France

République Française



Unit Study



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France Timeline & Facts

BCE

- 600 The colony of Massalia is founded by the Ancient Greeks. This would later become the city of Marseille, the oldest city in France.
- 400 Celtic tribes begin to settle in the region.
- 122 Southeastern France (called Provence) is taken over by the Roman Republic.
- 52 Julius Caesar conquers Gaul (most of modern day France).

CE

- 260 The Gallic Empire is founded by Postumus. It would fall to the Roman Empire in 274.
- 300 The <u>Franks</u> begin to settle the region.
- 400s- Other tribes enter the area and take over different areas including the Visigoths, Vandals, and the Burgundians
- 476 The collapse of the Western Roman Empire.
- 509 Clovis I becomes the first King of the Franks uniting all the Frankish tribes under one rule.
- 732 The Franks defeat the Arabs at the Battle of Tours.
- 768 <u>Charlemagne</u> becomes King of the Franks. He will greatly expand the Frankish Empire.
- 800 Charlemagne is crowned the Holy Roman Emperor. He implements reforms including the first public schools and a monetary standard.
- 843 The Frankish Empire is divided between Charlemagne's sons creating regions that would later become the kingdoms of France and Germany.
- 1066 Duke William of Normandy conquers England.
- 1163 Construction begins on the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. It would not be finished until 1345.
- 1337 The start of the Hundred Years' War with the English.
- 1348 The Black Death plague spreads through France killing a large percentage of the population.
- 1415 The English defeat the French at the Battle of Agincourt.
- 1429 Peasant girl <u>Joan of Arc</u> leads the French to victory over the English at the Siege of Orleans.
- 1431 The English burn Joan of Arc to death at the stake.

- 1453 The <u>Hundred Years' War</u> comes to an end when the French defeat the English at the Battle of Castillon.
- 1500s A time of peace and prosperity for France.
- 1608 French explorer Samuel de Champlain founds Quebec City in the New World.
- 1618 The start of the Thirty Years' War.
- 1643 Louis XIV becomes King of France. He will rule for 72 years and become known as Louis the Great and the Sun King.
- 1756 The start of the Seven Years' War. It would end in 1763 with France losing New France to Great Britain.
- 1778 France becomes involved in the American War of Independence helping the colonies gain their independence from the United Kingdom.
- 1789 The French Revolution begins with the storming of the Bastille.
- 1792 The Louvre museum is established.
- 1793 King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette are executed by guillotine.
- 1799 Napoleon takes power overthrowing the French Directory.
- 1804 Napoleon is crowned Emperor of France.
- 1811 The French Empire under Napoleon controls much of Europe.
- 1815 Napoleon is defeated at Waterloo and sent into exile.
- 1830 The July Revolution occurs.
- 1871 The Paris Commune is declared.
- 1874 Impressionist artists hold their first independent art exhibition in Paris.
- 1889 The Eiffel Tower is built in Paris for the World's Fair.
- 1900 Paris, France hosts the second modern day Summer Olympics.
- 1907 France enters into the Triple Entente, an alliance with Russia and the United Kingdom.
- 1914 World War I begins. France is invaded by Germany.
- 1916 The <u>Battle of the Somme</u> is fought against Germany.
- 1919 World War I comes to an end with the Treaty of Versailles.
- 1939 World War II begins.
- 1940 Germany invades France.
- 1944 Allied forces invade at Normandy pushing back the German Army.
- 1945 The Germany army surrenders and World War II comes to an end in Europe.
- 1959 Charles de Gaulle is elected the President of France.
- 1981 Francois Mitterrand is elected president.
- 1992 France signs the Maastricht Treaty creating the European Union.
- 1998 France wins the World Cup soccer championship.
- 2002 The Euro replaces the French Franc as the official currency of France.

