

KS2 Geography. A location in Europe

Kinderdijk, Netherlands

RHONA (IN ENGLISH): My name is Rhona and I'm nine years old.

RHONA (TRANSLATED): I live in Kinderdijk in the province of South Holland. It is only a small village, but people come here from all over the world. They come to see something special. It is something you will like. What people come to see are the windmills.

We have 19 windmills. Most of them stand along the canal. The canal is a drainage canal. Our windmills are used to keep the land dry. If they didn't, the land would flood.

The windmill is a symbol of the Netherlands and it's really important in the history of our country.

What is special is that the windmills are lived in.

Bjorn is putting on the sails. He is a miller. A miller is actually a wind catcher. Not many people in the world know how to do this. A miller needs to know a lot about the weather.

Mr Vandenberg also lives here. He has been a miller here for over 40 years.

His children also know how to operate the windmill, but I'm not sure if they will be millers. It's not easy to become a miller. It takes a long time to learn.

[TO MILLER] What are you doing?

MILLER (TRANSLATED): Taking the brake off, so the windmill can start turning.

RHONA (TRANSLATED): Will you be working the windmill tomorrow?

MILLER (TRANSLATED): Yes, if there is wind.

RHONA (TRANSLATED): When the mill is running you can hear the sails. They go really fast, just like the wind. It sounds a bit like this. [RHYTHMIC BREATHING]

RHONA (TRANSLATED): When you go inside, straight away you will see some big wheels. The sound of the mill can send you to sleep. But a miller will know exactly if there's a problem or if the wind stops or changes, just from the sound.

This is a windmill you can visit. You can see inside this one and see how millers used to live.

This is where the parents used to sleep.

This is the chamberpot. And these are the clocks people used to wear. And some people still do. Here are some old clock boots millers used to wear. And some old ice skates.

I'm going to live in a windmill soon.

This is our windmill. Rick is my brother, and he's helping Dad do up our windmill.

Our windmill is octagonal.

My dad is very passionate about windmills and keen to preserve them.

Because the windmills are very old, they are an important part of Dutch history. We have to look after them otherwise we lose a part of our history.

If you'd like to visit, that would be fine by me!

It's great fun to live in a windmill because, well, yes, it's really rather beautiful. And it's also on the water.