



Teacher's Guide to



© 2016 Little Passports, Inc.

**About this guide:** Little Passports has developed this guide to provide ideas, activities and resources for teachers using the World Edition subscription in the classroom.

Lesson: Discover France

Suggested Use: geography, social studies

### What's Inside

Discover France 2	2
Geography 3	;
Culture 3	;
Classroom Activities5	,
Pop Quiz7	7
Vocabulary8	3
Bonus Activity Sheet 9	)

## **DISCOVER FRANCE**



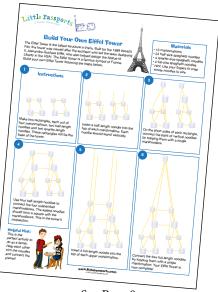
**France Profile:** France is the largest country in Western Europe. It is a very old country, first unified into a territory called Gaul by the Romans around 51 BC. In 843, long after the fall of Rome, the region was renamed West Francia, later to be called France. It was ruled by its own kings for the next several centuries. The French Revolution began in 1789, which contributed to the end of the French monarchy and the eventual rise of democracy in France. Today, France is well known for its worldclass cuisine, art and fashion.

## What's included in the Little Passports France Package?

- Letter from Sam and Sofia
- 4-page activity sheet
- Souvenirs—in this edition, a camera viewer with slide photos of France
- Photo postcard from Sam and Sofia
- Stickers to place on the suitcase, passport and map
- Luggage tag, with code to enter the online Boarding Zone

#### Teacher's Guide Bonus:

• Activity Sheet: Build Your Own Eiffel Tower!



Pop Quiz Answer Key: 1-c, 2-a, 3-b, 4-c, 5-d

See Page 9



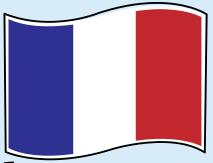
LITTLE PASSPORTS - WORLD EDITION

2

## GEOGRAPHY

Facts

- Capital City: Paris
- Official Language: French



France

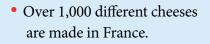
France is surrounded mostly by oceans, seas and mountains: the North Sea and the English Channel to the northwest, the Atlantic Ocean to the southwest, the Pyrénées Mountains and the Mediterranean Sea to the south, and the Alps to the east. Because of the country's size and this variety of geographic borders, France has a wide variety of geographic features. The tallest mountain in France, in the French Alps, is also Western Europe's tallest: Mont Blanc (15,781 feet). Despite the popularity of major cities like Paris, France is made up mostly of wild and rural land: about 25% of the country is forested while about 50% is countryside.

The capital of France, Paris, is one of the most popular cities in the world. Nicknamed the "city of light," Paris is home to some of France's best known architectural wonders, restaurants, art museums and stylish shops. The Eiffel Tower was designed for the 1889 World's Fair by the team of a respected French architect named Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel. Despite many Parisians disliking the appearance of the tower at the time, it became a permanent feature in Paris due to its value as a radio tower, which became extremely useful in World War I by intercepting enemy signals.

Another important site in Paris is the Louvre, one of the world's largest art museums. The Louvre is housed in a palace built by King Francis I in 1546 and the museum itself first opened in 1793. Among its wide collection, it contains ancient Egyptian artifacts, ancient Greek sculptures and paintings from across European art traditions, including the *Mona Lisa* by Leonardo da Vinci.

### CULTURE

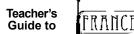
#### **Fun Fact**





#### Cuisine

A highly important aspect of French culture is the gastronomic meal. Usually enjoyed on special occasions, the gastronomic meal is different from other meals in its structure: it generally consists of the *apéritif* (a drink before the meal) and at least four courses of food (starters, meat or fish, cheese, followed by dessert). Often a salad is served before the cheeses, making it five courses. It's this structure that many gastronomic restaurants follow all over the world. The food in France is as diverse as each of its regions. The Basque Country, a region in southwestern France, is popular for its ham and sausage dishes, seafood and for its spices. The Basque country is right on France's border with Spain; therefore, many foods are shared between the two countries in this region. Another region





is Burgundy, where wine and beef are most commonly enjoyed. Dishes here are often accompanied with Dijon (French mustard) and escargot (snails). All over France, an undeniably popular food is cheese: France produces at least 350 different types of cheese.

