

COUNTRY INTRODUCTION

# France

BY THE LITTLE EXPLORERS JOURNAL





# Welcome to France!

Before we dive in, meet Archie and his friends, the Intrepid Explorers. They are five adventurous Australian kids who travel the world on missions to recover stolen artefacts or protect endangered species. This time, they are headed to France. Before landing, they have decided to read up on the country's geography, history, and wildlife, and we hope you have fun learning with them!

And the adventure does not stop there. On our website, [www.thelittleexplorersjournal.com](http://www.thelittleexplorersjournal.com), under the resources page, we've also shared fun resources from their journey, including landmarks and animal cards, interactive activities linked to the country, and brain-teasing games to keep your kids learning and having fun every step of the way.



*merci*





# History of France

France has a long and fascinating history. Long ago, it was home to Celtic tribes called the Gauls. Then, the Romans arrived in the Rhone valley in the 2nd century and built cities, roads, and aqueducts. In the Middle Ages, France became a powerful kingdom with castles and knights. One famous figure from this time is Joan of Arc, a brave teenage girl who played a huge role in the Hundred Years' War. This was a long war between France and England that lasted from 1337 to 1453, over 100 years! The two countries were fighting over who had the right to rule France. In 1789, the French Revolution began, and the people removed the king and queen to create a republic. After that, Napoleon Bonaparte rose to power and became emperor. France was also involved in both World War I and World War II. Today, France is a democratic country with a president and parliament. Its past has shaped its culture, laws, and traditions.

