

FRANCE

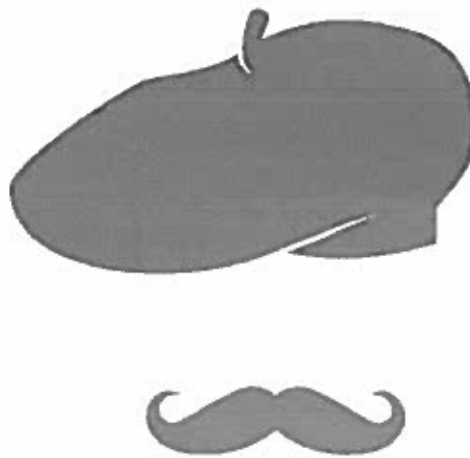
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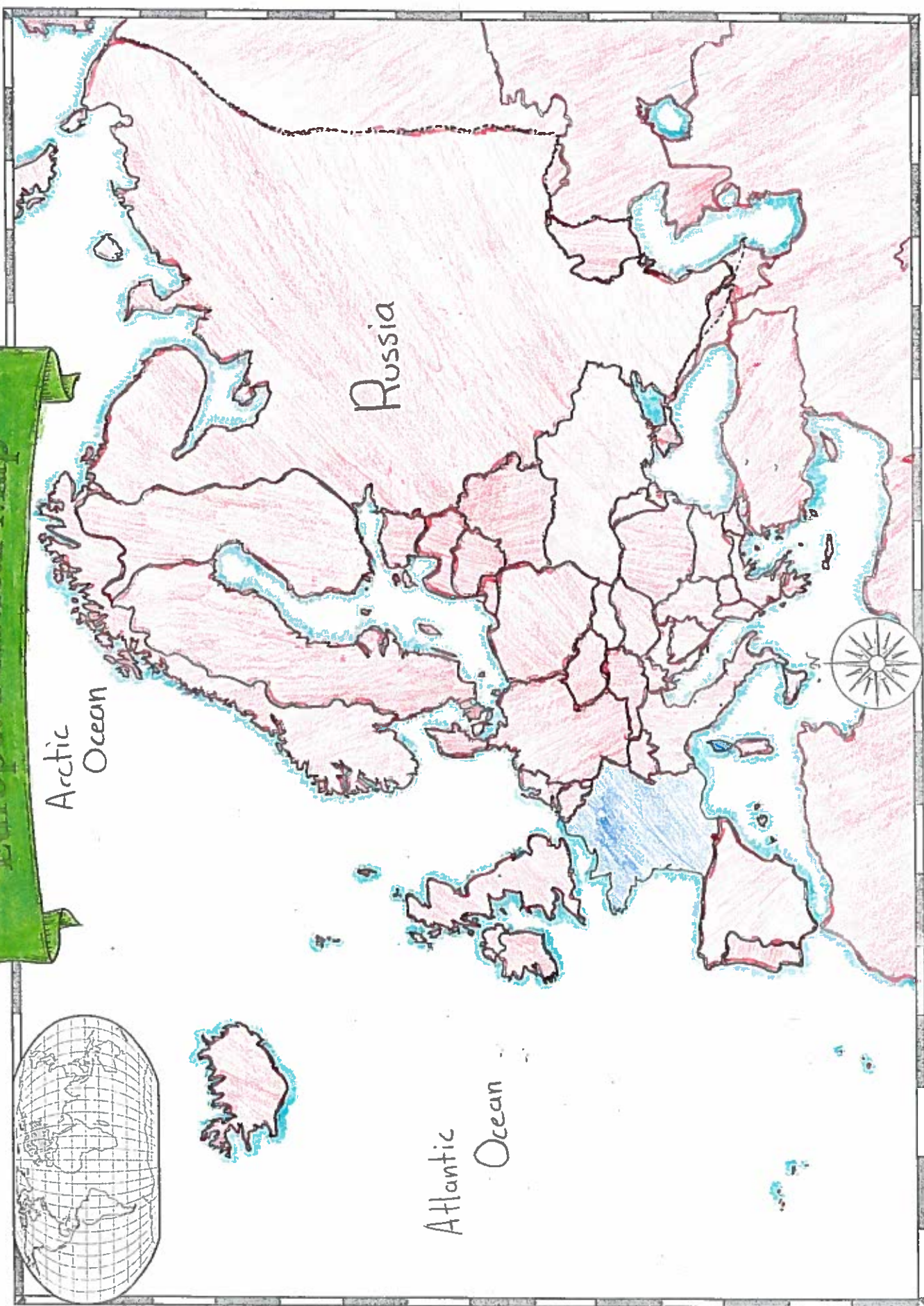
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Introduction 😊

