

What is the origin of Queensday?



First, Queensday was called princessday when the government made that day on the birthday of Princess Wilhelmina. The government made this day because they wanted a day where the Dutch people could be proud they are Dutch. Another reason why they made this day is to replace harvest day. They wanted to replace harvest day because the problem was that harvest day were on different dates in every single area. On 6 September 1898, Princess Wilhelmina was crowned as the queen and since then, Princessday was called Queensday. The queensday of that time used to be on 31 August but after Queen Wilhelmina died, the date changed to 30 April because this date was the new queen, Queen Juliana's birthday. After that at 1980, Queen Juliana dies and Queen Beatrix got crowned. But to honour her mother Queen Beatrix didn't change the date from 30 April to 31 January. This is why the Queensday is still celebrated on 30 April.

By: Leon Kersten, grade 8.



Queen Wilhelmina

Dutch Queensday traditions

With Queensday whole Holland is covered with orange. Holland has its own traditional way to celebrate Queensday. All the people go out to their city and in every city there's a big party. Everywhere on the streets you see people sitting with their old stuff to sell it to

someone else. It's like a flea market. This is a tradition. Between those stalls you can find a lot of activities like games for children. It's a tradition to play old games as sack-race, bite the cake and tug of war. Next to all these fun activities we also have a lot of food! We eat herring and other Dutch treats. The older people normally drink a lot of alcohol until they get drunk and everywhere you go you see performances and you hear music. Before Queensday there's Queensday Night. A lot of teenagers go out on the streets and just have fun with each other the whole night. This is not in every city. Only in a few.

By: Lisa van Stenus, grade 8



Why Orange?

Always when it's the Queen's Birthday in Holland, people wear orange clothes and orange hats and all those type of things. A lot of people even wear orange blow up crowns. But why do people always do this? Why has it become a tradition for Dutch people to wear orange on their Queen's Birthday? You will just have to keep on reading to find out.



The idea from orange comes from a bit of history. In 1533, a boy was born in the city Nassau in Germany. That was our prince Willem. But because of the French during that time, everybody was required a last name. When Willem was born, he inherited a piece of France from his nephew. That piece was called Oranje. He also inherited several pieces from Holland. Since no one

knew a last name for the boy, they just called him Prince of Orange (Prins van Oranje) and then later that changed to Willem van Oranje.

Because of that, all the descendants of Willem van Oranje are also called Oranje from their last name. When Willem became King of Holland, the rule was made that all the people from the royal family were to be called van Oranje. That is how the color orange became our national color.

By Mats Leenders, grade 8

Queensday in Singapore

On Queen's Day, most Dutch people wear orange. Even Dutch people that don't live in the Netherlands wear orange. One of the schools that celebrate Queen's Day is the Dutch School in Singapore (HSL). The school celebrates this day for the whole day. On this day, everyone is wearing orange and they party the whole day. The classrooms are decorated in orange, most of the school is decorated in orange. Even the teachers wear orange. An assembly is even organized. In the assembly, the principal talks about Queen's Day. In the assembly, two massive cakes are being brought by mothers. The cake is in orange. The cake is then split by classes. The whole day it's a massive party at the HSL.



In GESS, Queen's Day is celebrated by the Dutch that are in the School. On this day, The Dutch people are allowed to wear orange to school. Unfortunately it isn't a massive party the whole day but it is still fun to celebrate it with all the Dutch people. In break, we take a group photo with everyone in orange. There was a small interview this year. The question was "What does Queen's Day mean to you?" We decorate the Dutch room so that everyone knows that we are celebrating Queen's Day.

Grade 7 about Queensday

Jochem Terbogt: 'When I think about Queensday it reminds me of: Beatrix and her family, the flea market, raising the Dutch Flag, Orange Cloths, the dress and heads of Beatrix.'

Rik Smouter: 'Queensday means a lot to my mother. When we celebrate Queensday in the Netherlands we spend the time in the park eating lots of cake.'

Alex Sinke: 'Queensday reminds me of the Dutch National Song 'Het Wilhelmus.'



Sebastian van Veen: 'My family lives in the province Gelderland. We often celebrated Queensday with them. It a lovely family day. We went to the flea markets.'

Cypress Verbeeck: 'Red, White, Blue', but first of all a lot of ORANGE!'