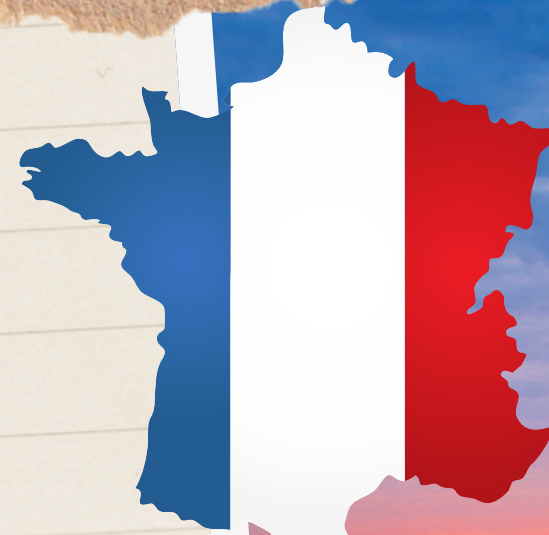
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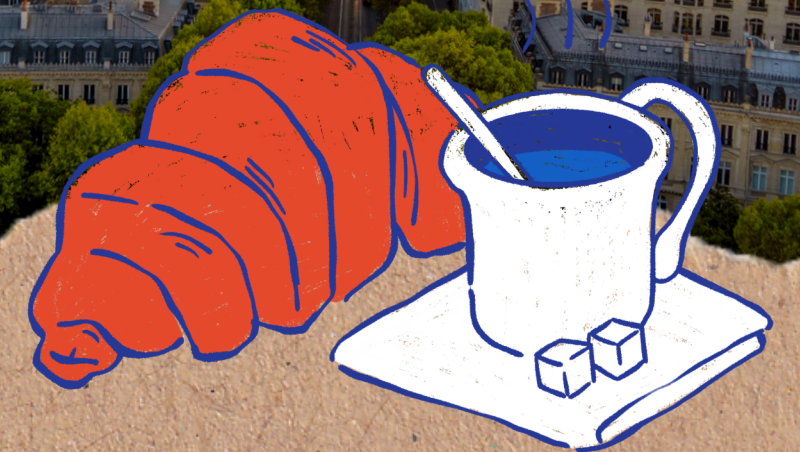
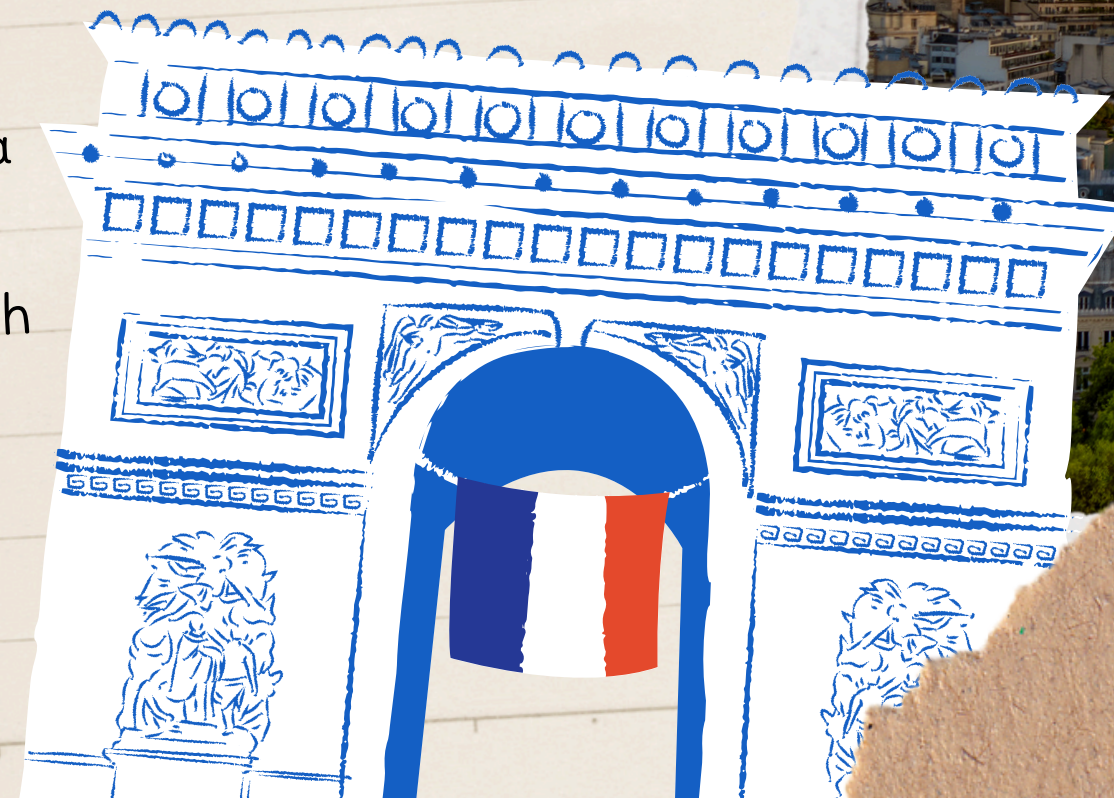


# Geography of France

France is the largest country in Western Europe and has many different landscapes. In the east and south, you'll find tall mountain ranges like the Alps and the Pyrenees. The south also has warm beaches along the Mediterranean Sea. The north and west have plains, hills, and long coastlines on the Atlantic Ocean. Rivers like the Seine and Loire run through the country. The Loire Valley is known for castles and vineyards. France also includes the island of Corsica in the Mediterranean. The land is used for farming, cities, and nature. Because of its geography, France has different climates in each region. This makes it a great example of a country with varied landforms. From its shape, France is often referred to in French as l'Hexagone ("The Hexagon")