Ok, so have any of you ever wondered why Iceland is called Iceland, when it's not very icy? Well then, you've come to the wrong place for answers! Today, you little dumplings, will learn about France! The first thing that comes to mind when you think France, is probably, Paris or, the Eiffel tower, but there is so much more to France than the City of lights! Learn what France is all about in my country project!



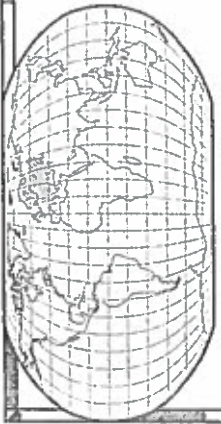
Europe: Political Map



Russia

Arctic
Ocean

Atlantic
Ocean



Location

Wait a second, where's France? For those of you who don't know, France is in Europe. The Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea, the North Sea, the Bay of Biscay, the Ligurian Sea and Gulf of Lion, are all large bodies of water that touch the country.

France is actually located on the Prime Meridian, so it is in the West, East and North hemisphere. To be exact France's range is between 5°W and 8°E and 42°N and 51°N. It is above the Tropics of Cancer and under the Arctic Circle. Spain, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Italy, the UK and Andorra, are surrounding countries of France. Now you know for sure, France isn't floating in the middle of space!



Population

67,364,357? That many people live in France! Out of that, 77% live in urban areas and the other 33% live in rural areas. There are about 113 people per km². The death rate is 13 per 1000. Some of the major cities in the country are Paris, Nice, Lyon, Marseille, Bordeaux, Strasbourg, Montpellier, Nantes, and Toulouse. I bet the person who named Nice, found it a “nice” place!

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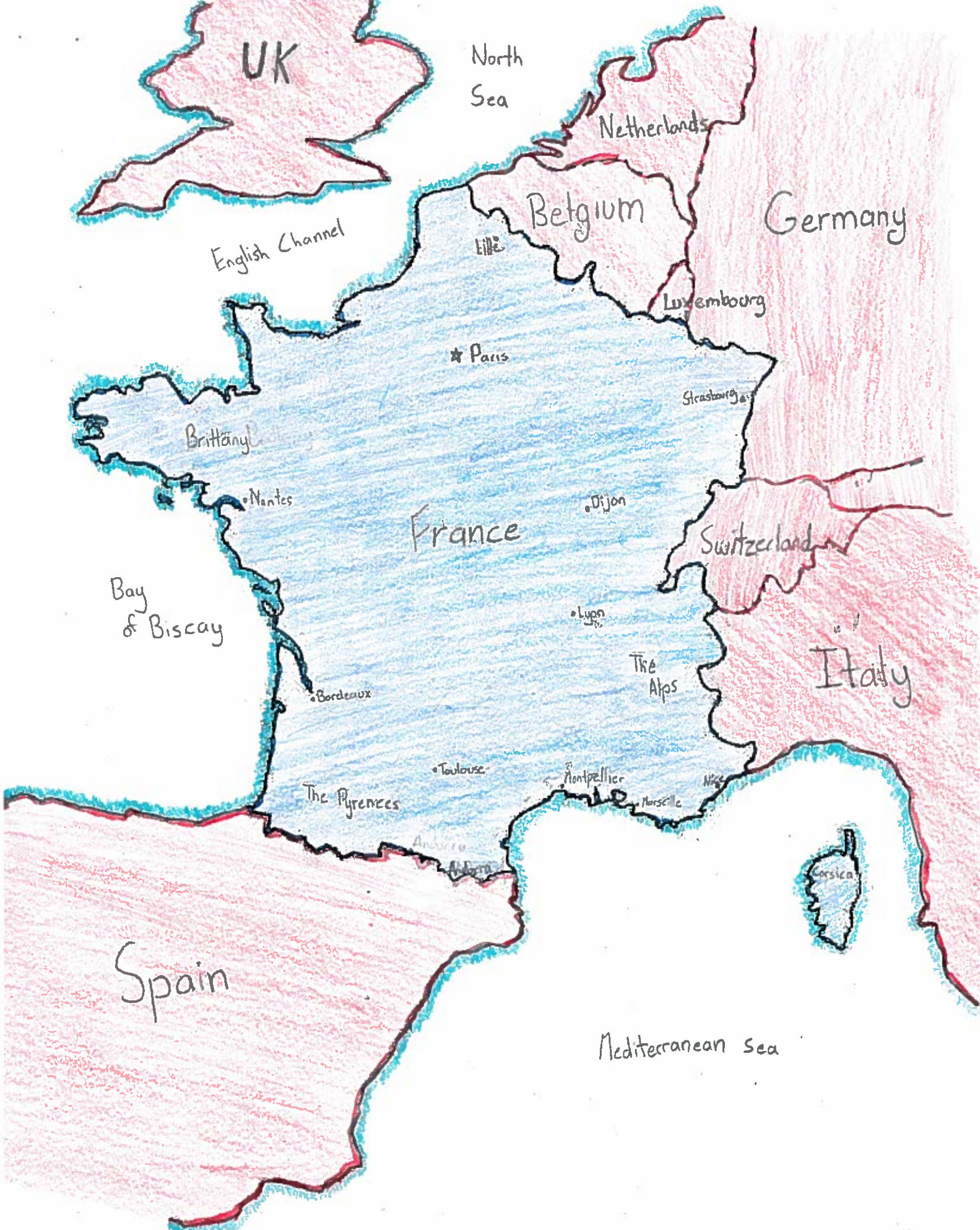
Economy