#### **Cuisine clips:**

- Video about the French gastronomic meal <u>https://www.youtube.com/</u> watch?v=6nKBBb72J4k
- French food slideshow <u>http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/</u> z2wk87h/revision?slideshow=1

#### Art

France has been a center for art in Europe for centuries. One particular art movement got its rise in Paris: Impressionism. Painters like Claude Monet, Edgar Degas and Camille Pissarro launched the Impressionist style with an exhibition in 1874. Impressionism is best known for depicting modern life through vague, often blurry figures and forms. The style emphasizes lighting through its choices of colors and shadows. Among the art world's best known painters of all time is Claude Monet, who grew up in Normandy, a region in northern France that Monet captured quite often in his Impressionist paintings. Some of Monet's most famous works include his paintings of water lilies and portraits of his family.

#### Slideshow of selected Monet paintings:

• http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/cmon/hd\_cmon.htm

#### Tour de France

The Tour de France is an annual 2,200-mile bicycle race through the countryside, mountains and cities of France and surrounding countries. The race began with 60 cyclists in 1903 competing for a prize of 20,000 francs. The idea for the race was more of a marketing stunt than a passion for cycling: a journalist named Geo Lefevre came up with it in order to sell copies of his sports newspaper. The first race was much tamer than to-day's, stretching only 1,500 miles and going through mostly flat country-side. But still, no one had ever seen a race like it before. Today, the Tour de France takes place every summer for over 20 days. 198 cyclists participate, all divided into 22 teams of nine riders. Each team is followed by a car that offers directions and support to the riders. The Tour de France is often referred to as the most challenging bicycle race in the world.

#### Tour de France video:

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2gXpuNR0Pc





FRANCI



## **CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

- 1. Look at the wall map: have students locate Paris, the North Sea, the English Channel, the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea and the Alps.
- 2. Watch the video (or a section of the video) about the French gastronomic meal.
  - <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nKBBb72J4k</u>
  - a. Discuss: What types of ingredients did you notice going into the meal? Do the dishes look different from or similar to the types of meals that you have at home? How do you think all the work that goes into making such a big meal of various different dishes reflects the importance of food in French culture?
- 3. Look at the short slideshow of different French foods as a class.
  - http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/z2wk87h/revision?slideshow=1
  - a. Discuss: What would you not want to try? Why?
- 4. Research: Have students research some dishes from a particular region of France and talk about it to the class.
- 5. Look at the slideshow of selected Monet paintings as a class (note: to see the slideshow, click on the painting image at the top of the page).
  - http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/cmon/hd\_cmon.htm
  - a. Discuss: What do you notice about how Monet models the style of Impressionism? Why? What stands out to you? What do these paintings make you think and feel? How might the sort of blurry nature of the landscapes in many of these images make them look more or less realistic? How does the use of light and shadows in these paintings make them look more or less realistic?
- 6. Create: Have students attempt their own Monet-inspired Impressionist drawings or paintings.
- 7. Watch the video of Tour de France clips.
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2gXpuNR0Pc
  - a. Discuss: Watch how fast the riders are going and imagine keeping up that pace for over 20 days and over 2,000 miles! How do you think these riders prepare for such a big race?
- 8. Read Sam and Sofia's letter from France.
  - a. Discuss: What do you think a *boulangerie* is, based on the context? What do you think of the way in which the French celebrate Three Kings' Day? Do we have any similar traditions for holidays here?

- 9. Activities: Make copies of pages 1 and 4 from the activity booklet included and have students complete the activities.
- 10. Make a chart on the board with a column titled "Geography" and a column titled "Culture." Ask students to tell you things that they learned about France, and fill in the columns with the respective facts. Alternatively, repeat facts from the lesson to students and ask them whether it is a fact about geography or about culture. Hang the chart up in the classroom somewhere for students to remember what they learned about France.
- 11. Passports: Have students design a stamp in their passports that represents something (or several things) that they learned about France.

FRANC



# POP QUIZ

Read each question. Circle the letter next to the correct answer.