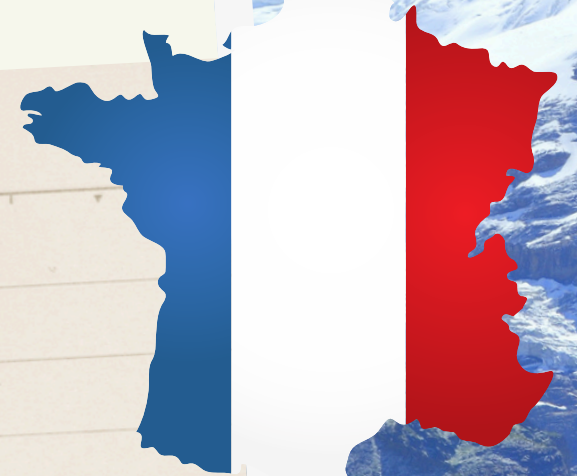


*Bonjour*

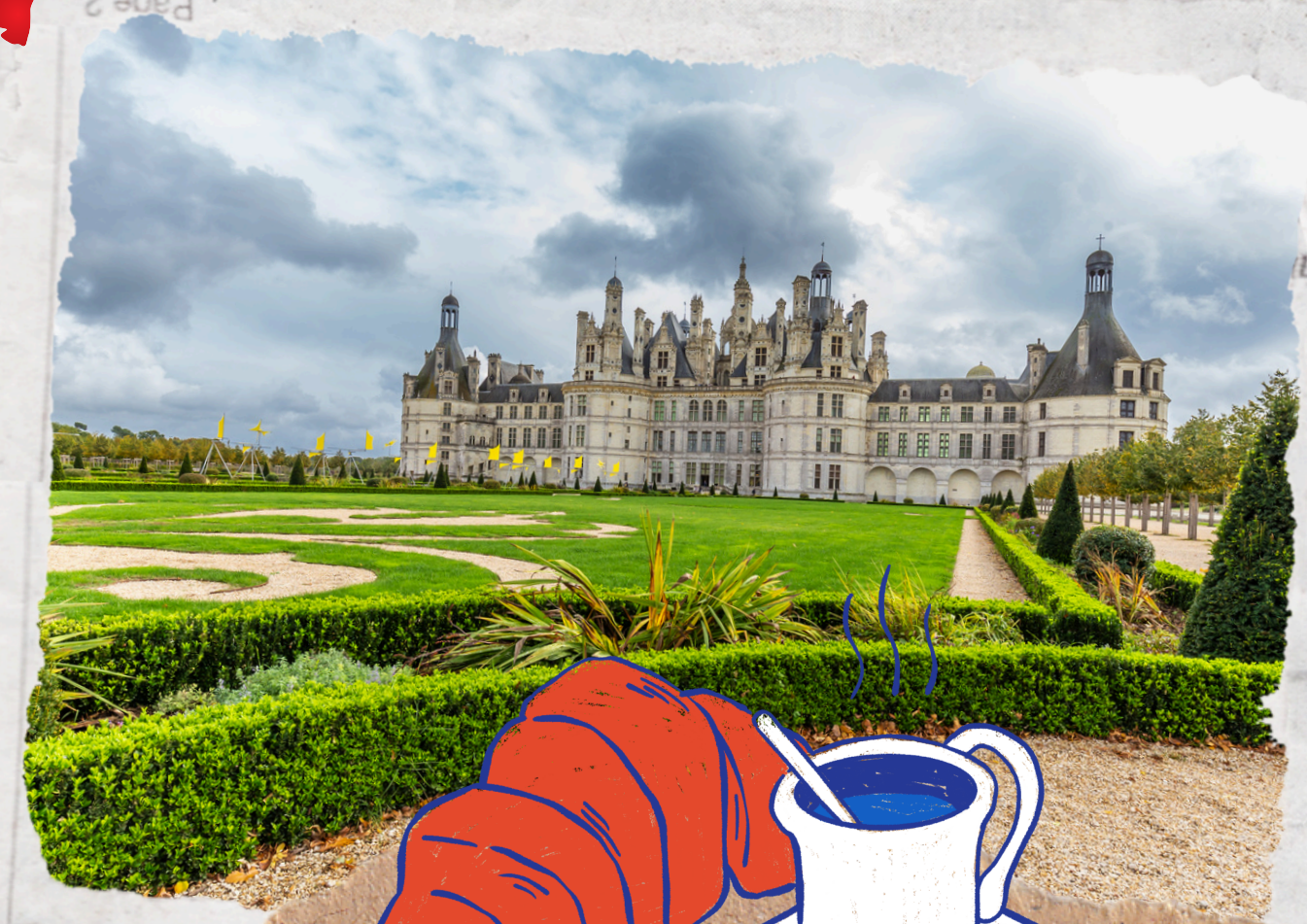




# Main attractions in France



*Bonjour*







# The French Economy

France has one of the biggest economies in the world. It is known for producing things like cars, airplanes, food, wine, and fashion. Farmers grow wheat, grapes, and other crops in the countryside. But many people work in services like