



TAKE NOTE

comes This word that also means “companion, associate” came to mean “count.”

Erasmus The name Erasmus means in Greek “beloved” and *Roterodamus* “from Rotterdam”; the first name of Erasmus was *Dēsiderius*, which in Latin means “longing.”

nāvigandī This word is a gerund (see Chapter 15).

Ulixēs Ulysses was one of the heroes of the Trojan war and was famous for his ten-year journey home described by Homer in the *Odyssey*.



Erasmus’s letter details the kind of winter storms and dramatic weather that began in the fourteenth century. Letters, diaries, and other personal writings have helped scholars document the Little Ice Age which hit full swing in 1650 beginning with glacial expansion around 1550. The discussion of global warming in the twenty-first century has spurred study of earlier climate change.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. In what respect does Erasmus compare himself with Ulysses?
2. What was the main problem in Erasmus’s journey?
3. What is the most arresting thing in the landscape that Erasmus describes?
4. What event during the journey does Erasmus describe as a fairytale?
5. What was Erasmus’s state of mind during the journey?