

**SIXTH GRADE SCHOOL TOURS  
AT THE HACKETT HOUSE  
Trollhattan, Sweden**

**GREETING:** hej pronounced hay (hi) or god dag (good day)  
**Language of Trollhattan:** Swedish

**I. Location/Geography** (Arizona History and Social Science Standards  
6.G1.1, 6.G2.1, 6.G3.2, 6.G4.1)

**A. Hemisphere/Continent**

1. Trollhattan is in the country of Sweden.
2. Sweden is on the continent of Europe in the northern hemisphere.
3. Sweden has a population of around 9.7 million.
4. Sweden is part of the Scandinavian Peninsula along with Norway and Denmark.
5. Sweden has a much milder climate than other areas this far north due to the warming influence of the Gulf Stream.
6. In the northernmost areas of Sweden, the sun never rises above the horizon for about 2 months.
7. The population of Trollhattan is about 47,000.

## B. Influence of Water on Development

1. Trollhattan is located on the banks of river Gota.
2. The name Trollhattan comes from folklore. People believed that large trolls lived in the river Gota, and the islands in the river were the trolls' hoods or "hattor."
3. Hydroelectric power is produced with a dam on the Gota river.
4. The abundance of hydroelectric power influenced the growth of Trollhattan as an industrial city.

## II. Historical Perspective (Arizona History and Social Science Standards 6.SP1.1, 6.SP1.3, 6.SP2.1, 6.C4.1)

### A. Vikings

1. In the 9th and 10th centuries, the people of western Europe suffered attacks by bands of fierce warriors called Norsemen or Vikings.
2. The Vikings arrived stealthily in sleek ships and raided and plundered.
3. The word Viking is Norse for piracy.
4. The name Viking describes people who came from Norway, Denmark and Sweden. They were skilled shipbuilders, courageous explorers, enterprising traders and hardy settlers.
5. The Vikings left stones inscribed with the runic alphabet.
6. Sagas and poems about the Viking Age were written down centuries later. The Norsemen had their own culture, gods, and colorful myths.

## B. Interesting Facts

1. The flag of Sweden is blue and yellow and is based on the Scandinavian Cross.
2. Red cottages are typical in Sweden. The paint contains Falun copper which provides excellent protection from the harsh weather.
3. Sweden's oldest sport and form of transportation is skiing.
4. Volvo is a well-known Swedish car manufacturer. In Latin Volvo means, "I am rolling."
5. Many words in English derive from Norse mythology. For example, Berserkr was a warrior who transformed into a howling wolf or bear in battle. If you go berserk, you are violent or unrestrained.
6. Trolls were creatures in Norse myth and legend who became part of the folklore of Scandinavia and northern Europe. Trolls were thought to be dangerous, although sometimes they interacted peacefully with people. When exposed to sunlight, trolls turned to stone.

## III. Cultural/Connections (Arizona History and Social Science Standards 6.SP1.2, 6.SP1.3, 6.H1.2, 6.H3.2)

### A. How are we in Tempe connected Trollhattan?

1. Trollhattan became the 10th Sister City of Tempe in 2015.
2. Sweden has a rich history filled with seafaring Vikings, strong kings, a system of welfare government and neutrality which has helped shape modern Sweden and is of interest to the people of Tempe.

3. On December 13, one of the most traditional Scandinavian festivities is celebrated all over Sweden - Lucia's day, the festival of light. Lucia's Day opens the Christmas celebration, bringing hope and light during the darkest months of the year.
4. Swedes celebrate a traditional holiday called Midsommar. It takes place in the third week of June, upon the night of the summer solstice. Typically people dance and sing around a Maypole decorated with leaves, flowers and rings

#### **IV. Economic/Trade** (Arizona History and Social Science Standards 6.E3.2, 6.E5.1, 6.G3.1, 6.G3.2, 6.H1.2)

- A. A Saab manufacturing plant in Trollhattan manufactures cars. Trollhattan has been called the "Detroit of Sweden." Like Detroit, Trollhattan has experienced a decline in car manufacturing.
- B. Hydroelectric power and timber are primary exports in Sweden, but now information technology is important to the economy.

#### **V. Conclusion**

Trollhattan is a beautiful Scandinavian City in southwestern Sweden on the river Gota. It is a modern city with a long industrial tradition. It has a lively commercial center with an array of cultural and leisure activities. Tourists visit Trollhattan each year to see the locks on the Trollhattan Canal, one of Sweden's seven wonders, and the waterfalls on the Gota River.

#### **Dates for timeline:**

5,000 BC – Petroglyphs found on rocks depict elk, reindeer, bears and seals

800-1500 – The Viking Period

1600s – Sweden became a great power by taking control of the Baltic region

World War I and II – Sweden remained neutral

2015 – Trollhattan and Tempe became Sister Cities