 500 cultural groups



"A must for all types of libraries."

— American Libraries (on the first edition)

NEW EDITION Reviewers of the first edition of *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life* praised it as the starting place for middle and high school students, college researchers, lay readers, and scholars seeking general information on the peoples of the world. By adding new entries and images and by revising and updating all others, the new, second edition of *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life* builds upon its legacy. This is an essential work for all libraries whose patrons are:

- Seeking to understand global political and social issues
- Developing a multicultural curriculum
- Doing research on countries and cultural groups

Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life covers more than 500 cultural groups in Asia and Oceania, Europe, the Americas and Africa. Five volumes — organized for quick reference by continent — cover history, politics, customs, religion, education, gender issues (new to 2nd edition!) and much more for culture groups such as Kurds, Amish, Germans and others.

Each two- to six-page entry is written and reviewed by subject experts who have in-depth understanding of a particular world culture and the skill to translate their knowledge into terms that students can understand. The *Encyclopedia* also gives readers a visual learning experience with more than 400 photographs. A glossary of terms offers quick reference for difficult or foreign terms.

Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life

2nd Ed. Ready May 2009.
About 2,500 pages in five volumes.
ISBN: 978-1-4144-4882-4.
Order #GML32509-242518.

eBook. 2009.
ISBN: 978-1-4144-4893-0.
Order #GML32509-242593.
Visit www.gale.com/gvrl for eBook pricing.

Flemings 157

FLEMINGS

ALTERNATE NAMES: Flemish
LOCATION: Belgium (northern region, called Flanders)
POPULATION: 5 million
LANGUAGE: Flemish
RELIGION: Roman Catholic; Protestant; small numbers of Jews and Muslims

INTRODUCTION
The Flemings (or Flemish) are Belgium's ethnic majority. They inhabit the northern part of Belgium, which is called Flanders, and speak the Flemish language, which is closely related to Dutch. Present-day Belgium was originally inhabited by Celtic tribes and overrun by the Romans under Julius Caesar in 57 BC. Although Roman rule continued for 900 years, Roman culture was more strongly absorbed by the people in the southern part of the region, who would one day be known as Walloons and speak a dialect of French, a Latin-derived language. In the 5th century AD the Franks, a Germanic people, invaded the region and established control, although they maintained a stronger presence in its northern portion, where early forms of the Dutch language subsequently developed. Frankish settlements in the south were less extensive, allowing the Roman culture and Latin-based dialects already in existence to flourish.

Between the 9th and 12th centuries, both the northern and southern parts of the Belgian region fell under the control of feudal lords, and numerous duchies, principalities, and towns sprang up without any unifying center of power or culture, allowing the Germanic and Latin cultures of the two regions to continue developing along separate lines. Eventually the power of the nobles was challenged by the burghers of the cities, especially in Antwerp, Bruges, and Ghent. As Flemish cities began to play a vital role in European trade, the area entered a golden age in both music and art. However, beginning in the 16th century, both the Flemish and the French-speaking Walloons to their south came under the rule of a succession of foreign powers: Spain, the Austrian Habsburgs, the French under Napoleon, and, finally, the Netherlands. In spite of the Flemings' cultural and linguistic ties to Holland, they joined with the Walloons in revolting against Dutch rule, and the new Kingdom of Belgium was established in 1830.

Throughout the 19th century, the Walloons were the dominant group in Belgium both politically and economically. Their French language and culture were regarded as superior to those of the Flemings, and they led the nation in industrialization, while Flanders remained a primarily agricultural area. Belgium suffered enormous losses in both world wars. After World War II, structural and social problems had a debilitating effect on Walloons' industries. By the 1930s Flanders had gained sufficient political and economic clout to make Flemish its official language for education, legal proceedings, and government. In the 1960s, the Flemings and Walloons were given political, social, and cultural autonomy over their respective regions. The intervening years have been a period of decline for Wallonia's traditional heavy industries, especially steel and coal, while Flanders has risen in importance as a center for international trade, high-tech manufacturing, and tourism. In 1993, Belgium's constitution was amended, making Flanders and Walloons autonomous regions within the federal state of the Belgian kingdom, together with the nation's bilingual capital, Brussels, and another autonomous community composed of Belgium's German-speaking population.

LOCATION AND HOMELAND
The Flemings live in the northern part of Belgium, above an east-west line dividing the country's Flemish- and French-speaking regions. The Flemish-speaking provinces are East and West Flanders, Antwerp, Limburg, and part of Brussels. One of Belgium's two main rivers, the Scheldt, flows through Antwerp and into the North Sea. The land is mostly low, some of it below sea level, with about 64 km (40 mi) of scenic beaches along the West Flanders coast. Silt deposits have created a rich soil excellent for farming, formerly the economic mainstay of the region and still an important source of income. The Flemings, who account for 55% of Belgium's 10 million people, are descended from Celts, who originally inhabited their region, and from the Romans and Frankish invaders who followed. "Vlaanderen," the name for Flanders, is taken from "Pagus Flandrensis," the name of an 8th-century district in the region during the Carolingian era.