Dollars! Pesos! Pounds! Wans! Yuan! What are all of these? Money! In different places, there are different forms of payment. In France they use, Euros! One euro is equivalent to \$1.52 in Canadian.

France has trading partners with Belgium, China, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, UK and USA. The imported goods are automobiles, chemicals, iron, steel, machinery, petroleum products and pharmaceuticals. Goods that are exported are aircraft, automobile, chemical, machinery and wine. I hear France is known for some great wine!

Climate

Canada? Cold. France? Well, in the southeast, there are warm, wet winters and hot dry summers. The east is landlocked, there are cold winters and warm summers. In the Northeast, mild winter, cool summers and frequent rain. Southwest? Warm dry, fierce wind and the mistral blows down Rhone Valley in the spring and the summer. You are now prepared for the weather in France, if ever you go there.



UK

North Sea

Netherlands

Belgium

Germany

English Channel

Lille

Luxembourg

★ Paris

Strasbourg

Brittany

• Nantes

• Dijon

France

Switzerland

Bay of Biscay

• Lyon

The Alps

Italy

• Bordeaux

• Toulouse

• Montpellier

• Marseille

Nice

The Pyrenees

Andorra

Albania

Corsica

Spain

Mediterranean Sea

Physical Geography

There are some terrible terrains in this world, but what is France like? There are mostly flat plains, with hills in the Northern and western parts. There are mountains in other parts particularly the Pyrenees in the south, and the Alps in the east. Brittany is a rocky peninsula in the West of France. At the western coast there are marshes and sand dunes. The east is landlocked. It may be uncommonly known, but the island Corsica is also part of France.

Some of the major rivers in France are Rhone River Delta, Seine River, Loire River and Gerome River. France has an area of 547,030 sq. km. The highest elevation is Mount Blanc, which is in the Alps. The lowest elevation is Rhone River Delta, 2m below sea level. Let's just say those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine!



The Flag

Flags! A great way to symbolize ones' country! The flag of France is divided in to three vertical parts, on the left is blue on the right red and in the middle white. The colours on the flag represent liberty, equality and brotherhood. It is known as the Tricolore, first used in 1794 after a revolution happened, to take over the monarchy. It's called the Tricolore, but you only need two colours to draw it!



Political Geography

France wouldn't be where it is today without a leader, or two; the president of France today, is Emmanuel Macron. The president is the head of state, while the prime minister, currently Édouard Philippe, runs the government. France has 22 metropolitan regions and 4 overseas regions. The well-known capital city of this country, is Paris. Now I'm wondering if France had something against "monarch" butterflies, because now it's a hierarchy!