banking, tourism, and technology. Paris is a major business and fashion centre. France also trades goods with many other countries. Its strong economy helps support schools, hospitals, and transportation. France was a founding member of the European Union (EU), joining in 1952 and uses the euro as its money.

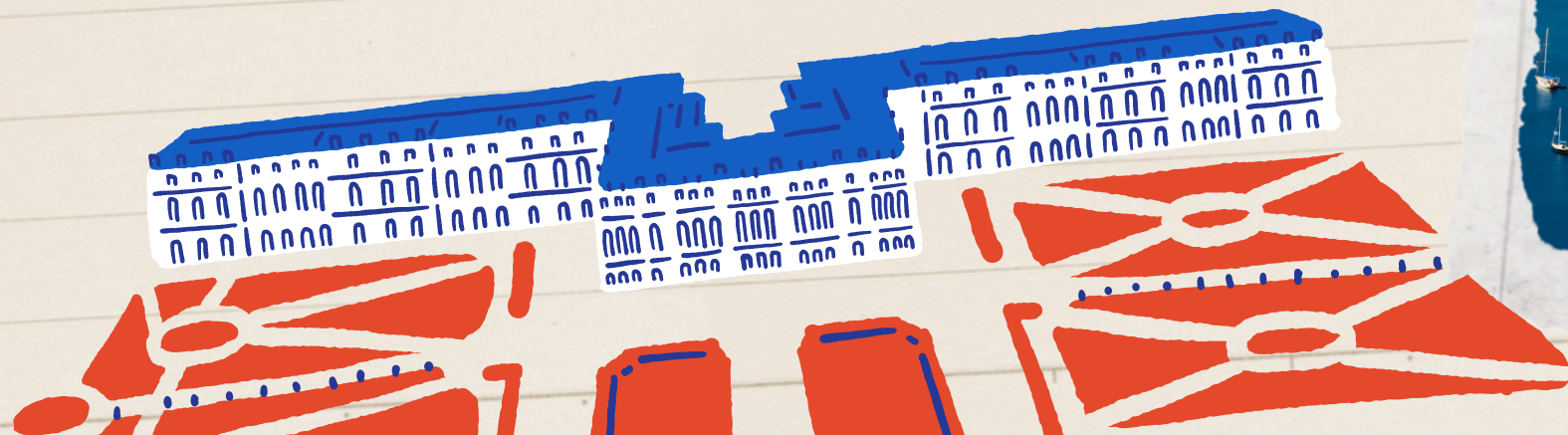
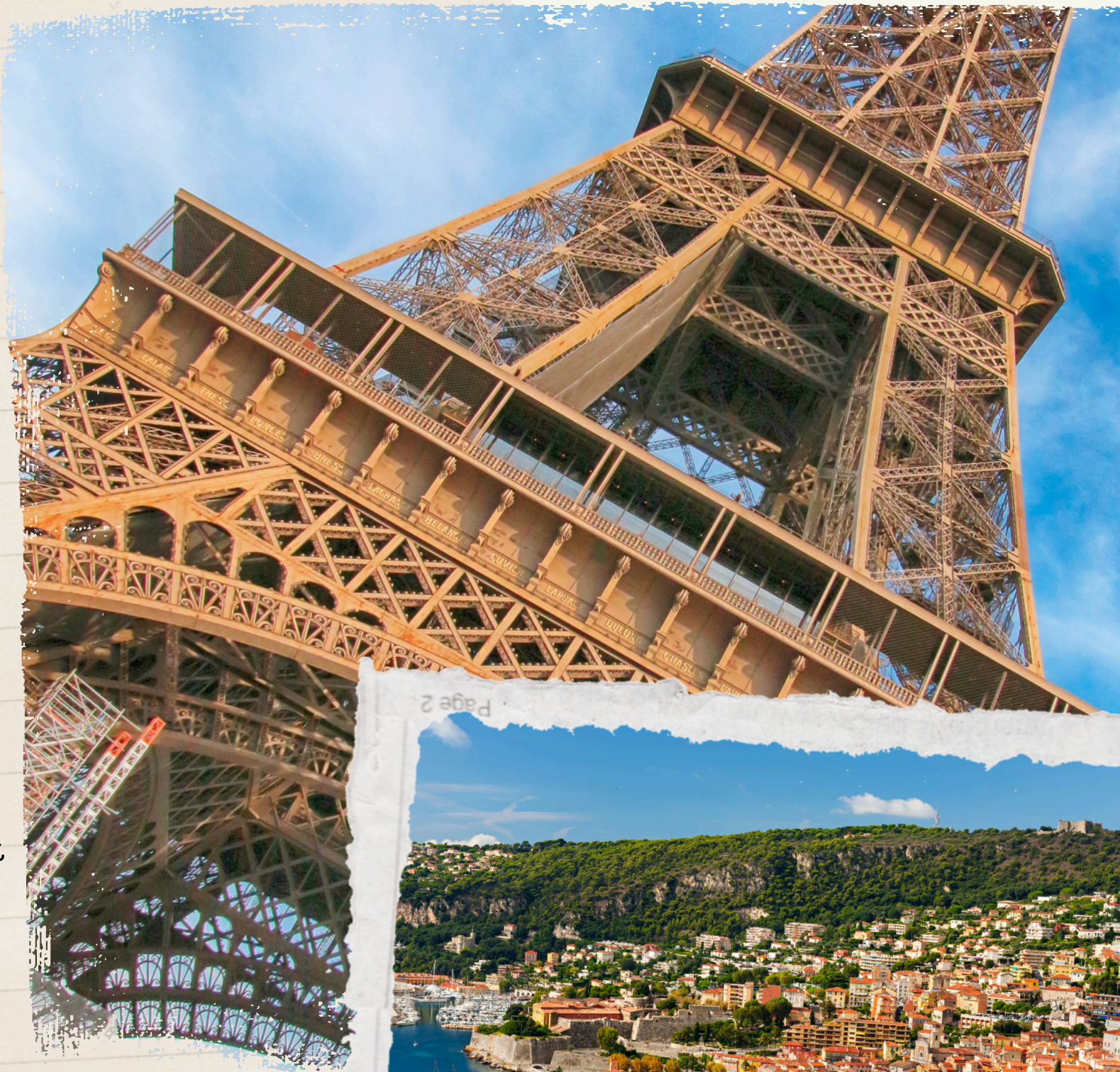
*Vive La France*





