

KS2 Geography. A location in Europe

Veere in the province of Zeeland, Netherlands

ROBERT (TRANSLATED): I am Robert. I am nine years old. I live in Veere, in the province of Zeeland.

Zeeland is in the south-west of the Netherlands. The province consists of islands and water. Did you know that almost half of our province is water?

After the big North Sea flooding 1953, the Delta works were built. My home is located near the Delta works. The Delta works is a network of sluices. When there's a really big storm they protect our land from the sea. There are 13 Delta works dams. Without this dam, half of the Netherlands would flood.

What is so special about the Oosterschelde dam? The sluices can remain open. The sea water can flow in with the tides. This is good for the fishermen and nature. Famous engineers from all over the world have come to see it.

I live in the centre of Veere. It's a town of about 1,600 inhabitants. I live with my family, just a few minutes' walk from school.

There are 72 pupils at my school. School starts at 8:30 am, but I get there a few minutes earlier so I can play around with my friends. We usually play ball.

Our school is Protestant and class starts and ends with a prayer. Afterwards, we sing a song and I love taking part. We also sing in English. My favourite subject is maths. I really enjoy maths because it is easy!

ALL (SINGING):

*And we are ready to go
Ready to go, ready to go
We are ready to go, you and me
Where we can see
Are you ready?
Yeah!*

ROBERT (TRANSLATED): Whilst I'm at school, my mum works at a nice restaurant in the town centre. Lots of tourists go there in the summer. And their favourite meal is mussels.

Tourists come from all over the world to just eat mussels, oysters and lobster. Hundreds of people living in Zeeland earn their living from mussels and oysters.

In Europe, the Netherlands is the biggest producer of mussels after Spain and France.

We have different types of mussel farming. One method is called 'hang culture'. Where the mussels grow on ropes in the water. The baby mussels take about 30 months to grow into big, juicy muscles. These mussels are big but they are not yet big enough. These are from near the river mouth, where the water mixes with the seawater from the North Sea.

My dad, grandpa and my uncles are fish wholesalers. This is Friday. This is the day when dad gets back with a lorry full of fish. They buy, sell and transport fish. My dad fetches fish from all over Europe. Sometimes I go and help him when he comes back from a trip. When he arrives we offload the fish into containers. I've been doing it since I was three years old, and I also joined him on trips. Your hands get really cold, but it's still fun!

My great-grandfather founded the business. At the time, he traded fish from the local area. Sometimes I travel with my dad in his lorry. This is great fun and I can visit lots of other places in Europe.

My favourite thing of all is football. That's my passion! I train twice a week and then I have a match on Saturdays. My older sister, Nina, also plays football. My position is striker. I support Ajax. It's the best team in the Netherlands. I love football because I love to score.

If you are passing Veere any time, come and watch me play!

