

INTRODUCTION TO FRANCE

A quick ride down the ages

Prehistoric Age - Traces of human civilisation



Caves at Lascaux



Alignments of dolmens at Carnac

Antiquity - The Dawn of Civilisation



Site of the battle of Alésia



Vercingétorix

Vercingétorix, chieftain of the Gauls, leads an uprising against Julius Caesar in 52 BC but is defeated and France comes under Roman rule.



Charlemagne

Charlemagne known as the King of the Franks, expands his kingdom and establishes the Carolingian empire. He also unifies western Europe.

Middle Ages - XI - XIV centuries.



Statue of Jeanne d'Arc in Orléans

Jeanne d'Arc leads the French army against the British and brings victory to France. This brings an end to the Hundred Years' war.

Renaissance - XV - XVI centuries.



Castle of Chenonceau, Loire Valley

Renaissance which means 'Rebirth' sees the revival of art, culture and science in France. **The castles of the Loire valley** are architectural masterpieces of this period. The versatile genius of this era, **Leonardo da Vinci** is an inventor, engineer and artist par excellence.



Leonardo da Vinci

Classical Era - XVII century



Louis XIV

Louis XIV, known as the Sun King, enjoys a long and prosperous reign. France becomes the centre of Europe during his reign. He builds the **palace of Versailles**. Today it is a world heritage site.

Age of Enlightenment - XVIII century



Rousseau



Voltaire

Individual liberty, opposition to monarchy, separation of state and religion are some of the main doctrines of this age. Writers like Rousseau, Voltaire, Diderot and Montesquieu make a great impact on society.

French Revolution - 1789



Fall of the Bastille

The **Fall of Bastille** on **14th July 1789** marks the end of absolute monarchy in France. The reigning King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette pay with their lives.

14th July is celebrated as the **National Day** in France.



Louis XVI



Marie Antoinette

Napoléon Bonaparte - XIX century



Napoléon Bonaparte

Napoléon, a military leader, declares himself Emperor of the French at the Notre Dame cathedral in Paris. He conquers much of Europe in the earlier part of the XIX century.

Modern Era - XX century

Two world wars ravage Europe in the first half of the 20th century bringing misery and devastation in its wake.



Signing the Treaty of Versailles after World War I.



Allied troops landing at Normandy during World War II.

France is at the forefront in many fields. Let us meet the individuals and institutions that have contributed to French society.

Fashion

Fashion is an important aspect of French life, culture and economy. Coco Chanel, a pioneer in the fashion world, created an iconic fashion label. Paris is today the centre of the global fashion industry.



Chanel perfume

Art

French traditions in the fine arts are deep and rich. Painting and sculpture flourished. By the end of the 19th century, Paris attracted talent from all of Europe.



'Le Penseur', a sculpture by Rodin



Pablo Picasso

Literature

French literature has a rich heritage in all genres... prose, poetry and theatre. Literary giants have contributed greatly to world literature.



Molière, playwright, XVII century



Victor Hugo, literary genius of the XIX century



Jules Verne, science fiction writer of the XX century

Science

Science, in France, has a long history. As far back as 1666, King Louis XIV founded the Académie des Sciences to foster a culture of scientific research. French scientists have made path breaking discoveries and contributed immensely to the progress of mankind.



Louis Pasteur, 'Father of Microbiology'.



René Descartes, mathematician and philosopher, XVII century.



Lavoisier, 'Father of modern Chemistry'.

Nuclear Science

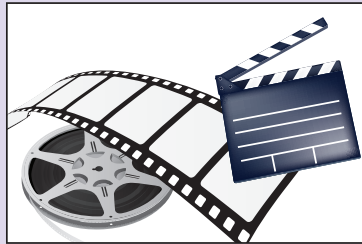
France has a long history in nuclear research. Antoine Henri Becquerel, Pierre and Marie Curie were pioneers.



Pierre and Marie Curie

Cinema

France is the birthplace of cinema. In 1895 for the first time, les Frères Lumière (the Lumière Brothers) screened projected images on a screen. France has a rich legacy of fine film makers. The Film Festival of Cannes is one of the most prestigious in the world.