France Kistory

République Française (French Republic)

Capital: Paris

The land that today makes up the country of France has been settled for thousands of years. In 600 BC, a portion of the Greek Empire settled in Southern France and founded the city that is today Marseille, the oldest city in France. At the same time, Celtic Gauls were becoming prominent in other areas of France. The Gauls would sack the city of Rome in 390 BC. Later, the Romans would conquer Gaul and the area would become a productive part of the Roman Empire until the 4th century.

In the 4th century, the Franks, which is where the name France comes from, began to take power. In 768 Charlemagne united the Franks and began to expand the kingdom. He was named the Holy Roman Emperor by the Pope and is today considered the founder of both the French and German monarchies. The French monarchy would continue to be a great power in Europe for the next 1000 years.

In 1792, the French Republic was proclaimed by the French Revolution. This didn't last long, however, as Napoleon grabbed power and made himself Emperor. He then proceeded to conquer most of Europe. Napoleon was later defeated and in 1870 the Third Republic was declared.

France suffered greatly in both World War I and World War II. During World War II France was defeated and occupied by the Germans. Allied forces liberated the country in 1944 after four years of German rule. A new constitution was set up by Charles de Gaulle and the Fourth Republic was formed.

Population: 38 million (2020)

The Geography of France

Borders: Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Andorra, Monaco, maritime border with the United Kingdom, Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean, English Channel

Total Size: 547,030 square km

Size Comparison: slightly less than twice the size of Colorado, about the size of Texas.

Continent: Europe

General Terrain: mostly flat plains or gently rolling hills in north and west; remainder is mountainous, especially Pyrenees in south, Alps in east

Geographical Low Point: Rhone River delta -2 m

Geographical High Point: Mont Blanc 4,807 m

Climate: generally cool winters and mild summers, but mild winters and hot summers along the Mediterranean; occasional strong, cold, dry, north-to-northwesterly wind known as mistral

Major Cities:

PARIS (capital) 11 million Marseille-Aix-en-Provence 1.457 million Lyon 1.456 million Lille 1.028 million Nice-Cannes 977,000 (2009)

Major Landforms: French Alps, Jura Mountains, Pyrenees, Massif Central plateau, Gorges du Verdon canyon, Loire Valley, Corsica Island

Major Bodies of Water: Seine River, Loire River, Meuse River, Rhone River, Gulf of Lion, Bay of Biscay, English Channel, Strait of Dover, Etang de Berre lagoon, Lac du Bourget, Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean

Famous Places: Eiffel Tower, The Louvre Museum, Notre Dame Cathedral, Arc de Triomphe, French Riviera, Champs Elysees, Palace of Versailles, Les Invalides, Mont Blanc, Gorge du Verdon, Mont Saint-Michel, St. Tropez, Chateau de Chambord, Dune of Pyla

Economy of France

Major Industries: machinery, chemicals, automobiles, metallurgy, aircraft, electronics; textiles, food processing; tourism

Agricultural Products: wheat, cereals, sugar beets, potatoes, wine grapes; beef, dairy products; fish

Natural Resources: coal, iron ore, bauxite, zinc, uranium, antimony, arsenic, potash, feldspar, fluorospar, gypsum, timber, fish

Major Exports: machinery and transportation equipment, aircraft, plastics, chemicals, pharmaceutical products, iron and steel, beverages

Type of Government: republic

Divisions: The country of France is divided into 27 administrative regions. There are 22 regions in the main area of European France called "metropolitan regions" and 5 regions overseas. See the map to the right for the 22 metropolitan regions.

The overseas regions include French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, and Reunion. The largest regions by population are Ile-de-France (the largest and includes Paris), Rhone-Alpes, and Province-Alpes-Cote d'Asur (PACA).

National Anthem or Song: La Marseillaise (The Song of Marseille)

National Symbols:

Animal - Gallic Rooster
Bird - French Imperial Eagle
Motto - Liberty, equality, fraternity
Great Seal of France - A seal featuring Marianne, the Goddess of Liberty
Colors - Red, White, and Blue
Other symbols - the letters "RF" for the Republic of France, Marianne (Lady Liberty),

Description of flag:

The flag of France, also called the "Tricolour", was readopted in July of 1830. It consists of three equal vertical stripes of blue (left or hoist side), white (middle), and red (right). Sometimes the three colors are said to represent the three parts of the French motto: liberty (blue), equality (white), and fraternity (red).