LANGUAGE
Flemish (Vlaams) is a variant of Dutch that has been spoken for about 1,000 years north of a linguistic dividing line that runs from Aachen in the east to a point north of Lille in the west, skirting the Brussels area. Recognized in Belgium as an official state language, it is distinct from the Dutch spoken in the neighboring Netherlands. Even within Belgium, dialects vary from one region to another, distinguished by differences in pronunciation, individual words, and idiomatic expressions. Flemish does not have its own written language and uses standard Dutch modified by certain specifically Belgian features. The difference between Flemish and Dutch has been compared to that between English as spoken by people in Great Britain and in the United States. However, the difference between Flemish and Dutch may be even greater, as subtitles are sometimes used on Dutch television when Flemish movies are aired. Language differences between the Flemish and the French-speaking Walloons in the south have been Belgium's most divisive political issue.

NUMBERS

| | |
|-------|-------|
| one | een |
| two | twee |
| three | drie |
| four | vier |
| five | vijf |
| six | zes |
| seven | zeven |
| eight | acht |
| nine | neg |
| ten | tien |

DAYS OF THE WEEK

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Sunday | zondag |
| Monday | maandag |
| Tuesday | dinsdag |
| Wednesday | woensdag |
| Thursday | donderdag |
| Friday | vrijdag |
| Saturday | zaterdag |

Volume 4: Europe WORLDMARK ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CULTURES AND DAILY LIFE

Flemings 159

their earnings to the household income. Today, many young people living at home keep their earnings, which they spend on clothes, cars, and recreation. Also, since the 1970s it has become increasingly common for unmarried couples to live together. The divorce rate among the Flemish, as elsewhere in Belgium and throughout the West, has also risen, not only among young couples married for a year or two, but also among middle-aged couples married for 20 years or longer. The growing gap between generations, as well as the high incidence of dual-career families, has made it increasingly difficult for married couples to care for aging parents at home. The elderly commonly live in retirement communities or homes for the aged, and such facilities often have long waiting lists.

CLOTHING
The Flemish, like all Belgians, wear modern Western-style clothing. However, in some rural areas, the traditional dark-colored farmer's garb can still be seen.

FOOD
While Flemish cooking does reflect Dutch cultural influences to a certain extent, it has generally developed along its own lines. For example, the Flemish meat-and-vegetable stew (*beefwoude*) consists of vegetables and meat in a clear broth, while in the Dutch version (*hachtpot*), the vegetables are puréed, and the chunks of meat larger. Fish and shellfish are central to Flemish cuisine, with staples including mussels and herring. Lobster, shrimp, and oysters are also popular. Rabbit cooked in brown beer with stewed prunes is a regional specialty, as is waterzout, a chowder made from vegetables and either chicken or fish. Dinner, the main meal of the day, is eaten at midday. A typical dinner consists of homemade soup, a meat entrée with vegetables, and fruit and pastry. The Flemings are great beer drinkers and brew some of the best beers in the world.

EDUCATION
Many Flemish children go to Catholic private schools. Education for all Belgians is compulsory from age 6 through 15, and the national literacy rate is very high. At the secondary level, students choose between trade-oriented, business, or college preparatory training. Some vocational schools maintain work-study apprenticeship programs, although students enrolled in them still live with their parents.

CULTURAL HERITAGE
In the fine arts, the Flemish are particularly renowned for their painting. The works of Jan van Eyck and the other Flemish masters of the 15th century marked an important turning point in Western art by straying from the predominantly religious themes of the Middle Ages to reflect the lifestyles and concerns of the Flemish burghers who were their patrons. Other well-known Flemish painters of the Renaissance included Hieronymus Bosch, Pieter Bruegel the Elder, Pieter Bourgeois the Younger, Peter Paul Rubens, and Anthony van Dyck. Flemish literature began in the Middle Ages with works by authors including Heinrich von Veldete, Jacob van Maerlant, and a Brabant nun named Hadewijch who wrote mystical dramas. During the hundreds of years of foreign rule that began with the Spanish in the 16th century, Flemish letters fell into decline but were revived after independence was attained in 1830.

Established 16 years later, the Flemish Movement advocated the advancement of the Flemish culture and language and was also involved in struggles for political autonomy. Prominent 19th-century Flemish writers include Hendrik Conscience, author of *The Lion of Flanders* (*De Leeuw van Vlaanderen*), and lyric poet Guido Gezelle.

Well-known modern Flemish authors include novelist Louis Paul Boon and Hugo Claus. In the 16th century, the works of Orlando di Lasso combined the musical traditions of the Netherlands and Italy.

SPORTS
The Flemish are hard workers, often spending long hours running family-owned businesses, sometimes in addition to another source of income. In the 19th century and the first half of the 20th, Walloons led Belgium in industrialization, while Flanders remained primarily involved in agriculture and trade. However, the lesser-developed Flemish region was able to obtain generous international aid in the years following World War II, and its large labor force and relatively low wages drew increasing foreign investment in the 1950s and 1960s. Its multi-talented advantages—the busy port city of Antwerp as well as the proximity of the North Sea—spawned out a picture of economic success. Major industries today include textiles, automobiles, and chemicals. Manufacturing in new areas such as electronics and computer technology is growing, while the traditional heavy industries, including steelmaking and shipbuilding, are on the decline.

