



Denmark

By: TheBadgeArchive.com

Festival of Nations Information Packet Disclaimer

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Country Profile

Denmark is a country that stands out for its unique blend of ancient seafaring history and cutting-edge modern living. While it was once the home of legendary Viking explorers who traveled across the North Atlantic, it has transformed a technologically advanced and sustainable nation. Its flat, island-filled geography has shaped a culture where people are deeply connected to the sea and dedicated to creating a society built on equality and community well-being.

Explore Denmark:

Global Discovery Information:

- Fact List
- National Identity
- Daily Life
- Fun Facts
- Sightseeing

Historical Information:

- Timeline Chart
- History Explanations

Other Resources:

- Quick Activities
- Food Sample Ideas
- GSUSA SWAP Suggestions



Fact List

National Identity Info

- **Official Name:** Kingdom of Denmark (2026 data)
- **Form of Government:** Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy (2026 data)
- **Capital City:** Copenhagen. The name comes from the Danish words for "merchant's harbor" (2026 data)
- **National Symbols:** Red and white colors. The primary symbols are the lion and the mute swan (2026 data)
- **Official Language:** Danish (2026 data)

Geography & Environment

- **Area:** 16,638.6 square miles (43,094 square kilometers) (2026 data)
- **Climate:** Temperate and humid with mild, windy winters and cool summers (2026 data)
- **Major Terrain:** Low and flat to gently rolling plains. The highest peak is Store Mollehoj at 171 meters (2026 data)

Daily Life & Society

- **Population:** 6,051,491 as of 2025 estimate
- **Money:** Danish kroner (DKK) (2026 data)
- **Major Religions:** Evangelical Lutheran (official) 71.4%, Muslim 4.3%, other/none 24.3% as of 2024 estimate
- **Average Years of Schooling:** 18 years total (18 for males, 19 for females) (2023 data)

Health & Wealth

- **GDP Per Capita:** \$73,700 as of 2024 estimate
- **Physician Density:** 7.24 doctors per 1,000 people as of 2021 data
- **Electricity Access:** 100% of the population as of 2022 data
- **Major Products:** Pharmaceuticals, wind turbines, medical equipment, milk, and wheat (2026 data)

Travel Warnings

While Denmark is generally a very safe country to visit, travelers should remain alert to the global threat of terrorism. International groups like ISIS have been noted in the region, and while the government works hard to maintain security, it is important for visitors to be aware of their surroundings in crowded public areas. (Jan 2026 CIA World Book data)



National Identity

Geography & Terrain

Denmark is located in Northern Europe, positioned on a peninsula known as Jutland that reaches upward from Germany, surrounded by the Baltic and North Seas. The country's physical base is a series of low-lying plains and gently rolling hills. Visually, the land looks like a scattered puzzle, consisting of one large mainland attached to the rest of Europe and an archipelago of more than 400 islands. The highest point in the entire country, Store Mollehoj, reaches only 171 meters (about 561 feet) above sea level, while the lowest point is below the sea at -7 meters (about -23 feet).

The climate is temperate and often overcast, which supports a landscape that is roughly 65% farmland. Because the land is so flat, there are no massive mountain ranges, but the coastline is incredibly long, stretching over 7,314 kilometers (about 4,545 miles). This coastline is famous for features like the Wadden Sea, a massive system of intertidal sand flats, and dramatic cliffs like Stevns Klint. Two notable landmarks include the Jelling Mounds, which are large Viking burial structures, and the Ilulissat Icefjord in Denmark's territory of Greenland, which is a massive river of ice that releases giant icebergs into the ocean.

Land Borders

Denmark is a coastal nation that is almost entirely surrounded by water, except for its southern border. It shares a 140-kilometer (about 87-mile) land border with Germany to the south. It also shares a tiny 1.3-kilometer (0.8-mile) land border with Canada on a small island in the Arctic near Greenland. The country has the Skagerrak and Kattegat straits, which link the Baltic Sea to the North Sea, making it a vital gateway for maritime travel.

National Symbols

The national flag, known as the *Dannebrog*, features a white cross on a bright red field. It was officially acknowledged in 1219, making it the oldest state flag in the world still in use. The vertical part of the cross is shifted toward the left, a design that influenced many other northern nations. Beyond the flag, the country is represented by the mute swan and the lion. The lion has long been used in royal emblems to signify strength, while the swan often represents natural beauty. It is commonly known that these symbols together represent a spirit of long-standing stability and national pride.

