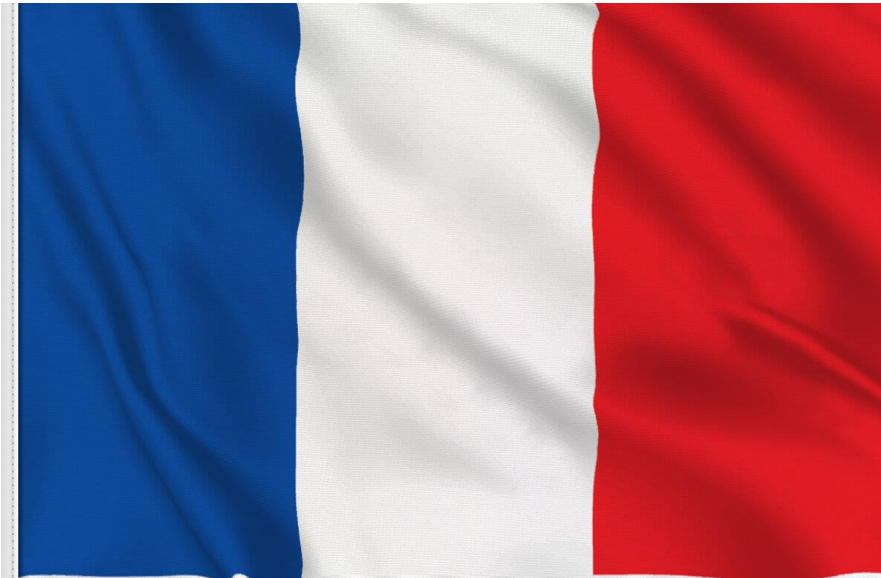# France

General Information

- **Population:** around 67.2 million people live in the country
- **Capital:** Paris
- **Language:** French
- **Religion:** mainly Christians (Roman Catholics 64%)
- **Currency:** Euro and cent
- **Flag:** blue, white and red. The French refer to the flag as 'Tricolore' (French for 'three colours')
- **Anthem:** the French anthem is also called 'La Marseillaise'

History

In 700-500BC the Celtic Gauls arrive in France. In 58-50BC Roman Emperor Julius Caesar defeats the Gauls and France becomes part of the Roman Empire until 476AD. France was ruled by kings for many centuries until the storming of the Bastille during the French Revolution in 1789. Then Napoleon becomes Emperor of the French Republic until he is sent to exile. The country is currently run by president Emmanuel Macron.

Where is France?

France is situated in Western Europe, 1 hr flight from London. You can also cross over the English Channel by ferry or the channel tunnel train from Dover, which is around 20 minutes from Ashford. On the French outline you will see the little island of Corsica, which belongs to France.

The Western-European country shares borders with Belgium to the North East, Germany and Luxemburg in the East as well as with Switzerland, Italy to the South East. The Pyrenées, a mountain range to the South of France, form a natural border between Spain and France. The highest mountain in France is the Mont Blanc, that is 4,810 m/15780 ft high and stands at the border between France and Italy.
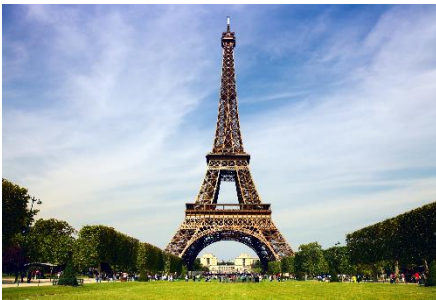
Popular Places to visit:

- Versailles: castle near Paris, once home of the French kings
- Lascaux Caves: for 17,000 years old rock paintings

- Côte d'Azur for turquoise blue sea and great beaches
- Corsica: island in the Mediterranean sea, known for being the birth place of Napoleon
- French Alps: great for hiking, skiing and snowboarding — (Miss Brooker has been skiing here!)
- Provence: region with lavender fields and old historic towns like Avignon

Some attractions within France include the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, Louvre, Montmartre, Arc de Triomphe, the river Seine. There are so many exciting places and landmarks, gorgeous beaches, historic cities and villages, ancient ruins and majestic castles to visit.

Do you know any other facts about France?

What do you think may have been different during the war?

What do you think would have stayed the same?