

## A present day into the past of Stockholm

After having woken up at 7am early in the morning to start our first proper day in Sweden, we took the tram to Sweden's present capital city Stockholm and participated in a tour on its bloody history during the 16th century. We all gathered around a tour guide who told us about its interesting dark history, including that roughly 120 aristocrats who had been accused of being guilty for heresy (a form of blasphemy) by the then present King Kristian the II, have been beheaded and quartered in the very centre of the marketplace. The bodies were then left to rot around Stockholm as a warning to those who were daring enough to spread more heresy that didn't please the King. Gory isn't it? What I found ironic was that a street where the former executioner used to live in was called "hell street" before it was then renamed as "priest street" to ensure that people wouldn't fear moving in. The Swedes also had a funny law back then, stating they were allowed to have endless amounts of pigs in their apartments! Isn't that odd?!



After that we walked to the house of science (royal institute of engineering), where we learned about interesting new innovations to make life more sustainable, for example by explaining the efficiency of wind energy through wind farms as well as the possible concepts using nuclear energy. Something I did find rather boring and funny at the same time though was that we were discussing the radioactivity of mushrooms in Sweden! An interesting activity we did there though was experimenting on the aerodynamics and efficiency of wind turbines. It so turns out that three bladed wind turbines are the most efficient, due to their stability and cost/efficiency ratio - so that may answer the popular question on why we only tend to see 3 bladed wind turbines!



As soon as the main part of that day's programme had ended, we had lunch that our school chef had prepared for us - that day it was a nice organic potato salad! We then all got released by our teachers to do whatever we wanted, which in that case was walking through all the giant shopping centres and lastly eating at the Swedish fast food restaurant called "Max", which is the more sustainable and nicer version of McDonalds. After spending time with our exchange partners in the centre of Stockholm it was time for everybody to go home and spend some time with the family of our exchange students!