Government Structure

Denmark is a Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy. This means that while there is a King, currently Frederik X of the House of Glücksburg, his role is largely ceremonial. The active executive power and day-to-day leadership are handled by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. The laws of the land are created by a single-chamber legislative body called the *Folketinget*, which consists of 179 members who are directly elected by the people. The people have a voice with modern democracy while keeping the historic tradition of the monarchy.

Environmental Innovation

The way Denmark generates energy is a major contributor to its status as a world leader in green technology. The country extracts oil and natural gas from the North Sea, but it is famous for its wind



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power, with wind turbines providing over 57% of its total electricity. Because of its geography, the nation has developed specialized maritime technology. They have advanced shipbuilding skills and created sustainable fishing methods. The country balances its economy by investing heavily in high-tech industries like pharmaceuticals and wind energy, ensuring that its wealth is tied to innovation that protects the environment.

The Realm & Territories

While the main part of Denmark is in Northern Europe, the Kingdom includes two significant self-governing regions in the North Atlantic: Greenland and the Faroe Islands. These areas are geographically massive and look very different from the flat Danish mainland. A colossal ice sheet covers Greenland, and the Faroe Islands are a jagged, volcanic archipelago. Both territories have their own local parliaments that manage their domestic affairs, such as schools and taxes, while the central government in Copenhagen handles their defense and foreign policy.

Daily Life

Hygge

The word *hygge* (pronounced hoo-gah) translates roughly to coziness, but it is much more than that. It is a core cultural concept about creating a warm, intimate atmosphere and enjoying the good things in life with friends and family. To some it could look like lighting candles during a dark winter evening or sharing a slow meal. Even having a quiet conversation can count as *hygge*. With the long cold winters, Danes started this concept to find comfort and social connection.

Janteloven

Janteloven, or the "Law of Jante," is an unwritten social rule that translates to "no one is better than the other." It emphasizes equality and discourages individuals from showing off their wealth or achievements. This means that people value modesty. An achievement is something shared by the whole country rather than a personal feat. Denmark has historic roots in a desire for a society where everyone feels equal and accepted.

General Social Etiquette

Danes value punctuality and their social etiquette is focused on being direct. Being too indirect can be seen as a waste of time, so people are typically blunt and honest when communicating. There is an unwritten rule of being on time for every meeting, which shows respect for others and their time. A polite nod or handshake is preferred over closer gestures as the Danish value personal space.

Work Life

Many Danes wake around 6:30 AM to begin the day. They enjoy keeping a social balance and end work by 4 or 5 PM to allow families to spend their evenings together. Most adults work in the service industry, manufacturing, or specialized sectors like pharmaceuticals and wind energy. Danes are very active. Because the land is so flat, biking is the primary mode of transportation, with 9 out of 10 people owning a bicycle.



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Education

Modern buildings that are well equipped is the center of school life in Denmark. Their five day week, Monday through Friday, is usually from 8 AM to 2 PM. The curriculum focuses on core subjects like math and science, but there is a heavy emphasis on learning multiple languages, with English being the most common second language. The students often work in groups and have an independent vibe. Uniforms are not required and most children walk or bike to school.

Culinary Staples

Rye bread, potatoes, and pork are the local staples that are part of their daily diet. Potatoes used to be used only as food for animals but is now a common garnish. The signature grain is *Rugbrød*, a dense, dark rye bread that is fermented and savory. The signature flavor of the country include butter, salt, and various forms of preserved fish like herring, or pork. A snack for youth is a *romkugle*, a sweet, rum-flavored treat made from leftover cake, or a simple piece of fruit from a local garden.

Sustainability

Danes enjoy some of the world's cleanest tap water, which is sourced from deep underground and is perfectly safe to drink straight from the tap. Waste management is a high priority, featuring a national bottle return system where people get money back for recycling containers. Resource conservation is a daily habit. Many people will use district heating systems in their homes, which turns waste into warmth. There is a strong sense of community stewardship. Clean-up days for local harbors and parks are frequently organized by neighborhood groups.