National Holiday: Bastille Day, 14 July (1789)

Other Holidays: New Years' Day (January 1), Good Friday, May Day (May 1), Bastille Day (July 14), All Saints' Day (November 1), Armistice Day (November 11), Christmas (December 25)

The People of France

Languages Spoken: French 100%, rapidly declining regional dialects and languages (Provencal, Breton, Alsatian, Corsican, Catalan, Basque, Flemish)

Nationality: Frenchman(men), Frenchwoman(women)

Religions:

Roman Catholic 83%-88% Protestant 2% Jewish 1% Muslim 5%-10% unaffiliated 4%

Origin: The name "France" comes from the Latin word "Francia" which means "land of the Franks." The Franks were an empire in France during the Middle Ages.

Motto: 'Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité' (Liberty, Equality, Fraternity)

Currency: Euro, however, until 2002 French Franc

History:

In 700 - 500 BC the Celtic Gauls arrive in France. In 58 - 50 BC Roman Emperor Julius Caesar defeats the Gauls and France becomes part of the Roman Empire until 476 AD. French was ruled by kings for many centuries until the storming of the Bastille during the French Revolution in 1789. Then Napoleon becomes Emperor of the French Republic until he is sent to exile.



France shares land borders with eight countries. The bordering countries of France are Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Italy, Monaco, Andorra and Spain. The longest border is shared with Spain and the shortest with Monaco.

Mainland France, also referred to as Metropolitan France, is divided into 27 regions and these into 101 departments. Of the 101 departments there are also 5 ROM ('régions d'outre mer' meaning overseas regions) that belong to France.

Continental France is slightly smaller than the state of Texas in the USA.

It takes a one-hour-flight from London/England to reach Paris via airplane and a flight from Paris to New York/USA takes about 5.5 hours Regions of France



The 5 overseas departments of France are:

- 1. French Guyana in South America
- 2. Guadeloupe, an island in the Caribbean
- 3. Martinique, an island in the Caribbean,
- 4. Mayotte, an island in the Indian Ocean in Africa
- 5. La Reunion, another Indian Ocean island in Africa



French Landmarks

The Loire is the longest river of France with about 1,006 km/ 625 miles. The river passes through the cities Orleans and Nantes.

The Pyrenées are the longest mountain range in France. The mountain range is located in the South of France and forms a natural border between Spain and France. The Pyrenées are 430 km/ 270 miles long.



French Pyrenees

The highest mountain in France is the Mont Blanc, that is 4,810 m/15,780 ft high and stands at the border between France and Italy. This is the second highest mountain in Europe after Mount Elbrus.

France is generally a flat country with coastal plains and rolling hills in the north and west and high mountains in the south and south eastern parts.

Tourist Altractions

Paris: Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, Louvre (which you can see in the image to the right), Montmartre, Arc de Triomphe, the river Seine and many other great attractions



- Versailles: castle near Paris, once home of the French kings
- Lascaux Caves: for 17,000 years old rock paintings
- Côte d'Azur for turquoise blue sea and great beaches
- Corsica: island in the Mediterranean sea, known for being the birth place of Napoleon
- French Alps: great for hiking, skiing and snowboarding
- Provence: region with lavender fields and old historic towns like Avignon
- Mont St. Michel: island in northern France which can be reached on foot during low tide



Mont St Michel

French Language

French is the official language in France and it is also the second major language in Europe.

French is one of the Romance languages. The Romance languages, which include Italian and Spanish, have their origins in the Latin language. Today, French is the second most studied language after English and spoken by more than 300 million people around the world as first or second language.

Try these five useful expressions in French:

- bonjour good day
- salut hello
- *merci* thank you
- *je m'appelle...* my name is....
- bon appétit! enjoy your meal!

