

Welcome to France!

France is a country located on the western coast of Europe. It is a large country; Russia and Ukraine are the only European countries with more land than France. The Atlantic Ocean forms an inlet called the Bay of Biscay that borders the western coast of France. The northwestern border is formed by the English Channel. The northern border is the Strait of Dover. The northeastern border is formed by the countries of Belgium and Luxembourg, and the eastern border is formed by Switzerland, Germany, and Italy. The Mediterranean Sea, Spain, Andorra, and the sovereign principality of Monaco form the southern border. The island of Corsica in the Mediterranean Sea is also part of France.

Paris is the nation's capital and largest city. Other major cities include Marseille, the second-largest city; Lyon, the third-largest city; Toulouse; and Nice.

France is a world leader in manufacturing. It is known for its chemical and steel industries and for its production of automobiles.

About four-fifths of the people in France are city-dwellers. The remaining people live in rural areas. People often choose to live in old apartment buildings because they enjoy the antique surroundings of the old buildings even though it means they have to use old plumbing and have things like appliances that are not as modern. Those who cannot afford to live in the city itself live in suburbs just outside the city and use mass transit to reach jobs and other destinations in the city. France is known around the world for its fashion, art, and cuisine.



France at a Glance

1. In what part of Europe is France located? _____
2. What two European countries are larger than France? _____
3. What forms France's western border? _____
4. What forms France's northwestern border? _____
5. What forms France's northern border? _____
6. What forms France's northeastern border? _____
7. What forms France's eastern border? _____

8. What forms France's southern border? _____

9. Where is the island of Corsica located? _____
10. What is the capital of France? _____

What Else Can You Discover?

With a parent's or teacher's permission, use an encyclopedia, Internet, or another resource to find answers to the following questions.

1. What is the population of France? _____
2. What colors are the French flag? _____
3. What is the highest mountain in France? _____
4. What is the longest river in France? _____
5. What river flows through Paris and empties into the English Channel? _____
6. What mountain range separates France and Spain? _____

Destination: Paris

Find Paris on the map below and circle it. Paris, nicknamed the “City of Light,” is the capital and largest city in France. At night, floodlights are turned on to show the beauty of the many palaces and monuments located there. The Seine River flows from east to west through about 8 miles (13 km) of Paris. The city of Paris was founded on an island in the Seine River more than 2,000 years ago when the Romans found a Celtic tribe living on the island and built a colony there. It grew and spread out to the banks of the river and beyond. As the city grew, walls were built around it to protect it, with new walls built as the city continued to grow larger. The sites of those walls are now boulevards through the city.

Paris was involved in a great deal of the fighting during both World War I and World War II. In World War I, although the German troops did not capture the city, their large guns did some damage. In the First Battle of the Marne River, Germans reached their closest point, about 30 miles (48 km) from Paris. In World War II, German troops occupied Paris when they broke through defenses, and the French government declared Paris an open city to keep it from being destroyed. Paris was freed by the Allies in August 1944. After the war, Paris was restored and new construction was done.

The Champs Elysees is the most famous avenue in Paris. Its landscaping includes fountains and beautiful flower beds. The two largest parks in Paris have restaurants, zoos, lakes for boating, and more. There are many museums, cathedrals, and government buildings in Paris.

Paris is considered a world leader in art with its many museums. It also has one of the largest libraries in the world and a university that dates back to the 1100s.



Paris at a Glance

1. What is Paris' nickname? _____
2. What are used to show the beauty of Paris at night? _____
3. About how much of Paris does the Seine River flow through? _____
4. Where did the city of Paris begin over 2,000 years ago? _____

5. What is located where the sites of ancient walls once were? _____
6. At what World War I battle did German forces get within about 30 miles (48 km) of Paris?

