

## Information - Card

### Lüneburg

One of the most important Salt-cities in Medieval times was Lüneburg. When the town was first mentioned in a document in the 956 a.D. there already was a Salina there, producing salt. Salt stayed the most important business in the town of Lüneburg for 1000 years. Between 1276 and 1797 salt was produced in 54 Salt-Houses with 4 huge Salt pans each. Nearly 300 people worked in the Salinas in Medieval times - the biggest employers in the town. In the Salinas the production went on day and night and the fires were burning around the clock - except for very high Christian festivals.

For heating the pans people needed a huge amount of firewood which was cut round the town. But the at first very thick and dense forests vanished over the years and heather, juniper and shrubs took over. Nowadays you find sheep and tourism as the only source of income in the most famous landscape of heather in Germany: "Lüneburger Heide".



**Salt production in Lüneburg**

In Medieval Times however Lüneburg produced more than 20.000 tons of salt per year. For the international trade it was carried to Lübeck, another Hanse town on the Baltic Sea. You can still see the store houses in the town. There were several Hanse-towns up the Baltic sea like Wismar, Stralsund, Rostock and Reval. They all were involved in the salt trade with Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia but also England and Holland. An old saying tells you the ways: Lüneburg is the "Salthouse" and Lübeck is the "Trade-House".



**Medieval Salt House**



**St. Johann's Church**

#### **TASKS:**

- 1) Read the text about Lüneburg thoroughly.**
- 2) Mark and find out about unknown words and meanings.**
- 3) Which facts about Lüneburg can you detect in the play "Ways of Salt"?**
- 4) Find your own questions about the text, write them down and ask them your pals.**