

Stage 2 French

Term 2 Week 3 – Facts About France

LI: We are learning about France and French culture.

SC: I can tell some interesting facts about France.

Bonjour Parents and Carers,

Task 1 – Reading

Please assist your student to read the attached document about France and French culture. If you have access to the Internet and wish to view the document in colour, it can be accessed from the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/frenchfacts>

Task 2 – Quiz

Students are to please complete the attached multiple choice quiz about France.

If students have access to the Internet and wish to complete the quiz online, it can be accessed from the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/week3factsquiz>

Please note that the link above requires students to sign in to Google via their DET student portal. Alternatively, they may complete the paper copy.

Merci!

Madame Cartwright

Facts about France

At school we are learning how to speak French. French is spoken in many countries around the world. This year we have been learning greetings and describing words and how to say what we like and do not like. When learning another language, it is important to understand the culture of the people who speak that language. We have learnt about French art, pancake day and traditional Mardi Gras in France but there are also many other interesting facts about France. Read the facts about France below, then answer the quiz.

LOCATION

- France is located in western Europe – look at the map. It is one of the largest countries in Europe and it is the most visited country in the world.



POPULATION

- Around 66 million people live in France.

CURRENCY

- The currency is Euros. \$1 (Australian) = 0.59 euros approximately.

PARIS

- Paris is the capital city of France and more than 2 million people live there. It has many famous museums, art galleries, churches and other historic buildings and restaurants and shops. There is a Disneyland theme park near Paris.
- The Eiffel Tower is one of Paris's most well-known sights. It was built about 130 years ago for the 1889 World Exhibition and was, at the time, the tallest tower in the world.
- Paris is built around the river Seine.



LARGE CITIES

- Other large cities in France include: Marseille, Lyon, Toulouse, Nice, Nantes, Strasbourg and Bordeaux. Toulouse has the headquarters and aircraft assembly line for Airbus planes.

PROVINCES

- France is divided into different regions called provinces. Each has different weather, landscapes, food and traditions.

LANDSCAPE

- Some parts of France are mountainous and snowy, others have grassy, windy plains, some have rolling hills and there are also large forests.



- Mont Blanc is the highest mountain in France. People come from all over the world to ski at France's famous ski resorts including Chamonix in the Alps.



- France has long coasts along the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Some parts are rocky with high cliffs and stony beaches, other parts have long, wide, sandy beaches. France is separated from England by the English Channel in the north.



- Off the south-east coast of France is a rocky island called Corsica. After Napoleon Bonaparte lost the Battle of Waterloo against Britain, he was forced to live on this island. Napoleon was born there.



FARMING

- A lot of France's land is used for farming. Farmers grow many different crops such as wheat, potatoes, tomatoes, apples, grapes and sunflowers.

- Sheep, goats, chickens, cows and geese are farmed in France.

FOOD AND WINES

- France is famous for its wines, champagne and cuisine. It is especially well-known for its more than 600 types of cheese (sometimes very smelly), bread and patisseries (cakes). A famous dish is snails (les escargots) cooked in garlic butter.



WEATHER

- The weather in the south of France is hotter and drier than in the cooler north. Many French people spend their summer holidays (July, August) in southern seaside towns such as Cannes, Biarritz, Nice and Antibes.

FESTIVALS

- The Cannes Film Festival is a famous event held in the south of France.



RELIGION

- Many people in France follow the Roman Catholic religion and a smaller group of people are Muslims. Many do not follow any religion at all.

BASTILLE DAY

- There are various holidays and festivals celebrated in different areas of France. Bastille Day is France's national day and it is celebrated on 14th July

each year with fireworks and parades. It celebrates the French Revolution and the storming of the Bastille prison. The French Revolution marked the end of wealthy kings ruling France and the beginning of French democracy. King Louis the 16th had his head chopped off by guillotine as did his wife Marie Antoinette during the French Revolution. At least 40,000 people were killed.



Marie Antoinette



King Louis the 16th

FRENCH KINGS



- Not far from Paris (20 km) is the amazing palace and gardens of Versailles. It was built by the King Louis the 14th who was known as “The Sun King”. (He was the great-grandfather of King Louis the 16th who was executed.)

Palace of Versailles

WAR

Australian soldiers fought in France during World War I and World War II. The D-day landing in World War II, on 6 June 1944, happened on the beaches in Normandy (in the north of France). It was the largest seaborne invasion in history. The Allied soldiers – including British, Canadian, American and Australian forces – invaded Normandy because the Germans were occupying France.

FASHION AND PERFUMES

- France is famous for its fashion, perfumes and cosmetics. Coco Chanel created the beautiful perfume Chanel No. 5 and there have been many famous French fashion designers including: Christian Dior, Guy Laroche, Hubert de Givenchy, Jean Paul Gaultier, Jeanne Lanvin, Christian Louboutin, Christian Lacroix and André Courrèges.



Coco Chanel

SPORT

- France is famous for various sports including: cycling, rugby, tennis (Roland Garros), motor sports (French Grand Prix) and winter sports. The Tour de France is a famous cycling race held each year. Cyclists travel around 3200 km over 21 days and people from all over the countryside stand along the race route to watch and cheer.



The Tour de France



The French Open (Roland Garros)

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE



- Napoleon Bonaparte was a famous leader who fought many battles and built famous monuments (such as the Arc de Triomphe in Paris) to celebrate his victories.

MARIE CURIE

- Marie Curie was a famous French scientist who discovered that some materials give off invisible rays. These rays are called radiation and can be dangerous. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize.



MUSIC

- Traditional music varies from region to region and there is plenty of modern music too – rock, pop, heavy metal. Many modern stars sing French versions of familiar English songs and there are many live music venues.



Traditional piano accordion player

Quiz - Facts about France

Term 2 Week 3 Facts About France

* Required

Please write your full name below. *

Your answer

Please write your class below. *

Your answer

Where is France located? *

- Western Europe
- Asia
- Africa
- South America



The population of France is approximately *

- 2 million
- 25 million
- 300 million
- 66 million

The capital city of France is *

- Amsterdam
- Paris
- New York
- London

Paris is built along the river *

- Seine
- Loire
- Danube
- Thames



France is divided into provinces and each has its own unique *

- landscape and weather
- food and cuisine
- traditions
- all of the above

Which is the highest mountain in France? *

- Mt Kosciuszko
- Mont Blanc
- Mt Everest
- Mont Ventoux

The weather in the south of France along the Mediterranean coast is *

- warm
- cold
- icy
- snowy



A famous person from French history is *

- Napoleon Bonaparte
- Mr Bean
- Duke of Wellington
- Pierre Trudeau

In France, cheese is *

- generally disliked by the French
- not common in France
- only eaten by royalty
- very popular

Which of the following statements is false or NOT CORRECT? *

- Bastille day is celebrated on 14th July each year.
- King Louis the 16th and Marie Antoinette were killed during the French Revolution.
- Christian Dior is famous for fashion, perfume and cosmetics.
- The Normandy D-day landing in World War II took place in Germany.

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