

Traveling Around The World: Welcome To France!

By Maureen Castle
Grade 6

France is one of the most well-known countries in the world. Many know it for its delicious food or for the Eiffel Tower. Others know it for its capital, Paris, the city of love. But there is more to know about France.

France has a population of about 66 million people. Paris has a population of 2.2 million people. The official name of France is the French Republic. People in France use euros or francs for currency (money). One US dollar is 0.905645 euro. The country's motto is "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity." They have a democratic government, which means they vote for their leaders. The president is Francois Hollande and the prime minister is Manuel Valls.

Much of France is hills and mountains and it borders Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Belgium. France has many scrumptious recipes. One dish is called crepes, which are very thin pancakes with filling. Crepes can be sweet or savory. Another dish is called Escargots, which is a fancy way of saying snails. It may sound gross, but they are very popular. Another mouthwatering pastry is pain au chocolat, which is similar to a croissant filled with chocolate.

Want to eat something healthy? Try a bowl of ratatouille, which is vegetable stew. Have you ever seen the lovely sight of Lady Liberty, aka The Statue of Liberty? France gave her to us as a gift. Interestingly, the statue is made of copper. It was originally golden-brown. When copper ages, it turns green. That is why old pennies,

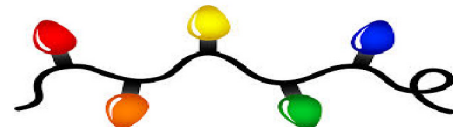
which are also made of copper, turn mint green.

France's history includes some gory times. France was originally ruled by kings and queens until the French Revolution of 1789. The revolution started a war. Napoleon Bonaparte (the general) then became the emperor until his exile. France is divided into 27 regions. The French language is the second major language in Europe. French is also one of the Romance languages. And no, this isn't the kind of romance like a sunset and a candlelight dinner.

Romance languages are languages that have Latin roots. That means they all started as Latin. The five main Romance languages are Spanish (410 million speakers), Portuguese (216 million speakers), French (80 million speakers), Italian (60 million speakers) and Romanian (25 million speakers). In closing, Vive la France! (Translation: Hurray for France!/Long Live France!)



The Most Joyful Time Of the Year



By Vivian Rong
Grade 6

*It's that time of the year
again*

*It's time to spread the joy
and have some fun
Snuggle up at home like it's
your cozy den
Say hello to snow and
goodbye to the sun*

*It's time to decorate trees
It's time to play Dreidel
Over oceans and seas
Even that cute baby in the
cradle*

*Is celebrating the most
wonderful time of the year*

*So get together with friends
and family*

*Watch the snow fall
gracefully
And enjoy this time together
happily
Take advantage of this time
of the year.*

