

Investigation: Famous Places in France

Go to www.euroclub-schools.org. Enter the French Zone. Click on [Famous Places in France](#). By clicking on the headings and reading through the various web pages, can you find the answers to the following questions?

1. Write the name of the Eiffel Tower in French. *la Tour Eiffel*
Who is the man after which the tower is named? *Gustave Eiffel*
Why was the tower constructed? *It was constructed as a temporary gateway to a world fair - l'Exposition Universelle - that took place in 1889 to celebrate the centenary of the storming of the Bastille in 1789. The storming of the Bastille prison in Paris was an event that marked the start of the French Revolution.*

2. What kind of structure is *le Pont du Gard*? *It is part of an ancient Roman aqueduct that crosses the River Gard in Occitanie.*
What is *le castellum*? *It is the ancient Roman well/reservoir that collected the water from the aqueduct for the city of Nîmes.*

3. Name the boy who organised the building of the bridge of *Avignon*. *Saint Bénézet, also known as le Petit Benoît.*
How many arches of the bridge still stand? *four*
The bridge was constructed to span which river? *the River Rhône*

4. Which saint is associated with *Lourdes*? *Saint Bernadette*
Name the town's famous grotto. *the Grotto of Massabielle*
Why is the grotto so famous? *Inside the cave, there is a spring of water that is believed to have miraculous healing powers. The spring was discovered by a girl called Marie-Bernarde Soubirous in 1858. She is known as Saint Bernadette.*

5. What does the name '*Moulin Rouge*' actually mean? *It means: Red Mill. There is a decorative, red windmill on the outside of the building.*
Which artist portrayed scenes at *le Moulin Rouge*? *Toulouse Lautrec*
Le Moulin Rouge is situated in which area of Paris? *The area of Paris is: Montmartre. The road is called: le boulevard de Clichy.*

6. *Le Musée du Louvre* is a famous art gallery and museum in Paris. At which *métro* train station should you stop if visiting the museum? *Palais-Royal - Musée du Louvre*
Name the famous painting by *Leonardo da Vinci* that is kept there. *Mona Lisa, known as la Joconde in French.*
Which construction was added to the museum in 1989? *A glass pyramid called la Pyramide du Louvre was added to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the French Revolution in 1789.*

7. *Corsica* is a large French island. Where is it situated? *It is situated in the Mediterranean Sea, 170km from the French coast and 12 km from the Italian island Sardinia.*
Write '*Corsica*' in French. *la Corse*
Write *Corsica's* nickname in English and in French. *Island of Beauty / Île de Beauté*

8. The royal palace *le Château de Versailles* began as which kind of building? **It was a hunting lodge, built by King Louis XIII in 1624.**

What is the French name for the *Hall of Mirrors*? **la Galerie des Glaces**

What is the name of the separate royal villa within the palace grounds? **le château du Petit Trianon.**

Which queen spent a lot of time in the villa? **Queen Marie-Antoinette**

9. *L'Arc de Triomphe* is a monument that stands in which place in Paris? **It stands in the centre of an area designed as a 12-pointed star. This area is called *la Place de l'Étoile*. There are twelve roads running from the central roundabout. When the area is viewed from the air, it has the design of a star with the monument in the centre.**

What will you find beneath the monument? **You will find the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier / *la Tombe du Soldat Inconnu*, from the First World War.**

Who designed the arch? **Jean Chalgrin**

10. In which area of France is *le Mont-Saint-Michel* situated? **the *région of Normandie***

Which bishop was commanded by St. Michael to build a church on the mount's summit? **Aubert, the Bishop of Avranches. He is known as Saint Aubert.**

According to a legend, what happened to the bishop's skull? **The Archangel Michael touched the bishop's head with his finger, causing a fingertip-shaped, round hole in the bishop's skull!**

Le Grand Défi - The Big Challenge

- a. Which two buildings in Paris were opened in the year 1889? **the Eiffel Tower and *le Moulin Rouge***
- b. Which place in France has a smaller replica in England? ***Le Mont Saint-Michel* has a smaller replica in Cornwall, England. It is called St. Michael's Mount.**
- c. The nickname *la Dame de Fer* refers to which building? **It means *the Iron Lady* and it refers to the Eiffel Tower.**
- d. When a place is labelled with the words *le Patrimoine Mondial*, what does this mean? **It means that it has the status of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.**
- e. What is *le Gave de Pau*? **It is a river that flows through the town of Lourdes.**
- f. Which flag portrays a person wearing a white bandana? **The flag of Corsica.**
- g. What is *la Fontaine d'Eure*? **It is an area of water springs used as the source for the aqueduct built by the Ancient Romans to transport water for a distance of 50km to the town of Nîmes. A small, famous part of the aqueduct is called *le Pont du Gard* (where it spans the River Gard).**
- h. Which building stands in an area called *le Champ-de-Mars*? **the Eiffel Tower**
- i. Which place was originally called *le Mont Tombe*? **le Mont Saint-Michel**
- j. Which construction also has a little chapel dedicated to St. Nicholas? **the Bridge of Avignon**
- k. The French King, Louis XIV, created which building? **He designed *le château de Versailles*, transforming the already-existing hunting lodge into a magnificent palace.**