# Tourism in France

France is famous for amazing landmarks like the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the grand Palace of Versailles, and the island castle Mont Saint-Michel. People also love to try French foods like crispy baguettes, creamy cheese, sweet crepes, colorful macarons, and rich chocolate. France has many different places to visit — sunny beaches along the French Riviera, snowy mountains in the Alps and Pyrenees perfect for skiing, and peaceful countryside full of vineyards and lavender fields. There are thousands of museums and historic castles where visitors can learn about kings, queens, and important events from the past. France is also known for exciting festivals, like the Cannes Film Festival and Bastille Day celebrations, as well as its world-famous fashion shows.





# Spotlight on Corsica

Corsica is a beautiful island in the Mediterranean Sea and is part of France, but it feels like its own special world! It's famous for its big mountains covered in green forests, perfect for hiking and exploring wild animals like the mouflon, a type of wild sheep with big, curly horns. The island has lots of beaches with crystal-clear blue water where people swim, snorkel, and sometimes spot dolphins nearby. Corsica has its own language called Corsican, which sounds a bit like Italian, and many people on the island speak both French and Corsican. Did you know that Corsica is the birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte? He was a very famous general and leader from history. The island is also famous for unique foods like chestnut honey, cheeses made from goat's milk, and a special salty biscuit called "canistrelli." Corsica is a mix of wild nature, fascinating history, and strong traditions, making it an exciting place for adventurers and history lovers alike!