France Today

France rose from the aftermath of the two world wars. France is at the forefront of technology, telecommunications, aero-space and aircraft manufacturing. Today it is a major power in Europe and on the global stage.



Ariane, launch vehicle for satellites



72% of electricity in France comes from nuclear sources

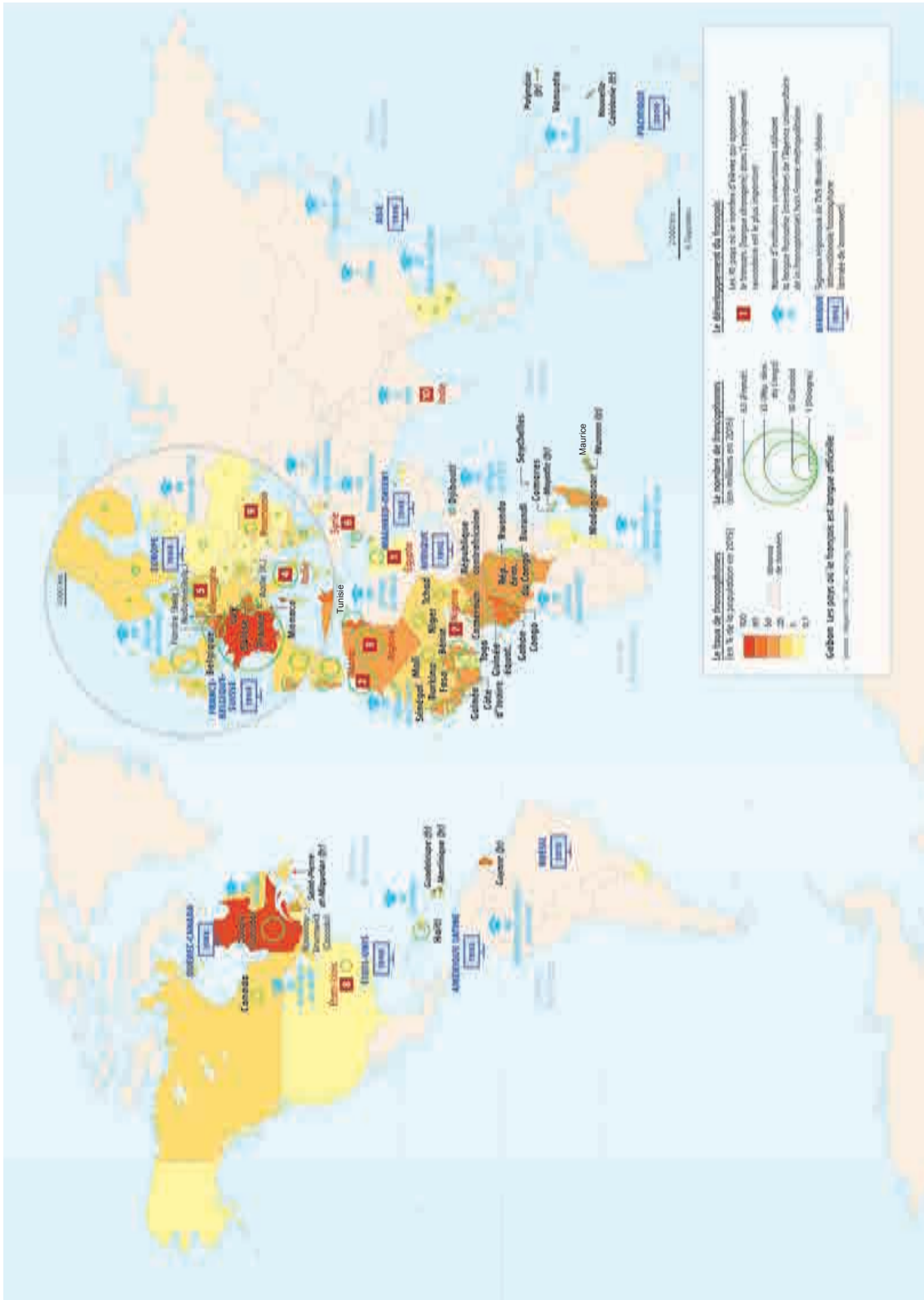


Airbus Industry in Toulouse



TGV – Train à Grande Vitesse

LE MONDE FRANCOPHONE (THE FRENCH SPEAKING WORLD)





