

# Netherlands

**Instructions.** Read the following text. Then, in the chart below, write one relevant aspect of this country for each category: education, art, and cuisine.

## Education

All primary, secondary, and higher education is provided by either governmental or private institutions. The latter are, with a few exceptions, run by Protestant and Roman Catholic organizations. Dutch secondary education is not a comprehensive system (that is, the same for all pupils) but one consisting of several tracks. Among these are the five-year Higher General Education track, the mandatory preparation for institutions of higher education other than the university; and the six-year Preparatory Scientific Secondary Education track, which is mandatory for university admittance. There are dozens of institutions for Higher Professional Education, and they cover many professional fields complementary to those served by the country's principal universities.

## Art

Certainly among the most revered are those of Rembrandt van Rijn and Vincent van Gogh. Rembrandt, painting in the 17th century, became a master of light and shadow, a technique reflected in his landscapes as well as such portraits as his monumental group portrait now known as *Night Watch*. Van Gogh, born in the 19th century, was a powerful influence in the development of modern art.

## Cuisine

Dutch cuisine is notable for many individual dishes, including filled pancakes (pannekoeken); pastries such as *banket* (an almond paste-filled treat), *oliebollen* (a deep-fried pastry dusted with powdered sugar), and *speculaas* (spice cookies); and a great variety of hard cheeses, including *Edam* and *Gouda*, the world-renowned varieties that originated in the towns for which they are named. *Jenever*, the Dutch ancestor of gin, is a malted barley-based spirit produced in two basic types, *jonge* ("young") and *oude* ("old," which contains a higher percentage of malt wine and thus is stronger and often yellowish as a result of the aging of the malt wine). Both types contain a variety of botanicals, notably juniper (*genever*), for flavouring. Dutch licorice, which is exceptionally salty, is a popular candy.

EDUCATION	ART	CUISINE