French People

Most of the French people in Metropolitan France (on the European continent) live in cities and urban areas. The three largest cities is France are:

• Paris: 11 million inhabitants • Lyon: 1.7 million inhabitants

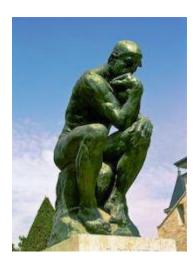
Marseilles: 1.6 million inhabitants

Lille, Toulouse and Bordeaux each have about 1 million inhabitants.

Gustave Eiffel (1832-1923), a French engineer who designed the famous Eiffel tower in Paris. The Eiffel tower is named after him. He also worked together with Auguste Bartholdi, designer of the Statue of Liberty in New York.



Eiffel Tower by Gustave Eiffel



Sculpture by Auguste Rodin

France is famous for the 'beaux-arts' (fine arts). The city was and is still home for many artists and great painters, artisans and sculptors.

Famous French painters are:

- Claude Monet
- Pierre-Auguste Renoir
- Edgar Degas
- Paul Cezanne

Among the most famous French composers are **Maurice Ravel** (composer of '*Bolero*') and **Georges Bizet** (composer of the opera '*Carmen*'). Children all around the world love French literature, like the famous "The Three Musketeers" by **Alexandre Dumas** and "The Little Prince" by **Antoine de Saint-Exupery**.

French political leader **Napoleon Bonaparte** (1769-1821) was born on Corsica. He reformed the French laws. He declared himself Emperor of the French in 1804. Napoleon's army was defeated by the British in the Battle of Waterloo (now in Belgium) in 1815. Napoleon was exiled to the island St. Helena in the South Atlantic where he died in 1821

The current president of France is **Emmanuel Macron** who became the youngest president in the history of France, with 39 years of age.

MORE Famous French People

Marie Antoinette - Queen who was beheaded during the French Revolution

Josephine Baker - Civil rights activist and singer

Charles de Gaulle - a French army officer and statesman who led the Free French Forces against Nazi Germany in World War II. French soldier, writer, statesman, and architect of France's Fifth Republic. He was the leader of the Free French resistance.

Louis Braille - Invented Braille system

Coco Chanel - Fashion designer

Rene Descartes - Philosopher and mathematician

Charles de Gaulle - World leader

Joan of Arc - French heroine and warrior

Antoine Lavoisier - Father of modern chemistry

Louis XIV - King of France (Sun King)

Yo-Yo Ma - Musician

Tony Parker - Basketball player

Louis Pasteur - Scientist

Albert Schweitzer - Philosopher and doctor

Georges Seurat - Painter

Emma Watson - Actress

Zinedine Zidane - Soccer player

French Food

The French main dishes contain: fresh vegetables, meat and cheeses. French cuisine is well known for its freshness and high quality dishes. The French people enjoy their main meal in the evening and this meal often consists of three courses starting with a 'hors d'oeuvre', a starter dish which often is soup or a salad and bread, then the main course and afterwards some cheese or fruit.

The bread you will buy in France in a typical French *boulangerie* (bakery) is mostly white wheat bread or bread sticks, called *baguette*.

Make sure to read our separate article on <u>'Food in France'</u>, but let's quickly tell you some typical French food:

- Baguette: long thin white bread stick
- *Croque Monsieur*: grilled sandwich with ham and cheese. *Croque Madame* is the more heavy version with ham, cheese and a fried egg on top
- Escargots: snails cooked in garlic butter are considered a delicacy in France
- Foie Gras: goose liver paté
- Ratatouille: vegetable stew
- Pain au chocolat: similar to a croissant filled with chocolate
- Crêpes: very thin pancakes with sweet or savoury fillings



French Crepes



Baguette - French Bread



Macarons

Macarons are the delicious, sweet meringue cookies filled with buttercream.



Tarte Tatin

This 'upside-down' apple tart made with apples caramelized in butter and sugar.



Croissants



Rare black truffle

Truffles are rare kind of mushrooms. They are very expensive, so only small quantities are used. The dried truffles are grated or sliced over pasta and meat dishes or added to sauces, salads or soups. This mushroom grows near oak and hazelnut trees.



