Haven't you ever visited a place which has more flowers than a nice garden near your home? Do you like gardening and beautiful flowers? Would you like to see something different? If your answer to those questions above was 'yes', Keukenhof is the place to go. It is a popular and huge flower place in the green heart of the Netherlands. It's open from March to May every year, so unfortunately you must wait for next year before you can visit the place, but if you go there then, Keukenhof is worth seeing.

We all know that the tulip is the native flower of the Netherlands, but although there were many tulips in Keukenhof, there were also many other flowers like orchids and daffodils. One good way to describe that place is to say that there were many big gardens joined together with other gardens. Flowers were laid down to beautiful settings and there were also a natural forest there and that is very unusual in the Netherlands. Many places are named after the monarchs. If you want to buy flowers, Keukenhof is a good place to go. But you have to just wish you won't be surprised too much of all that glory.

It was a nice evening to be in Keukenhof: it was nice weather, there weren't too many people there and you could enjoy yourself. And I saw the biggest wooden shoe ever. Those, that you can see here, aren't as large as the biggest one. But if there is something really Dutch like wooden shoes, windmills and tulips you can see that in Keukenhof. You can go and see: http://www.keukenhof.nl/

Life in a Dutch family

Holland is famous for its flowers.

On our class trip to Holland this spring we visited our partner school in Holland and we also got to know a bit of the Dutch education. Life in a Dutch school was different than in Finland. There was no breaks apart from a half hour lunch break in the afternoon and a short 15-minute break in the morning. Food was brought from home. It was usually bread, biscuits and juice. There was also soda and candy machines and a fast food restaurant where you could buy some snacks during your lunch break.

School building was different, much bigger, more levels and the teaching groups were bigger than here in Pyhäjoki. That is understandable because there are about 600 hundred students in that building, in our school there are only 150 students. Students went to school mainly by bike even if the distance was ten kilometres. There were bike shelters for bikes. Smoking cigarettes was legal there. Lessons were noisier than here and students even were listening walkmans and teachers didn't pay attention to it. Subjects were almost same than here: biology, maths, religion, mother tongue etc.

Pyhäjoki yläaste International Group went to Holland from 25th of April till 28th of April in 2005. We were fourteen students and two teachers. We had twelve families and everyone went to one of them, some people had to be two in a family. The families was quite the same like with us but their breakfast was little bit different and they had many different pets. They eat chocolates and other sweet things on the bread in the mornings. But the dinner food is almost same like with us, for example, we had in our family French fries, macaroni, potatoes and meat. It was very strange that they didn't get food in the school like we do.

My family had one child and she was a very nice girl. They had four cats, one dog, two rabbits and two guineapigs. The house was high but narrow. The house was always kept clean, even the very big windows in the front. We were enjoying our visit in Holland. I would go there again if it is possible one day.