

Do you know these facts about France?

- French is the second most studied language in the world after English.
- The capital city is Paris. Other major cities include Marseille, Lyon, Lille, and Nice-Cannes.
- France is the most visited country in the world, with over 80 million visitors every year.
- The Louvre is the most visited art museum in the world. The famous Mona Lisa painting is on display in this museum.
- During World War II, Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy in northern France. The first day of these landings is called D-Day. the 1889 World Fair. It is one of the most visited monuments in the world.
- France was the second country to host the modern Olympic Games in 1900 in Paris. Paris also hosted the games again in 1924. Three winter Olympics have been hosted in France.
- The most famous road bicycle race in the world, the Tour de France zig zags through the French landscape.
- One of the four grand slam tennis events, the French Open, is held in Paris every year.
- Louis Pasteur was a French scientist who made many discoveries in the fields of chemistry and microbiology.
- France is famous for the beaux-arts, the many great painters, sculptors. Famous French painters are **Claude Monet and Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Edgar Degas, Paul Cezanne and Auguste Rodin** is certainly one of the most famous French sculptors.
- French composers which are very famous are: **Maurice Ravel** (Bolero) and **Georges Bizet** (Carmen). Children all around the world love French literature, like the famous “The Three Musketeers” by **Alexandre Dumas** and “The Little Prince” by **Antoine de Saint-Exupery**.
- French political leader **Napoleon Bonaparte** (1769-1821) was born on Corsica. He reformed the French laws. He declared himself Emperor of the French in 1904. Napoleon’s army was defeated by the British in the Battle of Waterloo (now in Belgium) in 1815. He was exiled to the island St. Helena in the Mediterranean Sea where he died in 1821.
- The current president of France is François Hollande.
- The French main dishes contain: fresh vegetables, meat and cheeses. French cuisine is well known for its freshness and high quality dishes.
- The famous Eiffel Tower in Paris was built as the entrance point for