#### 1. Which of the following mountain ranges runs through France?

- a. The Rockies
- b. The Himalayas
- c. The Alps
- d. The Andes

#### 2. Which of the following is the name of a world-famous art museum in Paris?

- a. The Louvre
- b. The Prado
- c. The Uffizi
- d. The Metropolitan Museum of Art

#### 3. What is escargot?

- a. A fine cheese
- b. A dish of snails
- c. A type of mustard
- d. A soup dish

#### 4. What is one of the subjects that Claude Monet painted frequently?

- a. Cats
- b. Stars
- c. Water lilies
- d. Deserts

#### 5. Roughly how long is the Tour de France?

- a. 100 miles
- b. 4,000 miles
- c. 250 miles
- d. 2,200 miles

FRANCI



### VOCABULARY

- Alps A mountain range in western Europe.
- Apéritif The drink before the gastronomic meal.
- Cycling The sport of bicycle riding.

**Democracy** – A form of government in which a country's citizens hold power and exercise it through a system of representation involving free elections.

- Dijon mustard A mustard from Dijon, France.
- Eiffel Tower an iconic tower in Paris built for the 1889 World Exhibition.
- **Escargot** A food dish consisting of snails.
- Gastronomy The study and art of preparing high-quality food.
- Impressionism An artistic style that focuses on feeling and experience through its use of light, shadow and colors.
- The Louvre A famous art museum in Paris housed in a former royal palace.
- Monarchy A form of government in which one ruler (a king or a queen) governs.
- Revolution The overthrow of a government or social order.
- Territory An area of land under the control of a ruler or government.
- Tour de France An annual professional bicycle race first held in France.

FRANC



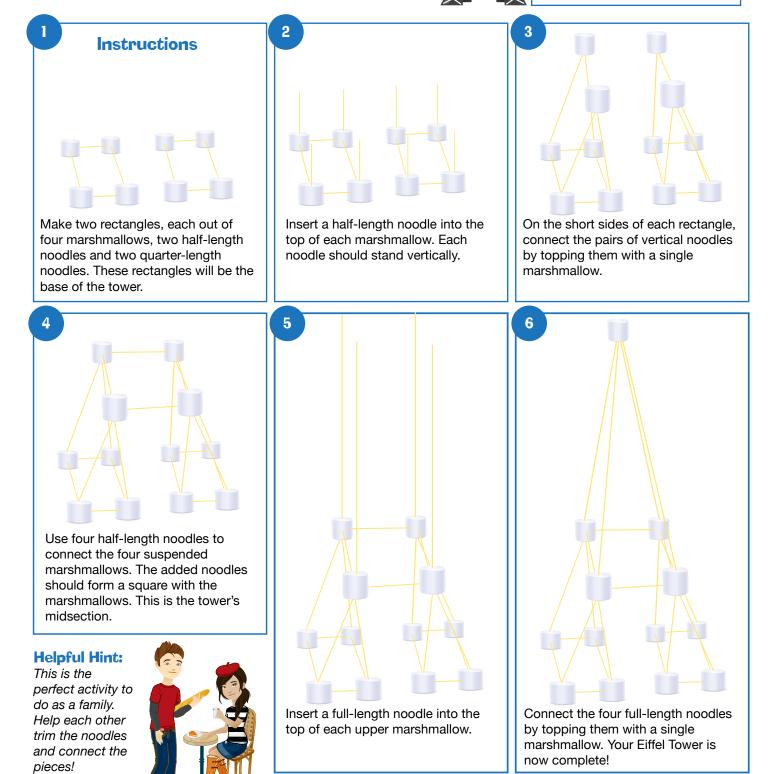


#### **Build Your Own Eiffel Tower**

The Eiffel Tower is the tallest structure in Paris. Built for the 1889 World's Fair, the tower was named after the architect who led the team designing it, Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel, who also helped design the Statue of Liberty in the USA! The Eiffel Tower is a famous symbol of France. Build your own Eiffel Tower following the steps below.

#### **Materials**

- 13 marshmallows
- 24 half-size spaghetti noodles
- 4 quarter-size spaghetti noodles
- 4 full-size spaghetti noodles
- \* Hint: Use your fingers to snap whole noodles to size



www.littlepassports.com © 2015 Little Passports, Inc.