

Countries Around the World™

Sweden

Program Summary

Meet Jacqueline. She and her family live in Stockholm, the capital of Sweden. Join her as she and her grandfather take a tour of Stockholm, beginning with a stroll through the “Gamla Stan,” or Old Town section of the city. Discover aspects of Sweden’s history and government as Jacqueline makes her way through the cobblestone streets and watches a Flag Day ceremony celebrating Sweden’s independence and featuring the Royal Guard and the king and queen. After browsing the stores on Drottning Street, Stockholm’s main shopping district, Jacqueline travels to Skansen and explores an old farmhouse when she visits an outdoor museum that showcases the rich folk heritage of Sweden. Journey with Jacqueline to the island of Vaxholm where she will visit a 16th-century fortress and explore the place where a movie was filmed about one of Sweden’s most enduring literary characters — Pippi Longstocking! Finally, Jacqueline heads out to Värmdö to enjoy the seclusion of the forest at her grandparent’s summer cottage.

Country Information

- **location:** Northern Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea and the Gulfs of Bothnia, Kattegat, and Skagerrak; bordered by Finland and Norway
- **capital:** Stockholm
- **official language:** Swedish
- **type of government:** constitutional monarchy
- **total area:** approximately 449,964 sq km
- **climate:** temperate in the South with cold, cloudy winters and cool, partly cloudy summers; sub-arctic in the North
- **terrain:** mostly flat or gently rolling lowlands with mountains in the West
- **natural resources:** includes iron ore, copper, lead, zinc, gold, silver, tungsten, uranium, arsenic, feldspar, timber and hydropower
- **industries:** includes iron and steel, wood pulp and paper products, processed foods and motor vehicles
- **agricultural products:** includes barley, wheat, sugar beets, meat and milk

Vocabulary

parliament — A system of government in which all of the powers of government are placed within a single body, such as a legislature.

Scandinavia — A region of northern Europe that consists of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and sometimes Finland, Iceland and the Faeroe Islands.

European Union (EU) — A family of democratic European countries that are committed to working together for peace and prosperity. Sweden is a member of the European Union.

Swedish krona — The currency of Sweden.

lingonberry — A tart, red berry, similar to the cranberry, used to make jams, sauces and preserves.

archipelago — A large group or chain of islands.

Pre-viewing Discussion

- Introduce the concept of different points of view by asking students what they like about a particular place either in the United States or the world. As a class, explore where students got their information by asking questions like: What do you know about this place? How did you find out? Have you ever visited there? What might be the reasons people view places differently? Discuss how point of view and perspective can affect descriptions of place and culture.
- Provide students with an outline map of the countries of Scandinavia. Have students find and label Sweden and its capital along with the other countries of Scandinavia and their capitals. Have students answer questions like: Which countries border Sweden? What kind of land forms make up Scandinavia? Which Scandinavian country or countries is not a part of the peninsula? Do you think the people of Sweden have anything in common with people in the other countries? If so, what?
- As a class, brainstorm a list of questions about Sweden. Prompt students by asking them to share what they already know about Sweden and what they would like to find out about the country. Students can make predictions about what they think they will see in the program. As they watch, have students keep track of how many of their questions were answered and if their preconceptions of Sweden were correct or not.

Follow-up Activities

- Students will have fun making a calendar using the names of the months, days of the week, holidays and even their own birthdays — in Swedish! Divide the class into twelve groups and assign each group a month. Each group will be responsible for creating a calendar page that includes a picture or illustration related to Sweden. For a list of the months and the days of the week in Swedish, visit www.ielanguages.com/swedish.html and for a list of Swedish holidays, visit www.awcgothenburg.com/holidays.htm.
- The Swedish flag contains colors representing the coat of arms of the royal family of Sweden. Students can create their own coats of arms representing their families for display in the classroom. For a detailed list of the meanings of traditional symbols and samples of coats of arms, visit: www.fleurdelis.com/meanings.htm. Have students write a brief explanation of what their coats of arms represent.
- Astrid Lindgren’s beloved children’s literature character, Pippi Longstocking, comes from Sweden, but where do other popular characters come from? Students will enjoy finding out the origins of their favorite literary characters. Begin by having students pick characters from a class-generated list. Then have students find out where their characters came from and create “character trading cards” for them, which can include the character’s country of origin, a picture or illustration of the character, the book(s) featuring that character, and a descriptive profile.
- When you hear the Swedish word “smorgasbord,” you probably think of tables and tables of food! Invite students to plan a lunchtime smorgasbord. Have each student pick a dish to bring to class. Students can create an informational sheet for their food featuring the name of the food, its recipe and any other interesting information about it. At the lunch, have students tell the class why they picked the food they did and what they like about it. Afterwards, students can share their impressions of the different dishes. As an extension, have the students create a chart showing how many food groups were represented and to what degree.
- Stockholm was founded around 1252 C.E., making it a relatively old city, but is it the oldest? Have students find out which are considered to be the oldest and youngest cities in the world. Then, have students pick five cities, Stockholm included, and create a bar graph comparing the ages of each city. As an extension, ask students to pick another aspect of their chosen cities, like population or distance from the equator, and convert that data into a companion graph.

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- Sweden is considered a part of Scandinavia. Have students investigate the similarities and differences among the Scandinavian countries. Students can present their findings in the form of a Venn diagram. Consider watching the programs on Finland, Norway, Denmark and Iceland in this series.
- The Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel established the system of recognizing achievement in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, and working for peace by presenting exceptional people with the award bearing his name. Have students find facts about people who have won the Nobel Prize. For a full list of Nobel laureates, visit nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/lists/all/. Students can pick a laureate and create a page for inclusion in a class book. Instruct students to include a picture or illustration, and the year and the field of discipline of the award in addition any other relevant information about the laureate.

Suggested Internet Resources

- www.sweden.se/
The official site of Sweden! Features up-to-date information on the history, culture, people, art, government and economy of Sweden.
- www.sverigeturism.se/smorgasbord/
Learn more about Sweden's history, culture, politics and society from this site. Also includes a quiz.
- www.cia.gov
The CIA World Factbook web site presents detailed and up-to-date information on Sweden and many other countries. Topics include geography, people, government, economy, transportation and communication. On the main page of the CIA site, click on the "World Factbook" link.

Suggested Print Resources

- Binns, Tristan Boyer. *Alfred Nobel: Inventive Thinker*. Franklin Watts, London, England; 2004.
- Gan, Delice and Leslie Jermyn. *Sweden*. Marshall Cavendish, Tarrytown, NY; 2003.
- Yanuck, Debbie L. *Sweden*. Capstone Press, Mankato, MN; 2003.

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