*Borghjannu*





# Wild Life in France

France is home to many different kinds of animals and plants that live in a variety of habitats. In the snowy mountains of the Alps and Pyrenees, you can find animals like ibex (wild goats), marmots (large ground squirrels), and golden eagles soaring high in the sky. Along France's long coastline, the seas are full of dolphins, seals, colourful fish, and even sea turtles. The country has many national parks and nature reserves that protect these animals and their homes. Grey wolves also live in France, mostly in the Alps and other quiet, forested areas in the southeast. Some other special animals, like the Iberian lynx, a wild cat that is very shy, and the Spanish imperial eagle, live in these protected areas.

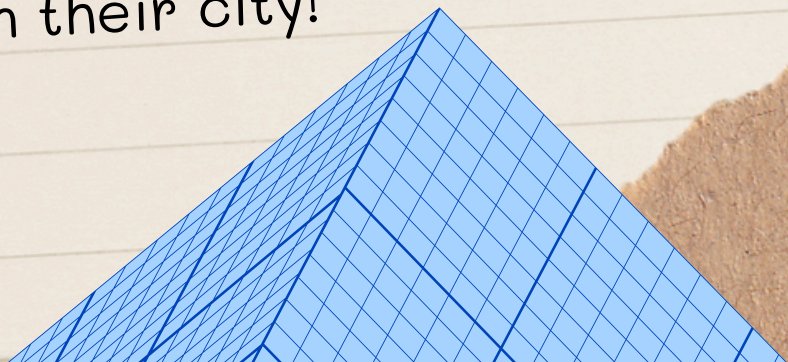




# Curiosities about France

*au revoir*

France is full of amazing facts and surprises! It has the third highest number of UNESCO World Heritage sites in the world, after Italy and China, these are special places that are important to history and culture, like the stunning Mont Saint-Michel and the ancient Roman ruins in Arles. French is a global language spoken in 29 countries across the world, from Canada to parts of Africa, making it one of the most popular languages to learn. The Eiffel Tower, which is now one of the most famous landmarks in the world, wasn't always loved, when it was first built, many Parisians thought it was ugly and didn't want it in their city!