Family & Community Life

The standard family unit is the nuclear family, but there is a strong emphasis on flexible social networks. Parents and children spend a lot of time together, and there is a high level of respect for the independence of youth. The biggest annual event is Constitution Day on June 5th, which celebrates the birth of their democracy. Celebrations typically involve public parades, communal feasts, and plenty of flags. These gatherings usually happen in town squares or local community centers, where everyone is welcome to join in the festivities.



Fun Facts

- Denmark is consistently ranked as one of the happiest countries in the entire world.
- The Danish language is unique because it has no direct word for the English word "please."
- The national flag, the *Dannebrog*, has been in use since the year 1219, the oldest state flag in the world still in use today.
- Danes love the cozy feeling of togetherness so much they have a special word for it called *hygge*.
- Despite being called "Danish pastry" in many countries, the recipe came from Austrian bakers in the 1840s. Danes call it *wienerbrød*, "Vienna bread."
- The country is so flat that there are absolutely no mountains anywhere in Denmark's mainland.
- Biking is a major part of life, and 75% of people continue to cycle even through the snow in winter.
- Æ, Ø, and Å are three extra letters in the Danish alphabet that are not in English.
- During the annual carnival called *Fasteavn*, kids traditionally hit a barrel with a black cat decoration.
- Denmark is home to the two oldest amusement parks currently operating in the world.
- The world-famous LEGO® building bricks were invented by a Danish carpenter in 1949. The name LEGO comes from the Danish words "Leg Godt," which means "Play Well."
- Only 76 of the 444 islands in the Danish archipelago have people living on them.
- No matter where you stand in Denmark, you are never more than 52 kilometers (32 miles) from the ocean.
- The water in the Copenhagen harbor is so clean that you can jump in for a swim.
- Danish tap water is among the cleanest in the world and can be drunk straight from the faucet.



Sightseeing

Bakken

Visit the world's oldest amusement park, located just a short train ride from the capital. This park offers a mix of classic rides and a historic atmosphere that has entertained families for centuries. It is a great place to experience traditional Danish fun.

Bogense Old Harbour

Explore a charming coastal town known as Denmark's nicest market town. You can walk along the old harbor, view the magical landscape of the Kattegat sea, and see how historic trade and modern sailing come together in a colorful, seaside environment.

Copenhagen Harbour

Take a dip in the clean, refreshing waters of the city's harbor. Instead of just looking at the water, you can swim at locations like Islands Brygge, where the city has built specialized swimming platforms. It is a perfect example of how the country keeps its urban areas clean and accessible for everyone.

Jelling Mounds and Runic Stones

Stand between two massive Viking burial mounds as tall as three-story buildings and discover the royal monument of King Harald Bluetooth. You can hunt for a carved Nordic dragon on a giant runic stone and walk the grounds where a magnificent wooden wall and a giant stone ship once protected the Viking king's headquarters.

Kronborg Castle

Step into a dramatic Renaissance fortress known world-wide as the setting for Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Located at a strategically important spot between Denmark and Sweden, you can see the impressive defenses that once controlled the entrance to the Baltic Sea.

North Funen

There are many different attractions in North Funen. The Funen Opera house has a variety of entertainment from Danish to foreign operas, available for operettas or children. Funen Village has an entry fee, but Sorte Kro is free to visit without entering the village. It is an 1805 Royal License country inn and a gourmet restaurant. You can bike through a beautiful landscape of idyllic villages and ancient burial mounds on the Castle Route. And North Funen has some of the best toboggan hills with nice gentle slopes.

Reffen Street Food Market

Visit a vibrant market in Copenhagen that is built almost entirely from recycled materials and old shipping containers. You can try foods from all over the world while seeing how the city uses green technology to reduce waste and energy consumption in a fun, outdoor setting.



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Roskilde Cathedral

Explore the first Gothic cathedral in Scandinavia to be built of brick. This massive structure has served as the final resting place for Danish kings and queens for hundreds of years. You can walk through the various chapels and see how European architecture has changed from the 12th century to today.

South Funen Archipelago

Discover one of the world's largest "drowned" ice age landscapes. You can take a boat between the islands or bike through a beautiful landscape of idyllic villages and ancient burial mounds on the Castle Route. The area is perfect for exploring unique geology and seeing how the rising sea levels created a network of beautiful islands.