COME DISCOVER FRENCH

Leçon 0

Les Symboles de la France (Symbols of France)



Marianne, le symbole de la
République Française



Le coq gaulois, l'emblème
de la France



Le drapeau tricolore...
bleu, blanc, rouge



La Marseillaise, l'hymne national



**French is one of the Romance languages which has evolved from Latin.
French Alphabet**

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A	/a/	papa, cravate
B	/b/	belle, ballet
C if followed by a, o, u	/k/	car, comment
C if followed by i, e	/s/	ciel, cela
D	/d/	dame, dormir
E silent when in final position		parle, donne
E in the middle position	/ə/	premier, devoir
E penultimate letter in words ending in consonant	/e/	regarder, coquet
F	/f/	folle, défi
G if followed by a,o,u	/g/	gare, gomme
G if followed by i, e	/ʒ/	gingembre, manger
H silent		heure, souhaiter
I	/i/	dire, cirque
J	/ʒ/	jaune, ajouter
K	/k/	kiosque, kayak
L	/l/	lac, film
M	/m/	maigre, mari
N	/n/	neuf, nez
O	/o/	oral, mot
P	/p/	porte, pomme
Q always followed by u	/k/	quai, quatre
R	/ʀ/	roi, servir



S	/s/	sac, sable
S in the middle of the word	/z/	maison, peser
Ss in the middle of the word	/s/	poisson, basse
T	/t/	table, total
U	/y/	vu, sur
V	/v/	vin, cave
W	/w/	wagon, wi-fi
X	/ks/	texto, taxi
X if followed by a vowel	/z/	deux amis, sixième
Y	/i/	stylo, martyr
Y in the beginning of the word	/j/	yeux, yaourt
Z	/z/	zéro, seize

Some general rules to help you pronounce French words:

- The last consonant of a word is usually silent.
 - vous, elles, français, institut.
- There are a few exceptions. Generally, when the word ends in c, r, f, l, the last consonant is pronounced.
 - avec, cher, attentif, il.
- The last consonant of a word is pronounced when it is followed by the letter 'e' or by another word beginning with a vowel.
 - étudiante, assistante, petit_enfant.
- Here are five types of orthographical signs used in the French language:
 1. l'accent aigu: placed only on vowel 'e' :
é : été, donné.
 2. l'accent grave : placed on vowels 'a' 'e' 'u' :
à è ù : père, frère, où, à.
 3. l'accent circonflexe : placed on 'a' 'e' 'i' 'o' 'u' :
â ê î ô û : août, fête, île, hôtel, bâtiment.



4. la cédille : placed only below the letter c :
ç : garçon, français.

5. le tréma : rarely used in French language, placed on 'e' 'i' 'u'
ë ÿ ü : Noël

- When does one use an apostrophe sign?

When words ending in 'a' 'e' 'i' are followed by another word beginning with a vowel, the final consonant of the first word is dropped and replaced by an apostrophe.- 'J'ai', 'C'est' **but** 'Si elle aime'.

Les Nombres (Numbers)

0 zéro			
1 un	6 six	11 onze	16 seize
2 deux	7 sept	12 douze	17 dix-sept
3 trois	8 huit	13 treize	18 dix-huit
4 quatre	9 neuf	14 quatorze	19 dix-neuf
5 cinq	10 dix	15 quinze	20 vingt

Memorise numbers 0-20.

Numbers 21-69 follow a similar pattern.

