



MFL Sunderland Primary French Podcasts

intercultural
understanding

France

Welcome to the MFL Sunderland Primary French podcast. Intercultural Understanding – France

In this lesson you'll learn some information about France and learn how to say some important vocabulary to do with France.

France

The name "France" refers to the Western European country and to its overseas territories and islands which are situated in other continents and in the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic oceans. These territories, which include places like Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion, are called the "DOM-TOM".

Listen to Marina saying some of the vocabulary:

la France *France*

les territoires d'outremer *overseas territories*

les îles *islands*

l'Océan Indien *the Indian Ocean*

l'Océan Pacifique *the Pacific Ocean*

l'Océan Atlantique *the Atlantic Ocean*

la Guyane *Guiana*

la Guadeloupe *Guadeloupe*

la Martinique *Martinique*

la Réunion *Reunion*

Because of its shape, French people call mainland France "the Hexagon" or l'hexagone". France is bordered by Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Spain, and of course the UK is over the English Channel to the north.

le Royaume-Uni *the United Kingdom*

la Belgique *Belgium*

le Luxembourg *Luxembourg*

l'Allemagne *Germany*

la Suisse *Switzerland*

l'Italie *Italy*

l'Espagne *Spain*

There are five mountain ranges in France: the Alps, the Massif Central, the Pyrenees, the Vosges and the Jura. The highest mountain in Europe, Mont Blanc, is located in the Alps on the border between France and Italy.

les Alpes *the Alps*

le Massif Central *the Massif Central*

les Pyrénées *the Pyrenees*

les Vosges *the Vosges*

le Jura *the Jura*

le Mont Blanc *Mont Blanc*

There are five big rivers in France: the Loire, the Seine, the Garonne, the Rhone and the Rhine.

le fleuve *river*

la Loire *the Loire*

la Seine *the Seine*

la Garonne *the Garonne*

le Rhône *the Rhone*

le Rhin *the Rhine*

France is surrounded by three seas and oceans. There is the Atlantic ocean to the west, the Mediterranean to the south and the English Channel to the north.

la Manche *the English Channel*

la mer Méditerranée *the Mediterranean*

l'Atlantique *the Atlantic*

The climate in France varies from region to region. In the north and north-west it rains a lot, the winters are mild and the summers are cool to warm. Inland France enjoys a continental climate, with hot and stormy summers, cold winters and less rain. In the Alps and the other mountains, the weather is cold, and the temperature is below freezing for an average of 150 days a year. The south-east of France has a mediterranean climate.

The most important cities in France are Paris, the capital city, Lyon, Marseille, Lille, Nice, Toulouse, Bordeaux and Nantes.

Paris

Lyon

Marseille

Lille

Nice

Toulouse

Bordeaux

Nantes

France is a republic. There are two leaders – the president, and the prime minister, who leads the government.

le président *the president*

le premier ministre *the prime minister*

Here are some facts about France that you might like to share with your pupils..

- *France is famous for wine, cheese, perfume, cars, the Tour de France and the Eiffel Tower.*
- *France is a member of the European Union. It's the third largest country in Europe after Russia and the Ukraine.*
- *Its population is about 65 million.*
- *France is the most visited country in the world.*
- *France uses the Euro and the 24 hour clock.*
- *France produces more than 350 kinds of cheese.*
- *In 2007 France's high-speed train, the TGV, registered a speed of 357 km/h – the fastest in the world.*
- *The symbol of the Republic and liberty is Marianne. Her image first appeared during the French Revolution in the late 18th century, and now features on stamps and coins.*
- *The national anthem is called the Marseillaise.*
- *France's motto is "Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité"- liberty, equality, fraternity*

That's the end of this podcast. If you think you need a bit more practice, go back to the beginning and listen again.

Au revoir !

You could use the following resource with this vocabulary:

www.sunderlandschools.org/mfl-sunderland/resources/PrimaryFrench/frenchmap.ppt