Bouillabaisse

Bouillabaisse is seafood stew and typically made with fresh bony fish, shellfish, mussels, vegetables, herbs and olive oil. The origins of the dish are the fish stews cooked by the fishermen in Marseilles who used to cook big pots of fish and let the stew boil and then simmer for a long time before eating the meal together with their friends and families.



Salade Nicoise

This typical French salad includes lettuce, canned tuna, black olives, tomatoes, onions, hard boiled eggs and sometimes anchovies, caper berries and green beens. It is named after the city of Nice and thus the name means 'Salad from Nice'. It is either eaten on its own as a light meal or as a starter.



Ratatouille

Ratatouille is a thick stew including tomatoes, bell peppers, onions, garlic, courgettes (also called zucchini) and aubergines (also called eggplants). It is mainly eaten as vegetable stew, but there are variations which also include meat.



1,600 KINDS OF CHEESE!

France Fun Facts

The name France comes from the Latin word Francia, which means 'country of the Franks'.

French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, and Reunion are also recognized as a part of France.

In 2012, the population of mainland France was just under 63 million (62,814,233). Another 2.8 million (2,816,459) are split between French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte and Reunion.

Mainland France belongs to the continent of Europe. Bordering countries are Andorra, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Spain, and Switzerland.

The Alps mountain range on the border of France and Italy is home to France's highest mountain, Mont Blanc, which stands at 4,807m high (15,771 ft).

French is the second most studied language in the world after English.

France is the most visited country in the world, with over 80 million visitors every year.

The Louvre is the most visited art museum in the world. The famous Mona Lisa painting is on display in this museum.

During World War II, Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy in northern France. The first day of these landings is called D-Day.

The famous <u>Eiffel Tower</u> in Paris was built as the entrance point for the 1889 World Fair. It is one of the most visited monuments in the world.

The Millau Bridge in southern France is the world's tallest bridge and France's tallest structure. At its highest point, it stands 343m (1125 ft) above the ground.

France was the second country to host the modern Olympic Games in 1900 in Paris. Paris also hosted the games again in 1924. Three winter Olympics have been hosted in France.

The most famous road bicycle race in the world, the Tour de France zig zags through the French landscape.

<u>Louis Pasteur</u> was a French scientist who made many discoveries in the fields of chemistry and microbiology.

Turning a baguette upside down is unlucky in France.

The croissant was actually invented in Austria.

France is known as L'Hexagone, ("the hexagon") due to its geometrical shape.

French was the official language of England for about 300 years, from 1066 to 1362.

Some claim that French toast isn't French, but was actually invented by a man called Joseph French.

Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite ("Liberty, Equality and Fraternity") is the national motto of France.

The French coastline adds up to 3427km. This is roughly the distance from Paris to Petra.

Kilts originated in France, not Scotland.

The Tour de France cycle race has been running for over 100 years.

With a land area of 547,000 square kilometres, France is the largest country in the European Union.

France is by far the most popular tourist destination in the world, with some 82 million visitors annually.

A 1910 law in France forbids couples from kissing on train platforms to avoid delayed departures.

The average French citizen eats 500 snails each year.

There are over 400 kinds of cheese made in France.

France was the second leading consumer of wine worldwide.

France is the largest country in the EU and sometimes called 'the hexagon'

France is the world's most popular tourist destination

French was the official language of England for about 300 years

Louis XIX was the king of France for just 20 minutes, the shortest ever reign. The French king only enjoyed 20 minutes of royal fame after his father Charles X abdicated, leaving him to ascend the French throne in July 1830. After this brief period, Louis-Antoine also abdicated in favor of his nephew, the Duke of Bordeaux. This makes him the joint shortest reigning monarch in history. He shares the astonishing record with Crown Prince Luís Filipe, who technically became king of Portugal after his father was assassinated. But he also died from a wound 20 minutes later.

The French Army was the first to use camouflage in 1915 (World War I)

In France, you can marry a dead person!