Historical Timeline Chart

- **c. 10,000 BC:** The First Hunters of the Ice Age
- **3900 BC:** Basic society built on agriculture and animal husbandry
- **c. 3000 BC:** The Birth of Farming
- **c. 200 AD:** The Secret Language of Runes
- **793 AD:** The Raid on Lindisfarne (Viking Age Begins)
- **866 – 867 AD:** The Viking Capital of England (Conquest of York)
- **c. 965 AD:** King Harald's "Birth Certificate" (Introduction of Christianity)
- **1015 – 1034 AD:** The Great North Sea Empire (Canute the Great)
- **1397 AD:** Queen Margrethe and the Kalmar Union
- **1523 AD:** Sweden breaks away from the Kalmar Union
- **1536 AD:** The Reformation
- **1574 AD:** Construction begins on Kronborg Castle
- **1660 AD:** Introduction of Absolutism
- **1666 AD:** Danish colonies created in the Caribbean
- **1807 AD:** Copenhagen bombed by the English navy
- **1814 AD:** Loss of Norway and introduction of universal primary education
- **1840s:** Arrival of Austrian bakers and the birth of "Danish" pastry
- **1848 AD:** Abolition of Absolutism
- **1849 AD:** The First Democratic Constitution ("the June Constitution")
- **1864 AD:** Loss of the duchies Schleswig, Holstein, and Lauenburg
- **1891 AD:** Denmark becomes the first country to give all citizens the right to old age pensions
- **1915 AD:** Constitutional reform giving women the right to vote
- **1920 AD:** North Schleswig reunions with Denmark
- **1940 – 1945 AD:** German occupation during World War II
- **1945 AD:** Liberation (May 5) and founding membership of the UN
- **1949 AD:** Membership of NATO
- **1973 AD:** Membership of the EEC (now the EU)
- **1989 AD:** Denmark becomes the first country to legalize same-sex unions
- **2011 AD:** Helle Thorning-Schmidt becomes the first female Prime Minister
- **2012 AD:** Same-sex marriage is granted
- **2022 AD:** Referendum results in removal of defense opt-out
- **2024 AD:** Abdication of Queen Margrethe II and coronation of King Frederik X



History Explanations

The First Hunters of the Ice Age

Around 10,000 BC, as the last Ice Age came to an end, the first people began to migrate into the land we now call Denmark. These early inhabitants were likely hunters and fishermen who traveled from the eastern and southern parts of Europe as the great glaciers retreated. The proximity to water with flat terrain and rich soil shaped Danish culture.

The Birth of Farming

By 3000 BC, the way of life in Denmark changed as people transitioned from hunting to settled farming. Farmers began to work the fertile land, clearing space for crops and animal husbandry. While they initially used stone tools, they eventually adopted bronze and iron, establishing early trade links for animal furs and amber with the distant Roman Empire.

The Secret Language of Runes

By 200 AD, the Danish people developed a unique way to record their history using a jagged alphabet known as Runes. These characters were often chiseled into massive stones, acting as permanent markers of important events or family memorials. This ancient language provides modern historians with some of the earliest written records of the people living in the region.

The Raid on Lindisfarne

The notorious Viking Age officially began around 793 AD when seafaring warriors from Denmark launched a raid on the English island of Lindisfarne. The Vikings used their expert navigation skills and finely crafted longships to strike coastal settlements across Europe. This era of expansion saw the Vikings travel as far as Russia, Turkey, and even North America.

The Viking Capital of England

Danish Vikings were not just raiders but also established permanent settlements in foreign lands. In 866 and 867 AD, they conquered the city of York, turning it into the Viking capital of England. This conquest allowed them to engage in widespread trading of precious metals, jewelry, and textiles while exerting political control over large parts of the British Isles.

King Harald's Birth Certificate

In approximately 965 AD, King Harald Bluetooth was baptized, signaling a major shift as Christianity was introduced to Denmark. To celebrate this change and unify the kingdom, he raised a massive rune stone in the town of Jelling. This monument is often called Denmark's birth certificate because it is the first time the name "Denmark" was officially recorded in writing.

The Great North Sea Empire

Between 1015 and 1034 AD, Denmark reached a peak of power under the rule of Canute the Great. He was not only the King of Denmark but also ruled over Norway and all of England. Under his successful leadership, the Danish realm became a dominant force in Northern Europe, controlling the seas and major trade routes of the region.



