

Tulip Mania

Word Choice



In the 1600s, people in The Netherlands were hit by "Tulip Mania." Everyone wanted tulips. Everyone was buying tulip bulbs. Then, they sold the bulbs for a higher price. Prices went up and up. Single bulbs were worth houses, animals, land, and months worth of wages. People became rich overnight. Then all of a sudden, no one could sell

their bulbs. People lost their homes and all of their wealth. Can you imagine buying something for \$76,000, and six weeks later finding it is worth only a dollar? Today, one can get some tulip bulbs for less than a dollar.

Activity: Write three paragraphs about tulips. Follow these guidelines:

- **Paragraph One:** Tell what tulips and tulip bulbs are. Make sure that you describe them in such a way that no one can mistake them for any other type of flower. Compare them to one other type of flower.
- **Paragraph Two:** Discuss the price of tulips today compared to that of The Netherlands in the 1600s. Tell why you think the price went up and down.
- Paragraph Three: Tell if you think something like "Tulip Mania" might happen again. Why or why not? Do you see inklings of it when it comes to the price and availability of popular toys, clothes, or games?





Onion Soup

Word Choice

Activity: Write a story that takes place in The Netherlands during the time of "Tulip Mania." Set the scene at a dinner table. Have the father telling the family how they will all be rich. Have the man tell what they can have and do when they are rich. When the children ask how they will be rich, have the man explain that he bought a bulb for the price of the house and land. He tells them all not to worry about losing the house because he will sell the bulb the next day for twice as much. When the man goes to show his family the bulb, he can't find it. That's when he finds out that it had been mistaken for an onion and put in the soup. They had eaten it!

Give your story a title. Also, use words that show how excited and upset people are. Make your characters come alive!

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