

KS2 Geography. A location in Europe

Sylt, Germany

HELEN:

Hello, my name is Helen. I am 11 years old. I live in Rantum on Sylt.

(TRANSLATED) And down there, is where I live. Sylt is the biggest German North Sea island, with an area of 99 square kilometres. There are 11 villages on Sylt, and one town called Westerland.

Rantum, where I live, is one of the narrowest parts of the island.

My pets are chickens. My guitar teacher is called Oliver, and he also teaches my brother piano. I started when I was six years old. I couldn't even write then, and now I have been playing for four years.

I was born here on Sylt, and I have lived here my whole life. I live here with my brother and my parents.

Sylt has a population of 21,500. It is just 38.5 kilometres long from north to south. And east to west, it is between 350 and 12,600 metres wide. A third of the island is covered with dunes. The rest is covered with heathland and marsh.

In Sylt, the wind blows mainly from the West. There are lots of thatched houses on Sylt. In the past, reeds grown on the island were used to make their roofs.

In winter, far fewer people live on Sylt. Lots of people only come in the summer to spend time in their summer houses. Over 800,000 people a year come here on holiday.

Since the 1st June 1927, Sylt has been connected to the German mainland via the Hindenburg dam. To stop Sylt shrinking, sometimes a ship anchors off the coast, sucks up the sand from the sea bed and squirts it back onto the beach.

The Wadden Sea is a nature reserve on the more protected east coast of Sylt. I am here with my friends, because we are really interested in the Wadden Sea, and we are young Wadden Sea guides. Kirsten says you can only protect and conserve what you know about, which means, that if we really get to know the Wadden Sea, then we'll know how best to take care of it.

KIRSTEN:

(TRANSLATED) This is sponge. Like Spongebob. It is a native sponge of the North Sea. And when the mussel boats dredge the mussels from the sea, they destroy the sponges and everything else on the seabed.

HELEN:

(TRANSLATED) Kirsten has shown us all the different plants and animals on the Wadden Sea. Up to two million tiny plants and organisms can live in one square metre of the Wadden seabed.

Svea, Samira, and I have learnt a lot about the ebb and flow of the tides. We know that the tide goes in and out, or ebbs and flows, because the earth is spinning. And when you spin around, you are forced away from each other. The same thing happens to the water on the earth when the earth spins. There are two high tides and two low tides every 24 hours.

Because of the wind, the weather changes very quickly and it often doesn't stay bad for long. Sylt is an extreme place to live in and we love it!