One rather shocking fact about France is that under French law, you can marry posthumously in exceptional cases. This is on the condition that you can prove that the deceased had the intention of marrying you while they were alive. You must also receive permission from the French president. The most recent approved case was in 2017.

The French invented tin cans, the hairdryer, and the hot air balloon.

France was the first country in the world to ban supermarkets from throwing away food - Stores must now donate surplus groceries to food banks and charities.

The first public screening of a movie was by the French Lumière in 1895

France has more Nobel Prize winners in Literature than any other country

Europe's highest mountain is Mont Blanc in the French Alps, standing at a height of 4,807 meter.

The world's first artificial heart transplant (2013) and face transplant (2005) both took place in France.

The Louvre is the most visited museum in the world, 9.6 million visitors in 2019.

France produced the most expensive bottle of wine in the world - A 73-year-old bottle of French Burgundy became the most expensive bottle of wine ever sold at auction, fetching an eye-popping \$558,000.

You might get a 'fish' stuck on your back on April Fool's Day.

Now, here's a whacky fact about France. If you happen to be in the country on 1 April, don't be surprised if children try to stick paper fish to your back and call you a 'Poisson d'Avril' (April Fish). This tradition is supposed to have started in the 16th century when King Charles XIV of France changed the calendar and those who continued to celebrate the end of the New Year at the end of March were ridiculed as fools. So watch your back!

The French eat around 30,000 tons of snails a year Live snails must have a ticket to ride high-speed trains

The croissant was actually invented in Austria in the 13th century
The beloved French pastry that we all know and love is actually an adaptation of a *kipferl*; a Viennese specialty which dates back to the 13th century. As the story goes, Austrian artillery officer, August Zang, founded a Viennese bakery in Paris in 1839. He began serving the *kipferl* and it quickly became popular with the locals. So much so, in fact, that French imitators began creating their own French version which they called the *croissant* due to its crescent shape.

Turning a baguette upside down is seen as unlucky in France According to folklore, placing a baguette or a loaf of bread on the table upside down puts the people around you at risk of misfortune, or worse – death. This quirky superstition supposedly stems from medieval times when executioners were allowed to grab things in shops without paying for them. Hence, bakers would leave an overturned loaf of bread out for them. And if you came to touch the bread or placed a loaf upside-down yourself, you then had to mark it with the cross before eating it to ward off bad luck. *Yikes!*

France produces around 1.7 million tons of cheese a year, in 1,600 varieties

French law forbids couples from kissing on train platforms

The tradition of wearing a white wedding dress originated in France in 1499

France has the Most Time Zones in the World. The US has 6. France has 12!

Raise Children Well, Get Rewarded

The medal is called the Medal of the French Family and it is awarded to those who have raised several children with dignity. If you are considering moving to France, chances are, you'll be surrounded by some very involved and responsible parents who care deeply for the well-being of their children.

France Invented A System Of Measurement

Gabriel Mouton was a vicar at St. Paul's Church which is located in Lyons, France. He introduced the concept of a decimal system, which ended up being the beginning of a massive change in measurement starting in the late 1600s. As such, if you are used to the Imperial method of measurement, adjusting to the Metric system may be a bit of a shock to your brain. Before traveling to France, make sure you have an idea of the difference between miles and kilometers, inches and centimeters, and Fahrenheit versus Celsius.

Women Are Finally Legally Allowed To Wear Pants

While this law was not actually enforced consistently, Paris, France was a little behind on the women's empowerment movement. This was probably because no one in France truly paid attention to it anymore, but just the same, the law needed to be updated! According to the law, women needed to gain permission from the local police if they wanted to "dress like a man" and wear trousers. Thankfully, in 2013, the French government overturned this very outdated law and now, Parisian women are free to wear whatever they want.

The Name "France" Isn't French

Ironically, the name France is technically not French. France is actually from a Germanic tribe and the original name was actually Frank. This word meant "free" which is why it was chosen for this beautiful, progressive country.

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