Why did the Strangers come to Norwich, and how did they change the city and Britain?

Key Vocabulary

- **Migration** – Moving from one place to another to live or work.
- **Strangers** – Refugees from the Low Countries (Belgium and the Netherlands) who came to Norwich in the 1500s.
- **Refugee** – A person who leaves their country to escape danger, war, or persecution.
- **Trade** – Buying and selling goods; an important reason why Norwich was a successful city.
- **Evidence** – Information that helps us understand what happened in the past.
- **Source** – Something that tells us about the past.
- **Primary source:** From the time (e.g. letters, maps, artefacts).
- **Secondary source:** Created later by historians (e.g. books, websites).

Historical skills

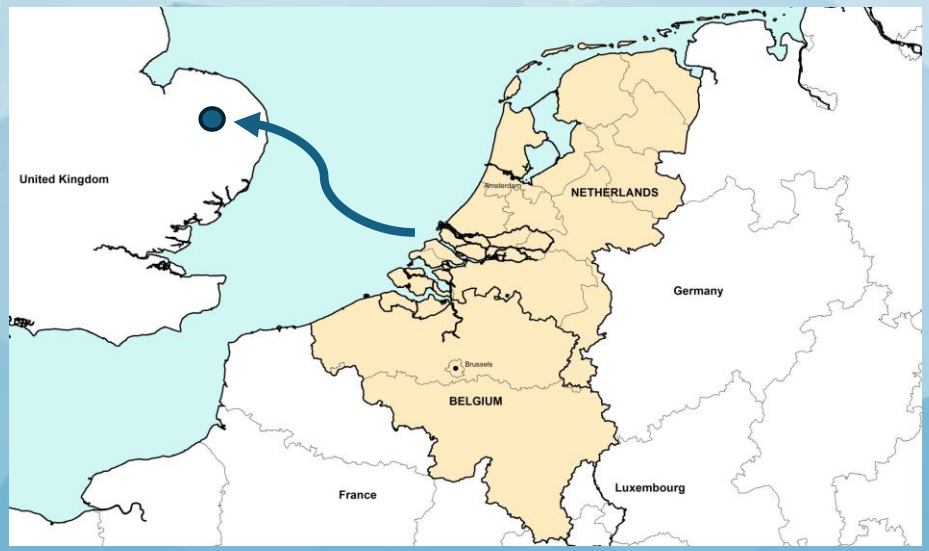
- **Ask questions** about the past.
- **Use primary and secondary sources** to find and explain evidence.
- **Understand different viewpoints** and how people felt.
- **Show empathy** for people in history.
- **Draw conclusions** about how migration changes places and people.

Key knowledge

- Norwich was one of the biggest and richest cities in England in the 1500s because of the **wool and cloth trade**.
- The **Strangers** were refugees from the **Low Countries**, fleeing persecution for their Protestant faith.
- They brought **new skills**, **weaving techniques**, and even **new crops** like carrots.
- Some people in Norwich **welcomed** the Strangers for helping trade; others **feared** they might take jobs.
- Their arrival made Norwich more **diverse** and helped shape Britain's history of **migration and tolerance.**

Timeline

- **1500s (Tudor times):** Norwich grows through trade.
- **1565:** The Strangers arrive in Norwich.
- **Today:** Norwich remembers its history of welcoming people from other places.



Belgium and the Netherlands were often referred to as the 'low countries' because much of the land in these countries is either below sea level or just slightly above it.