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Queen Margrethe and the Kalmar Union

In 1397, Queen Margrethe I brought about a period of remarkable Nordic unity by joining Denmark, Norway, and Sweden into a single monarchy. This was known as the Kalmar Union, and it included territories such as Greenland, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands. For over a century, these nations were governed under one crown, making them a major political power in Europe.

The Loss of Sweden

The long-standing Kalmar Union came to an end in 1523 when Sweden officially broke away from the joint monarchy. This event sparked a centuries-long rivalry between Denmark and Sweden as they fought for dominance over Northern Europe. Over the following years, Denmark was forced to cede several of its southern provinces and eventually lost control over Norway as well.

The Rise of Absolute Kings

Following a series of difficult military defeats, a major political shift occurred in 1660 with the introduction of "Absolutism". This new system gave the Danish monarchy absolute, hereditary power, ending the influence of the old nobility. The King's strong central government worked to create a well-organized state and introduced early reforms to make farming more efficient.

Copenhagen Under Attack

During the Napoleonic Wars in 1807, the city of Copenhagen was heavily bombed by the English navy. This period of conflict led to significant territorial losses, and in 1814, Denmark was forced to transfer sovereignty of Norway to Sweden. Despite these challenges, this era also saw the introduction of universal primary education for all Danish children.

The Birth of "Danish" Pastry

In the 1840s, bakers from Austria settled in Denmark and introduced new recipes for flaky, layered doughs that the Danish people loved. Even today, Danes call these treats *wienerbrød* ("Viennese bread") because the inspiration came from Vienna. But they are world-famous as "Danish pastries."

The June Constitution

On June 5, 1849, Denmark underwent a peaceful revolution that ended the era of absolute monarchy and introduced its first democratic constitution. Often called "the June Constitution," it established a parliamentary system and transformed the King into a constitutional monarch. This day is still celebrated every year as a national holiday marking the birth of modern Danish democracy.

The Loss of the Duchies

Tensions over the southern border led to a major conflict with the German Confederation in 1864. Denmark was defeated and forced to give up the three duchies of Schleswig, Holstein, and Lauenburg. This loss significantly reduced the size of the country and had a profound impact on the Danish national identity, leading to a new focus on internal development.

The March to Amalienborg

Danish women fought for decades to gain the right to participate in their democracy, and they finally achieved this goal on June 5, 1915. A constitutional reform was signed that gave women the right to vote in national elections for the first time. To celebrate the victory, more than 10,000 women marched to Amalienborg Palace to show their support for the new law.



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A Choice for Reunion

After Germany's defeat in World War I, the people living in the northern part of Schleswig were given a chance to choose their future. In 1920, they held a vote known as a plebiscite and decided to return to Danish rule. This peaceful border adjustment corrected some of the losses of 1864 and reunited many Danish-speaking families with their home country.

Light in the Darkness

On April 9, 1940, despite trying to remain neutral, Denmark was invaded and occupied by German troops during World War II. For five years, the people lived under foreign rule, but an underground resistance movement worked secretly to fight back. On May 5, 1945, the country was finally liberated, and people celebrated.

A Global Partner for Peace

Following the devastation of the world wars, Denmark helped create new international organizations to keep the peace. In 1945, it was one of the founding members of the United Nations, and in 1949, it joined the NATO military alliance. Denmark transformed into a nation that strongly defends human rights and works with other countries to fight poverty around the world.

Leading the Way in Equality

Denmark has a long history of supporting the rights of all citizens to live and love as they choose. In 1989, it became the first country in the world to legally recognize same-sex unions. This commitment to fairness continued in 2012 when the country granted same-sex couples the right to marry, further cementing its reputation as a leader in social progress.

The First Female Prime Minister

In 2011, Denmark reached a historic milestone in political equality when it elected its first female leader. Helle Thorning-Schmidt took office as the country's Prime Minister, leading the government during a time of modern growth and change. This election served as a powerful sign of how far the country had come since women first gained the right to vote nearly a century earlier.

