

Key Facts

- The first people to live in Paris were a Celtic tribe called the Parisii, over 2000 years ago. They settled on what is now called the Île de la Cité, an island in the centre of the city.
- When the Romans arrived in 52BCE, they built a town and called it Lutetia.
- France isn't just one big landmass in Europe – it has lots of little départements and territoires (a bit like our counties in Britain) scattered round the world. If you visit the tropical island of Réunion, in the middle of the Indian Ocean, you are technically in France!
- A café is literally a place where you go to drink a cup of coffee (un café). English has 'borrowed' the French word instead of saying 'coffee shop'.
- Did you know that you only need 22 words to count to 100 in French, whereas in English you need 28? French builds up words for larger numbers by combining the smaller ones. For example, eighty is simply 'four-twenty' (quatre-vingt).
- The money which is used in France (L'Euro) has 100 cents to each Euro. Before France used this currency, they had Francs; each Franc was made up of 100 centimes. That 'cent' prefix gets a lot of use in English and French, doesn't it?
- French street names are the opposite way round to British ones. We say 'Woodlands Road' or 'Queen Victoria Way', whereas they'll say rue des Bois or allée Bonaparte.
- French towns and cities are full of places ('squares'). Often the most important buildings, such as the Mairie (town hall) are on the sides of these grand public spaces.
- Many old French towns and cities have walls and fortifications dotted around. These are left behind from many centuries of the French pushing back invaders.

Challenges

- How fast can you say your 10x table in French? Can you do the other tables?
- Find a map of a French town and make a list of street names.
- With a friend or a puppet, make up a role-play to find out all about a new person in your class.
- Take photos of some key places in your town. Label them with their French names.
- Can you find out the names of 3 towns or cities which are on the coast of France?
- Which is France's second-biggest city? How many people live there?
- How many major railway stations (Les Gares) are there in Paris?
- Play 'lotto' in French with a group of friends; can you remember how to say all the numbers to 100?

Key Vocabulary

| Spelling | Definition |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| ma ville | my city |
| un école | a school |
| un musée | a museum |
| une boulangerie | a bakery |
| une piscine | swimming pool |
| un supermarché | a supermarket |
| dix | ten (10) |
| vingt | twenty (20) |
| trente | thirty (30) |
| quarante | forty (40) |
| cinquante | fifty (50) |
| soixante | sixty (60) |
| soixante-dix | seventy (70) |
| quatre-vingt | eighty (80) |
| quatre-vingt-dix | ninety (90) |
| cent | one hundred (100) |
| Où habites-tu? | Where do you live? |
| J'habite à ____ | I live in _____ |
| Quelle est ton adresse? | What is your address? |
| Mon adresse est. . . | My address is. . . |