21 vingt et un	30 trente	40 quarante
22 vingt-deux	31 trente et un	50 cinquante
23 vingt-trois	36 trente-six	60 soixante
29 vingt-neuf	39 trente-neuf	69 soixante-neuf

Note the pattern of numbers 70-99

70 soixante-dix	80 quatre-vingts	90 quatre-vingt-dix
71 soixante et onze	81 quatre-vingt-un	91 quatre-vingt-onze
72 soixante-douze	82 quatre-vingt-deux	92 quatre-vingt-douze
79 soixante-dix-neuf	89 quatre-vingt-neuf	99 quatre-vingt-dix-neuf



Numbers 100 onwards

100 cent	201 deux cent un
200 deux cents	640 six cent quarante
1000 mille	732 sept cent trente-deux
2000 deux mille	2019 deux mille dix-neuf

Note :

- 'Quatre-vingts' loses the 's' when a number follows. e.g. 82 → quatre-vingt-deux.
- Cent takes an 's' when it is preceded by a number but it loses the 's' when it is followed by another number. e.g. 200 = Deux cents but 220 = Deux cent vingt.
- 'Mille' unlike Cent never takes an 's'.
- For numbers 81 and 91 the word 'et' is replaced by a hyphen.

Les Nombres Ordinaux (Ordinal Numbers)

un → premier	sept → septième
deux → deuxième	huit → huitième
trois → troisième	neuf → neuvième
quatre → quatrième	dix → dixième
cinq → cinquième	onze → onzième
six → sixième	douze → douzième

Let us practise...

01

Write the number in words:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 47..... | 4 5 ^e |
| 2 600..... | 5 2 ^e |
| 3 9 ^e | 6 888..... |



02

Calculate and write the answers:

- 1 cinquante + vingt-cinq =
- 2 quatre-vingt-onze - trente et un =
- 3 quinze × trois =
- 4 cent ÷ dix =
- 5 onze × huit =

L'Heure (Time)

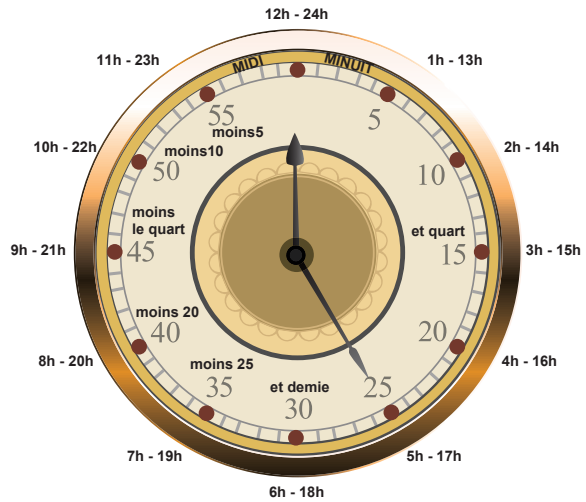
Quelle heure est-il ? (What is the time?)

Il est...- It is...

- en avance – early
- à l'heure – on time
- en retard – late

Note : 12.30 = Il est midi/minuit et demi.
 While talking about time today,
 the 24-hour system is generally used.
 e.g. It is 7 pm. = Il est dix-neuf heures.

Quelle heure est - il ?
Il est...



Let us practise...

01

Match the clock and the time given :





- a Il est huit heures vingt-deux.
- b Il est vingt et une heures.
- c Il est vingt-trois heures cinquante (Il est minuit moins dix).
- d Il est dix-sept heures quarante-cinq (Il est dix-huit heures moins le quart).
- e Il est dix-neuf heures dix.
- f Il est midi vingt.
- g Il est quatre heures trente (Il est quatre heures et demie).
- h Il est quatorze heures quinze (Il est quatorze heures et quart).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Le matin**L'après-midi****Le soir****La nuit****Les Jours de la Semaine
(Days of the week)****lundi** Monday**mardi** Tuesday**mercredi** Wednesday**jeudi** Thursday**vendredi** Friday**samedi** Saturday**dimanche** Sunday

C'est quel jour aujourd'hui ? → Aujourd'hui, c'est mardi.

Quel jour sommes-nous ? → Nous sommes mardi.

