

HELGOLAND

Helgoland is an offshore island about 60km from the German coast, which we reached by boat. Around 1500 people live on the island which mainly depends on tourism.

The red rock, Lange Anna, is the most famous sight and needs to be protected by a wave breaker. The island is a main breeding area for gannets and guillemots. We were shocked to see that birds use plastic rubbish for their nests.



NEUWERK

The island of Neuwerk lies 12km off the coast of Cuxhaven in the North Sea. Only around 30 people live permanently on the island and it belongs to Hamburg. The main source of income is tourism nowadays.

We reached it by horse drawn carriage during low tide. It was a cold and wobbly ride but we were able to enjoy the sunset on our way back.



KLIMAHaus®
BREMERHAVEN



KLIMAHaus

The Klimahaus (Climate House) takes you on a journey around the world. We travelled along the eighth line of longitude crossing five continents and visited nine locations feeling very cold and very warm climate zones. We were able to experience the different climate zones ourselves. At each location people living there talk about their everyday lives and how climate change affects them. We enjoyed the climate house very much as the museum is very interactive. Before going to the museum we had an interactive presentation about climate change and research on it by Mr. Sasgen from the Alfred-Wege-ner-Institute Bremerhaven.

WATT-BZ

We explored the area with two guides from the Wadden Visitor Centre after a long walk along the coastline.

SALT MARSH

Our guide told us about the plants and animals living in the salt marsh. The salt meadows are the transition zone between the Wadden Sea and the land, which is regularly flooded by the tides. Thus plants and animals need to be salt tolerant.

We were surprised by the large number of various plants and animals living there and their dependence on each other.

HEATH LAND

The heath land is a man-made area. As marshes were drained and trees were cut down, the heath plants could spread. We were surprised to hear that many plants were not originally from this area – so we discussed with the ranger whether to tear them out or to keep them.



unique boat windy ship vacation sailing free summer rain sea wind bad weather boat suis bonjour climate change salty air helgoland swimming sea plastic pollution freedom

ERASMUS+ AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

A large proportion of the costs of this exchange was financed by Erasmus+ which allowed us to set up our project much more easily. Putting an Erasmus + project together takes time but it is a great help in developing exchanges between schools in different countries.

We used eTwinning as our communication and working platform where we developed ideas, worked on our projects and uploaded the results. One part of the project was about a survey among tourists and residents about the effects of the corona virus on their lives and businesses.



THE SALT FARM AND THE ISLAND OF TASCON

In the morning we walked across the causeway at low tide to visit the island of Tascon. It is only really an island at high tide. The island is mostly inhabited by birds and the whole area is a protected zone for birds to breed.

The functions of the salt farm were very interestingly designed. The guide was funny and explained a lot. As the sea water evaporates, thanks to the heat of the sun, the salt can crystallise.



OCÉANOPOLIS, THE AQUARIUM IN BREST

Oceanopolis was split into four main areas, into four main areas: A "Brittany" themed area, with seals and many different species of fish that can be found in Brittany, a "Polar" themed area with information and models of the animals living there, a – to be fair smaller – "otter pathway" and finally a tropical area, with simulated rainforest-climate, and a huge pool with tropical fish, rays and even 1 or 2 sharks inside it. There were also outdoor-picnic-places.



LORIENT, THE SUBMARINE BASE AND THE ERIC TABARLY CENTRE

We saw how boats are made, with what materials, what each part of the boat is used for. We talked about Eric Tabarly and his inventions. He made a lot of evolution in the world of boats and oceans. We were able to see with a simulation what the dangers were on board the boats. Moreover, we were able to do some knots and sail with little sailing boats.

We saw the submarine base built by the Germans during the second world war. There were 4 buildings about that. We saw how the buildings were built to protect them from bombs.

THE ILE D'ARZ IN THE GULF OF THE MORBIHAN

We went to the island by boat, and after arriving, we walked via the village and to the beach. There, we spent the entire afternoon just relaxing and enjoying the refreshing gulf as it was a very hot day. We also played games and sat in the shadows, listening to music. We could see people sailing and the movement of the tidal currents.



TOWN TWINNING



One morning, we visited Vannes and the guide on the little train told us the story of Vannes and its squares or even historical monuments to better understand what they were used for before. We saw the port, the ramparts and the two main squares, la Place des Lices and the Place Henri IV.

We met the Cuxhaven-Vannes twinning committee in the town hall in Vannes and the town councillor for education made a speech to welcome us all.

In Cuxhaven we took a double decker tour through the city and learned about the history and the importance as a coastal town. We saw the industrial harbour, the fishing port, the beaches and the castle.

Then we had an evening with our parents where the mayor welcomed us and the town twinning committee told us about the history and prospects of the partnership.