The fertile, flat land in the Flemish region—of which three-fifths is suitable for farming—remains a source of agricultural income, supporting fruit, vegetable, animal feed, and grains. Today two out of three Belgians work in the service sector, and the Flemish regions have benefited from the growth of tourism to such cities as Antwerp, Bruges, Ghent, and Brussels.

ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION
The Flemish people enjoy typical leisure time activities such as watching television and reading. Like many Belgians, they are avid gardeners, and every home has a carefully tended garden. Other typical hobbies include stamp collecting and model trains. Popular cultural pastimes include concerts and the theater, and in Brussels and other major cities, opera and ballet as well. The Flemish also share the general Belgian love of festivals, and their calendar is filled with celebrations of all kinds, both religious and secular.

FOLK ART, CRAFTS, AND HOBBIES
The Flemish are known for their lacemaking, and other crafts include glassblowing, tapestries, and pottery. In recent years there has been a movement to revive folk arts including street singing, folk opera, and the puppet and marionette theater that once flourished throughout the region, particularly in Antwerp. In the 1970s, Antwerp also became known as a center of women's fashion.

Volume 4: Europe WORLDMARK ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CULTURES AND DAILY LIFE

▲ Standard subheads — different areas of daily life — make it easy for students to compare information across cultural groups.

A UNIQUE RESOURCE

Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life is unique for its depth on individual cultures, its breadth of cultures covered and its accessibility to middle school students and up. Sample entries include:

- Ambonese
- Andalusians
- Angolans
- Argentines
- Aymara
- Banyankole
- Belgians
- Bengalis
- Chagga
- Chamars
- Chechens
- Chileans
- Congolese
- Danes
- Ethiopians
- Evenki
- Filipinos
- French Canadians
- Frisians
- Fulani
- Guyanans
- Hmong
- Hopi
- Hutu
- Icelanders
- Jordanians
- Kashmiris
- Kosovars
- Macedonians
- Malinke
- Maori
- Maya
- Moroccans
- New Zealanders
- Oromos
- Penan
- Portuguese
- Quechua
- Sinhalese
- Surinamese
- Swiss
- Thai
- Tuaregs
- Tyrolese
- Venezuelans
- Vietnamese
- Welsh
- Yoruba
- Zulu
- And many more

FASCINATING DETAILS

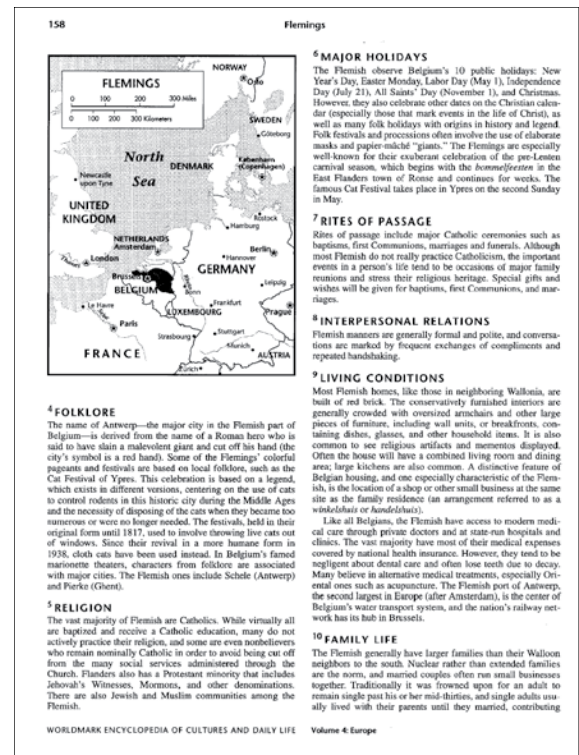
Essay authors are experts on their culture and offer intriguing insight into different areas of daily life: location, population, language information, folklore, religions, major holidays, rites of passage, interpersonal relations, gender issues, living conditions, family life, teen life, clothing, food, education, cultural heritage, work, sports, entertainment and recreation, human rights issues, folk art, crafts and hobbies and more.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information, contact your Gale Representative.

In the U.S. and Canada:
1-800-877-GALE, or
visit www.gale.com

Outside the U.S. and Canada:
visit www.gale.com/world
for a list of Distributors and
Sales Offices



▲ Over 400 maps and photographs give readers a visual learning experience.

All entries follow a consistent, subhead format making it easy to do comparative studies.

BUILDING ON A STRONG LEGACY

The updated and expanded second edition of *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life* will continue to garner the respect of users and reviewers who praised the first edition with comments like:

- “An outstanding resource that is a must for all school libraries! Absolutely superb information. Now students have a comprehensive set to start their research on the peoples of the world.”
— The Social Studies Educator
- “I could open any of these volumes at almost any page to pick out nuggets of fascinating detail. Warmly recommended.”
— Reference Reviews (UK)
- “Diversity...comes to life in ways that social theorists probably cannot imagine.”
— Rettig on Reference