A Historic Defense Vote

For thirty years, Denmark had opted out of certain defense agreements within the European Union to stay separate from international military missions. However, in 2022, the people held a special vote called a referendum and chose to remove this "opt-out". This allowed Denmark to participate fully in the EU's shared security and defense policies for the first time.

The New King

On January 14, 2024, Queen Margrethe II became the first Danish monarch in nearly 900 years to voluntarily step down from the throne. Her son was then crowned as King Frederik X in a historic ceremony. This transition showed how Denmark's ancient monarchy continues to evolve while remaining a central part of the nation's identity.



Quick Activities

These activities are designed to be “carnival style” so a high volume of youth can pass through quickly.

Community LEGO Tower

Use one brick from the basket of LEGO®s to add to the LEGO® tower! Each brick shows one person who came today. How tall can the tower go?

The world-famous LEGO® brick was invented by a Danish man named Ole Kirk Christiansen in the town of Billund in 1949.

Viking Shield Design

Use a blank circle that is on cardstock. Add a "boss" (a center bump used to protect your hand) using a marker in your favorite color to complete your own Viking shield!

Once the home of legendary Viking raiders, Denmark was a major power in Northern Europe during the Viking Age.

Hygge Heart Sketch

Draw a heart and fill it with things that make you feel cozy, like a warm blanket or a cup of cocoa!

Hygge is a Danish word for a cozy feeling of togetherness and enjoying the good things in life.

Flatland Bike Race

Sit on a chair and move your legs like you are pedaling a bike as fast as you can for 30 seconds!

Denmark is so flat that it has no mountains, making it a perfect place for the millions of people who bike every day.

Dannebrog Flag

Color a red rectangle with a white cross on it to make your own version of the world's oldest flag!

The Danish flag, called the Dannebrog, was first acknowledged in 1219.

Alphabet Scavenger Hunt

Find the three extra Danish letters (Æ, Ø, and Å) hidden around the room.

The Danish alphabet has 29 letters, including three unique ones you won't find in the English alphabet.

Wind Turbine Spinner

Use a toy or paper pinwheel and see how long you can keep it spinning by blowing on it.

Denmark is a leader in green energy, with wind turbines providing over half of the country's electricity.



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Viking Rune Stone Carving

Use a wooden stick to scratch your name into a piece of modeling clay using the ancient Rune alphabet!

By the year 200, the Danish people used the Rune language, which they often chiseled into large stones.

Island Challenge

Try to color only 76 on a paper with 444 printed small circles (or island shapes) in under 60 seconds!

Only 76 of the 444 islands in the Danish archipelago have people living on them.

Mute Swan Origami

Follow simple folding instructions with a white piece of paper to create the head and neck of a swan!

The mute swan is the national bird of Denmark.

Pastry Color-In

Use markers to add "jam" or "chocolate" to a drawing of a *wienerbrød* pastry!

Danish pastries are called "Viennese bread" in Denmark because the recipe was brought there by Austrian bakers.

Harbor Clean-Up Game

Use a pair of tongs to pick up three pieces of "trash" (beads) out of a bowl of water!

The water in the Copenhagen harbor is kept so clean that people can swim in it safely.

Viking Ship Navigator

Try to blow a small paper boat across a tray of water from one side to the other!

The Vikings were superb shipbuilders and sailors who used their longships to travel as far as North America.

Happiness Smile Wall

Draw a smiley face on a sticky note and add a note on what makes you happy. Add it to a "Happiness Wall" to show all the different ways to find happiness.

Denmark is consistently ranked as one of the happiest countries in the world.

Ancient Mound Builder

Stack five flat stones or wooden discs to create your own version of a Viking burial mound!

The Jelling Mounds in central Jutland are massive royal monuments built over 1,000 years ago.



Food Sample Ideas

These suggestions are bite-sized, dry (non-messy), and culturally relevant.