Note the following points when talking of dates:

- Names of days and months are not in capital letters, except days of national importance.
e.g. 14th July → Le quatorze Juillet
- Dates are not written with ordinal numbers, except the first of the month.
e.g. 3rd May → le 3 mai
1st of June → le 1^{er} juin



Les Mois de l'Année (Months of the year)



janvier



février



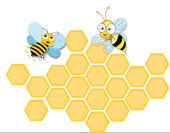
mars



avril



mai



juin



juillet



août



septembre



octobre



novembre



décembre

e.g. En quel mois sommes-nous ? → Nous sommes en août.

Let us practise...

01

Given below are some of the days of the week. Fill in the missing letters:

1A R.....l

3l M A.....C.....E

2E U.....l

4U.....D.....

02

Match the columns:

1 21st April

a le quinze mars

2 25th December

b le quatre novembre

3 15th March

c le quatorze Juillet

4 1st of January

d le vingt et un avril

5 4th November

e le premier janvier

6 14th July

f le vingt-cinq décembre



03

Mots croisés:

			c			d			f	
								1		
2 a										
						3				
	4 b							e		
						5				
	6									

Here are the clues. Fill up the crossword with French words:










Across

- 1. Month of summer holidays in India
- 2. First month of the year
- 3. The day after the week-end
- 4. Before April
- 5. After July
- 6. 9th month of the year

Down

- a. Between May and July
- b. French word for 'month'
- c. A month with 28 or 29 days
- d. 4th month of the year
- e. French word for 'day'
- f. A day of the week-end

Les Couleurs (Colours)

gris 	jaune 	bleu 	noir 
rose 	blanc 	rouge 	vert 
			orange 

Let us practise...

01

Write the colour in French for the following :

- 1 Sky
- 2 Crow
- 3 Leaf
- 4 Sunflower
- 5 Cloud
- 6 Colours of the French flag



La Maison (House)



- salon (m)
- salle à manger (f)
- cuisine (f)
- chambre à coucher (f)
- salle de bains (f)
- cave (f)
- sous-sol (m)
- escalier (m)
- toit (m)
- garage (m)
- porte (f)
- fenêtre (f)



Bon Amusement

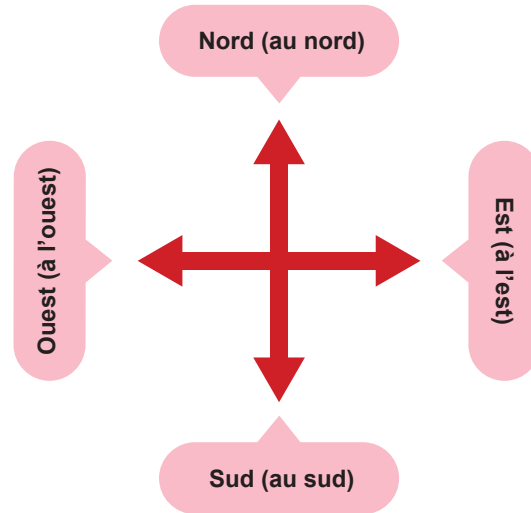
Proverbe

« Le temps est gratuit, mais très précieux. »



La Carte de France (Map of France)





Let us practise...

01

C'est où ? (Where is it?)

Answer using 'au nord, à l'ouest, à l'est, au sud' :

- 1 L'Espagne
- 2 La Suisse
- 3 La Manche
- 4 L'Océan Atlantique
- 5 La Mer Méditerranée
- 6 Le Jura

02

Find and mark on the grid the following :

B	M	Z	O	F	R	H	L
S	E	I	N	E	S	B	P
D	T	L	O	M	N	H	Y
A	W	O	G	A	Y	D	R
L	G	I	J	I	V	E	E
P	A	R	I	S	Q	A	N
E	T	E	N	T	L	U	E
S	C	H	K	O	R	P	E
Y	D	F	S	B	X	J	S

- 1 The mountains between France and Italy
- 2 A country to the north of France
- 3 A river in France, famous for its castles
- 4 The mountains between France and Spain
- 5 The river flowing through Paris
- 6 The capital of France