

## Twenty facts about France transcript

Did you know, France is the most visited country in the world? In 2007, there was a record 82 million tourists which is more than the actual population of France. Most of the tourists either go to one of the mountains (Les Alpes, Les Pyrénées ou Le Massif Central), the seas (L'Océan Atlantique ou La Mer Méditerranée) or one of the big cities like Paris or Lyon.

Do you know how many people live in France?

What is the overall population of the United Kingdom?

The fastest train in the world is French, it is called T.G.V which stands for (Train à Grande Vitesse) meaning 'high speed train', it goes at 357 miles per hour or 572 kilometres per hour.

You can travel from Paris to Lyon in two hours which is almost the same distance as Edinburgh or Glasgow to London which we do in four hours.

How many kilometres are there in a mile, in ten miles, in a hundred miles?

LeTour de France is the annual bicycle race of France where cyclists cover 2100 miles, just under 3500 kilometres, in 23 days. It is the world's most famous cycle race and the third most watched sporting event after les Jeux Olympiques et la Coupe du Monde.

The very first tour was organised in 1903. The winning cyclist gets to wear a yellow shirt called le maillot jaune and the best climber gets a maillot à pois rouges with red spots.

Have a look on the internet and find the itinerary of the next Tour de France.

Le Fromage, yum yum. Officially, it is said that France produces 365 different types of cheese, that is to say a different cheese for each day of the year. However, it is believed that there are actually more than a thousand different types of cheese.

Most regions in France produce their own fromage. Do you know where Camembert is produced? Oui, in Normandy, in a little town called 'Camembert'.

Find the names of three different types of French cheese?

The Tour Eiffel was built in 1889 to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the French Revolution, most Parisians hated it as it was much taller than anything else built at the time, in fact with a height of 324 metres, it was the tallest building in the world. La Tour Eiffel weighs ten thousand tons, the people in Paris were also worried it might not be solid enough and would fall on them.

Can you name three other French monuments?

La Révolution française, a very important day in the history of France, is when the French decided they'd had enough of their Queen and King, they stormed a famous prison called La Bastille, which was used by the King against his political enemies. Le Roi et la Reine, Louis XIV and Marie Antionette were then sent to jail and a few years later they lost their head through another French invention, la guillotine.

The 14<sup>th</sup> of July, or Bastille Day, is now the French national day and it's celebrated with big parades and fireworks everywhere in France, it is called La Fête Nationale. It symbolises French people taking over the power and getting rid of the King in the name of liberté, égalité and fraternité.

Can you find out the exact year of the French Revolution?

France is nicknamed l'hexagone by the French, look at a map of France, what can you say about its shape? France is surrounded by three seas (la Manche, l'Atlantique et la Méditerranée) and has borders with six countries (la Belgique, l'Allemagne, le Luxembourg, la Suisse, l'Italie et l'Espagne). What is the name of the famous French island in the Mediterranean?

French is spoken in countries around the world, this is called 'la Francophonie', if you are francophone then it means you can speak French. There are over 220 million French-speaking people around the world in 56 countries.

Can you name three French speaking countries outside France?

Paris, ah Paris, ville de lumière, ville de l'amour. Paris is split in different quartier called des arrondissements. Le premier arrondissement is in the centre of Paris then the other arronsidissements go around following the shape of a snail.

Have a look on Google at a map of les arondissements and you will see the shape of an escargot.

Can you find in what arondissement is the French National Museum called le Musée du Louvre et la Tour Eiffel?

The French National Anthem (L'Hymne National) is called 'La Marseillaise', it was composed by someone called Claude-Joseph Rouget de Lisle in 1792, it is called La Marseillaise because it was first sung by soldiers from the city of Marseille as they marched up from Marseille to Paris, it represents the idea of La République in France where we now have no King or no Queen since the Revolution of 1789.

Can you name five different cities in France?