7. What did the government declare Paris to be so it wasn't destroyed in World War II?

8. When did the Allies free Paris in World War II? _____
9. What is the most famous avenue in Paris? _____

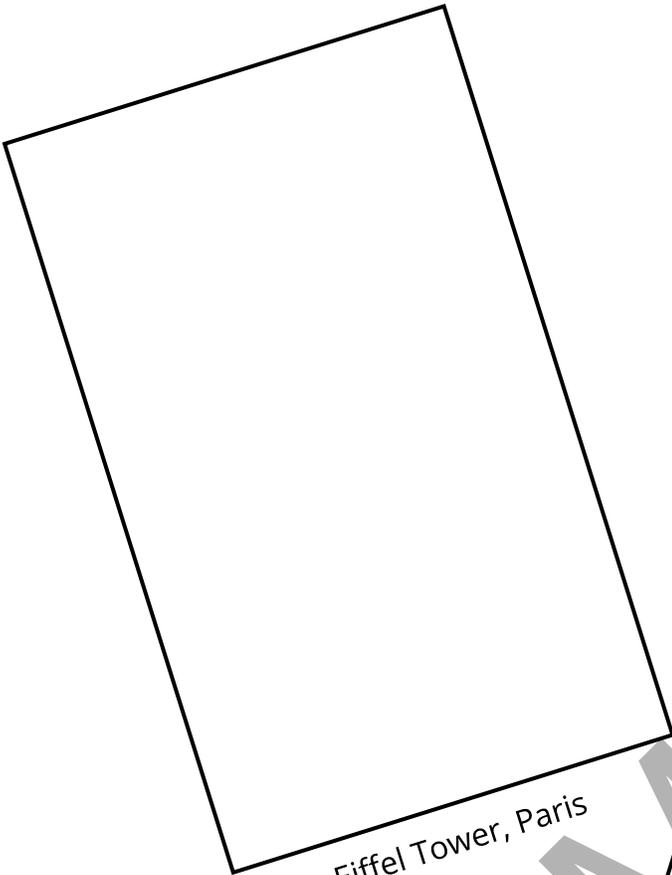
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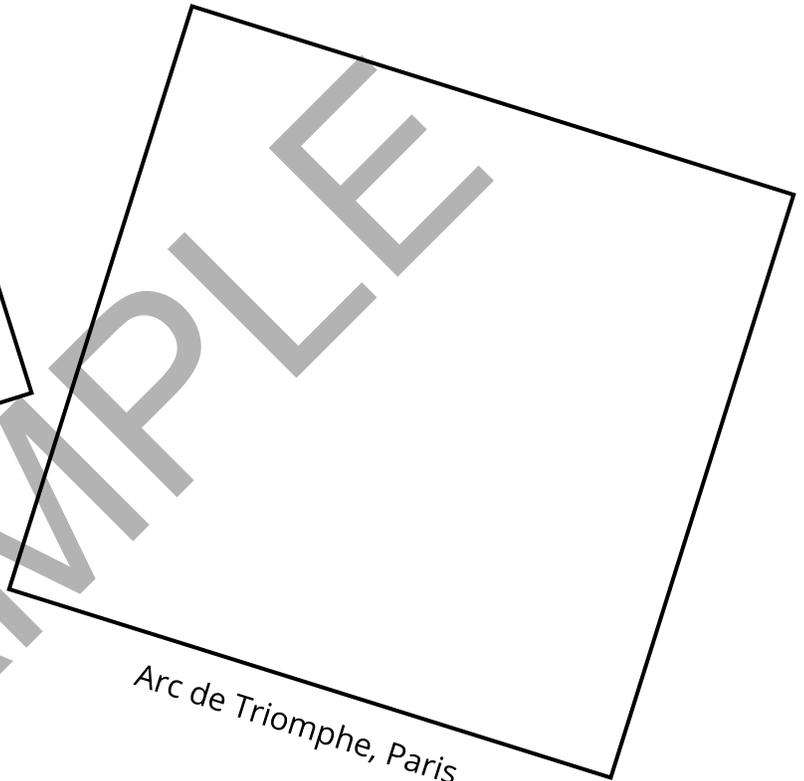
1. What is the population of Paris? _____
2. About how far southeast of the English Channel is Paris situated? _____
3. Who was the first ruler of the Kingdom of the Franks who made Paris the capital in 507?

4. When did the French Revolution take place? _____
5. What famous French emperor ruled from Paris between 1804 and 1814 and again in 1815?

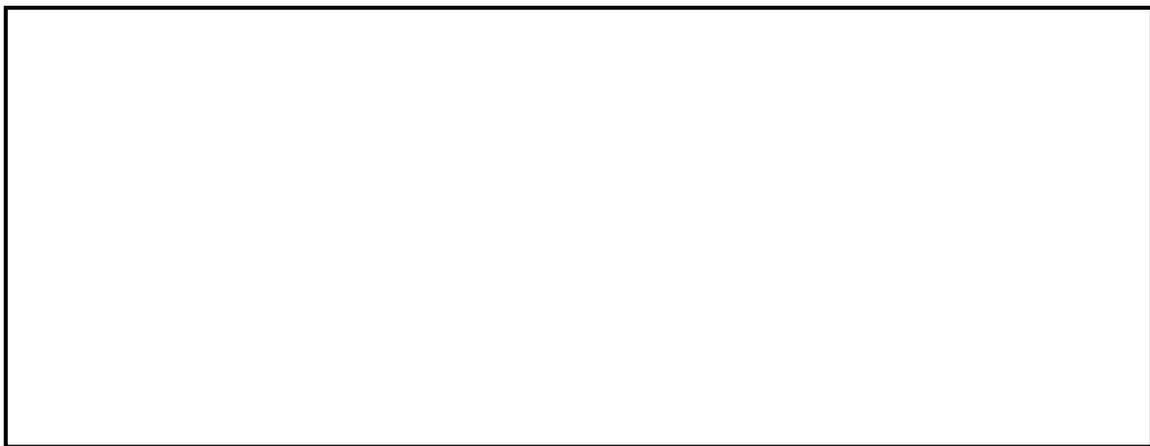
My Trip to France



Eiffel Tower, Paris



Arc de Triomphe, Paris



Centre Pompidou, Paris