Religion

France is made up of many different people and many different people, will have many different backgrounds! Religion is part of that; in France there is 85% Roman Catholic, 8% Muslim, 2% Protestant, 1% Jewish and 4% of other religions. Two of these religious holidays are l'Assomption on Wednesday, August 15 (Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary) and November 1st, All Saint's Day. Let's just say there are many diverse people in many diverse places!

Food and Drink

All places have their own special foods, and for France there's no exception! Some of the more known foods include cheese, wine, baguettes, Soupe à l'Oignon Gratinee (Onion Soup) and Quiche au saumon et Crevettes (Salmon and Shrimp Quiche). Opera cake, Éclairs, Macarons, Croissants, Kouign-anann, Madelines, Canelés, Palmier and Petit four are some of the popular desserts. Man, now I'm hungry!

Leisure

What are holidays? To me holidays are days we celebrate, they are days we honour people, times we give thanks, they are excuses for a day off, a way for big enterprises to get money, but most importantly, holidays are a time we remember. On July 14, 1789 the people of Paris took the Bastille by storm, because they were frightened that they and their reps, would be attacked by the royal army or the king's oversea groups of soldier mercenaries. In France this day is known as *la Fete nationale*. In English, Bastille Day.

People always find a way to entertain themselves, sports are usually the best way to have fun and get exercise. There are many sports played in France, some of the more popular ones are Football (soccer), Tennis, Rugby, Basketball, Motor Sports,

Handball and Judo. Huh, I wonder what Handball is? Handball is sort of similar to Squash and Football (Soccer), but instead hit and thrown with the hands, it is a team game played in a walled court. Now go forth, and play Handball!

Languages

Bonjour! That's "Hello!" in French. There are many languages all around the world. In France the main dialect is French, but there are other languages that are slowly declining like, Provençal, Breton, Alastian, Corsican, Catalan, Basque, Flemish, Occitan and Piccard. *S'il vous plait*, that's how you say "Please" In French. *Merci de lire ce paragraphe sur les langues, au revoir!* (Thank you for reading my paragraph on languages, goodbye!)

Fun France Facts

One of the things France is known for is famous landmarks. There are many landmarks in France, some of the more popular ones include the Eiffel Tower, the Basilique de Sacré Cœur (Basilica of the Sacred Heart), the Louvre Museum, Notre Dame de Paris and Arc de Triomphe. The Palace of Versailles is also a well-known place when it comes to France. It was where the royals would stay since 1692 under Louis XIV, until the beginning of the French Revolution, that occurred in 1789 under Louis XVI. If you ever go to France these would be great places to visit!

French Fries Special Edition

Soooo...French Fries. Why? I decided I would take it upon myself, to do research, on a question always asked; but never answered. Why, are they called *French Fries*? It was believed that these delicious fried sticks were first made by Belgians. Supposedly, the Belgians fried up small fish to eat with there meals, but when the lakes and rivers froze over the fish were hard to get. So, they came up with the idea of cutting potatoes into strips and frying them.

At first the French weren't eating potatoes, because they believed the potatoes gave people diseases, such as leprosy. But one man, Antoine-Augustine Parmentier, after being held prisoner in Prussia and having to eat potatoes, was convinced they were not that bad.

In 1772 the Paris Faculty of Medicine proclaimed that potatoes were in fact an edible source of food. He began a campaign, to encourage potatoes' popularity in France. Only after a famine, where people had to look to potatoes for a meal, did they become popular. They became so popular that they turned the royal garden at Tuileries into potato fields! They were mostly widespread in Paris were vendors would sell them, calling them *frites*.

It is unknown if the Belgians introduced the *French Fries*, to the French during the Austrian-Franco war or if the French

introduce it to the Belgians, or if they both came up with it individually. Whatever case it is, the French were still the ones who first brought the fried golden strips to Britain and America. They became popular in fast food chains and were sold as ***French Fries!***



Why?

I chose France for one specific reason and countless other reasons. The specific reason is, is that if I want to learn about a country, I want to choose a country I know about, but not really. So, instead of choosing the country I came from, I chose France. I also chose this country, because I have always wanted to go there. For the food, for the sight seeing, the Louvre Museum, and many, many other reasons. I would like to say thank you to my teacher Mr. Real M, because why would I be sad about getting free knowledge?

Conclusion

You don't know how relieved I felt when I finally wrote this paragraph! Not because I hated this project, but because I finally got to go to bed! Then I realized I still had to proof read it and print it! Anyway, I hope you liked this free knowledge about France!

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