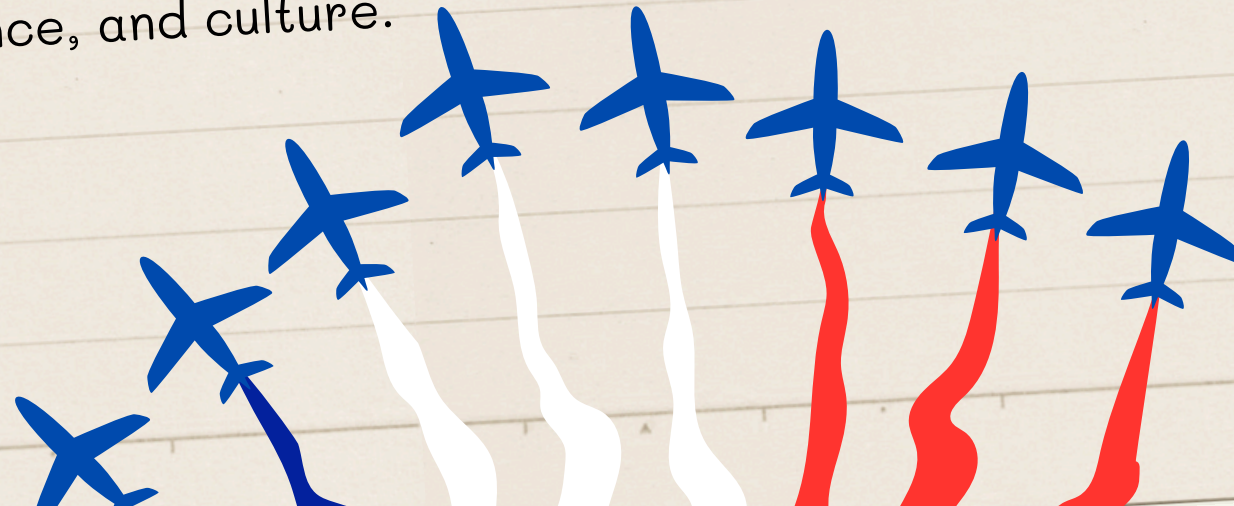
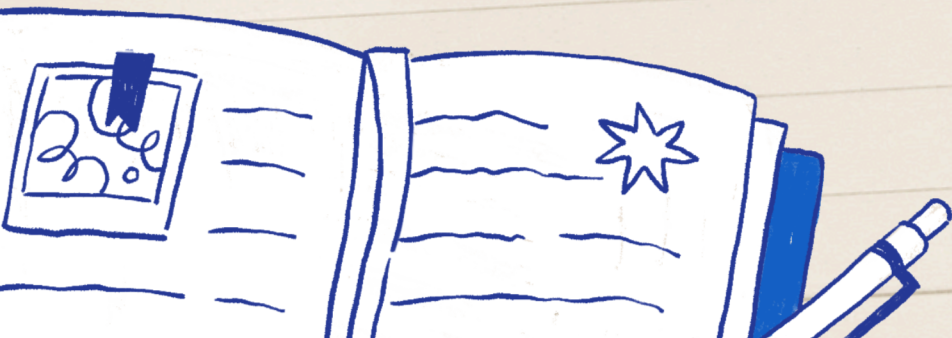




# French Festivals and Traditions

Bastille Day, celebrated every year on July 14th, is France's biggest national holiday. It marks an important event called the French Revolution, when the people fought for freedom and equality a long time ago. On this day, there are huge parades, fireworks, and parties all across the country, especially in Paris near the Eiffel Tower. Another famous event is the Cannes Film Festival, held every spring in the beautiful town of Cannes. People from all over the world come to watch new movies, meet actors, and celebrate the magic of film. France also loves music and art, which you can see during the Fête de la Musique, or Music Festival, held every June 21st. On this day, streets fill with musicians playing all kinds of music for free, and everyone joins in the fun to enjoy art, dance, and culture.

*Vive la France*

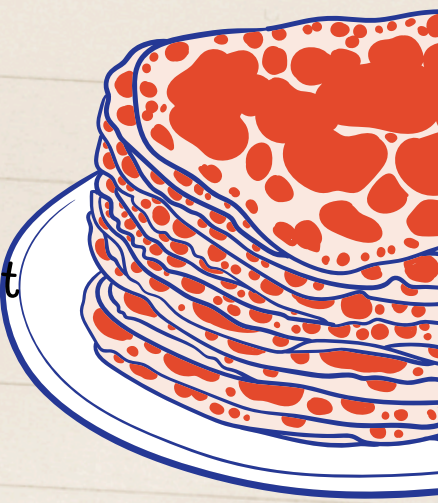




# French Culture and Cuisine

France is famous around the world for its high fashion, beautiful art, and amazing food. French cuisine includes tasty dishes like flaky croissants for breakfast, crunchy baguettes, and even snails, which some people enjoy as a special treat! Ratatouille, a colourful vegetable stew, is a favourite from the countryside. Cheese and wine are very important in French meals. There are hundreds of different kinds of cheese, from soft Brie to strong Roquefort, and each region has its own special flavours. French people love to take their time eating, often enjoying meals with family and friends. Café culture is a big part of everyday life in France, where people sit outside at small tables to drink coffee, chat, and watch the world go by. Food markets are common too, where fresh fruits, vegetables, and baked goods fill the stalls with delicious smells.

*bonne journée*





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