- **Rugbrød:** This dense, dark rye bread is the foundation of the Danish diet and serves as the essential base for a traditional lunch.
 - Try It: A small square of dark rye bread or a piece of rye crispbread.
- **Smørrebrød:** These famous open-faced sandwiches represent the artistic side of Danish lunch, where fresh ingredients are neatly stacked on a single slice of bread.
 - Try It: A quarter-sized slice of rye bread topped with a small slice of cucumber or a piece of cheese.
- **Wienerbrød:** Known worldwide as "Danish," these flaky pastries were inspired by bakers from Vienna and have become a national favorite.
 - Try It: A small, bite-sized piece of cinnamon or fruit-filled Danish pastry.
- **Snegl:** This "snail-shaped" cinnamon roll is a staple in every Danish bakery and is a favorite treat for youth.
 - Try It: A small slice of a cinnamon roll.
- **Havarti Cheese:** Cheese represents the country's long history of high-quality dairy production. Havarti cheese is a variety created in Denmark in the 19th-century.
 - Try It: A small cube of mild Havarti cheese.
- **Apples:** Fruit gardens are common in Denmark, and apples are a traditional ingredient in many autumn desserts.
 - Try It: A thin slice of a crisp, fresh apple.
- **Vaniljekranse:** These butter cookies flavored with vanilla became popular in the late 1800s.
 - Try It: One small, ring-shaped butter cookie.
- **Honey:** Danish beekeeping projects like "Bybi" help the environment and produce fresh honey used in many local treats. Bybi is an initiative where bees are kept on the roof of buildings, like the Scandic Hotel, in the city.
 - Try It: A tiny drop of honey on a small cracker.
- **Oyster Mushrooms:** Sustainable initiatives in cities like Aarhus grow these mushrooms using recycled coffee grounds.
 - Try It: A small, dried piece of an oyster mushroom.
- **Strawberries:** Fresh strawberries are a symbol of Danish summer and are used to top the famous summer tarts.
 - Try It: A small slice of a fresh strawberry.



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- **Cardamom Buns:** These aromatic buns are traditionally eaten warm on the holiday of St. Bededag's Great Prayer Day.
 - Try It: A bite-sized piece of a soft wheat bun flavored with cardamom.
- **Pebernodder:** These tiny "pepper nut" cookies are a favorite Christmas treat, flavored with cinnamon and cardamom.
 - Try It: A round spice cookies flavored with cinnamon and cardamom.
- **Rye Crispbread:** Often eaten as a healthy snack, this crunchy bread represents the Danish daily use of rye.
 - Try It: A small piece of rye crispbread.



GSUSA SWAP Suggestions

Here are some SWAP ideas for GSUSA troops who are learning about a country in celebration of World Thinking Day might use as a trinket to share with other troops they are exchanging knowledge of.

- **Tiny Dannebrog Flag:** Cut red felt into small rectangles and glue a thin white ribbon in a cross shape to mimic the world's oldest flag.
- **Single LEGO Brick:** Glue one small building block to a safety pin to represent the famous Danish invention from Billund.
- **Mute Swan Feather:** Pin a single white feather with a small orange bead glued on the quill to represent Denmark's national bird.
- **Runic Name Stone:** Use a marker to write a single Rune letter on a small, flat pebble (or a piece of grey cardstock cut into the shape of a pebble) and glue it to a safety pin.
- **Cardstock Bicycle:** Cut a tiny bicycle shape out of cardstock to represent the millions of people who bike in Denmark every day, or draw/print a bicycle on a rectangular piece of cardstock to add a safety pin to.
- **Blue Bead "Harbor":** String three clear blue beads on a pin to represent the clean harbor water that is safe for swimming.
- **Felt Apple Slice:** Cut a small "D" shape out of white felt and add a red border with fabric marker to create a felt apple slice to represent the traditional Danish fruit gardens.
- **Pastry Ribbon:** Fold a small piece of tan ribbon into a "snail" shape and glue it together to represent a *snegl* pastry.
- **Viking Longship:** Glue two small triangles of paper to a toothpick to represent the sails of the legendary Viking explorers.
- **Alphabet SWAPS:** Write Æ, Ø, and Å on paper that can be pinned to show off the unique Danish letters.
- **Wind Turbine Pin:** Glue three small white paper strips in a fan shape to a pin to represent Denmark's green energy leadership. One paper strip would be the base while two can be the windmill parts.
- **Happy Face Bead:** Use a yellow bead with a smiley face on a pin to represent Denmark's status as one of the happiest countries or make a smiley face to pin.
- **Red and White Ribbon:** Tie a simple knot using one red and one white ribbon to represent the national colors of the Kingdom.
- **Tiny Crown:** Use a small gold bead or cardstock crown to represent the Danish monarchy and the reigning King.



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