

Tulips



- In the seventeenth century, tulip mania hit the Dutch Republic, with bulbs exchanging hands for exorbitant prices, up to ten times the annual wage of a skilled worker. Tulips became exotic status symbols because of their intense colours. One bulb was sold for 'twelve fat sheep,' another for a silver goblet. And then the bubble burst and the speculators lost everything.
- While we're unlikely to see such inflated prices for tulips today, the sight of brightly coloured tulips still makes many of us smile. Many thousands of people visit the tulip fields in the Netherlands each year to enjoy the displays.
- What do you value? Is there anything in life that you would give everything to possess? Health? Family? Something else? What sacrifices (if any) would you willing to make? Hopefully, we're investing our lives in something with real, lasting value, not a tulip bulb!