

Welcome to France!

France is a country located on the western coast of Europe. It is a large country; Russia and Ukraine are the only European countries with more land than France. The Atlantic Ocean forms an inlet called the Bay of Biscay that borders the western coast of France. The northwestern border is formed by the English Channel. The northern border is the Strait of Dover. The northeastern border is formed by the countries of Belgium and Luxembourg, and the eastern border is formed by Switzerland, Germany, and Italy. The Mediterranean Sea, Spain, and Andorra form the southern border of France, along with the sovereign principality of Monaco. The island of Corsica in the Mediterranean Sea is a part of France.

Paris is the capital and largest city in France. Other major cities in France are Marseille, the second-largest city; Lyon, the third-largest city; Toulouse; and Nice.

France is a world leader in manufacturing. It is known for its chemical and steel industries and for its production of automobiles.

About four-fifths of the people in France are city-dwellers. The remaining people live in rural areas. People often choose to live in old apartment buildings because they enjoy the antique surroundings of the old buildings even though it means they have to use old plumbing and have things like appliances that are not as modern. Those who cannot afford to live in the city itself live in suburbs just outside the city and use mass transit to reach jobs and other destinations in the city. France is known around the world for its fashion, art, and cuisine.



France at a Glance

1. In what part of Europe is France located? _____
2. What two European countries are larger than France? _____
3. What forms France's western border? _____
4. What forms France's northwestern border? _____
5. What forms France's northern border? _____
6. What forms France's northeastern border? _____
7. What forms France's eastern border? _____

8. What forms France's southern border? _____

9. Where is the island of Corsica located? _____
10. What is the capital of France? _____

What Else Can You Discover?

With a parent's or teacher's permission, use an encyclopedia, Internet, or another resource to find answers to the following questions.

1. What is the population of France? _____
2. What colors are the French flag? _____
3. What is the highest mountain in France? _____
4. What is the longest river in France? _____
5. What river flows through Paris and empties into the English Channel? _____
6. What mountain range separates France and Spain? _____

Destination: Paris

Find Paris on the map below and circle it. Paris, nicknamed the “City of Light,” is the capital and largest city in France. At night, floodlights are turned on to show the beauty of the many palaces and monuments located there. The Seine River flows from east to west through about 8 miles (13 km) of Paris. The city of Paris was founded on an island in the Seine River more than 2,000 years ago when the Romans found a Celtic tribe living on the island and built a colony there. It grew and spread out to the banks of the river and beyond. As the city grew, walls were built around it to protect it, with new walls built as the city continued to grow larger. The sites of those walls are now boulevards through the city.

Paris was involved in a great deal of the fighting during both World War I and World War II. In World War I, although the German troops did not capture the city, their large guns did some damage. In the First Battle of the Marne River during World War I, Germans reached their closest point, about 30 miles (48 km) from Paris. In World War II, German troops occupied Paris when they broke through defenses and the French government declared Paris an open city to keep it from being destroyed. Paris was freed by the Allies in August 1944. After the war, Paris was restored and new construction was done.

The Champs Elysees is the most famous avenue in Paris. Its landscaping includes fountains and beautiful flower beds. The two largest parks in Paris have restaurants, zoos, lakes for boating, and more. There are many museums, cathedrals, and government buildings in Paris.

Paris is considered a world leader in art with its many museums. It also has one of the largest libraries in the world and a university that dates back to the 1100s.



Paris at a Glance

1. What is Paris' nickname? _____
2. What are used to show the beauty of Paris at night? _____
3. About how much of Paris does the Seine River flow through? _____
4. Where did the city of Paris begin over 2,000 years ago? _____

5. What is located where the sites of ancient walls once were? _____
6. At what World War I battle did German forces get within about 30 miles (48 km) of Paris?

7. What did the government declare Paris to be so it wasn't destroyed in World War II?

8. When did the Allies free Paris in World War II? _____
9. What is the most famous avenue in Paris? _____

What Else Can You Discover?

With a parent's or teacher's permission, use an encyclopedia, Internet, or another resource to find answers to the following questions.

1. What is the population of Paris? _____
2. About how far southeast of the English Channel is Paris situated? _____
3. Who was the first ruler of the Kingdom of the Franks who made Paris the capital in 507?

4. When did the French Revolution take place? _____
5. What famous French emperor ruled from Paris between 1804 and 1814 and again in 1815?

Destination: Chenonceaux

To find Chenonceaux, you need to head east of Tours about 16 miles (26 km). It is on the bank of the River Cher. After passing Chenonceaux, the River Cher continues to flow to the south of Tours and then on to join the Loire River. Draw the location of Chenonceaux on the map below.

Chenonceaux is a village known for its famous chateau. The town is located in a grape-growing region of France. It was occupied by German forces during World War II, but it was not severely damaged.

Chenonceaux is in the Centre region of France, not far from the capital of this region, Orléans. Orléans is well known as the site of a seven-month siege by the English in 1429 during the Hundred Years' War. The national heroine of France, Joan of Arc, is known as the Maid of Orléans. The troops who followed her stopped the siege.



Chenonceaux at a Glance

1. Where is Chenonceaux located? _____
2. Chenonceaux is located on the bank of what river? _____
3. What river does the River Cher join after passing to the south of Tours? _____
4. What is Chenonceaux famous for? _____
5. What is the name of the region of France that Chenonceaux is located in? _____
6. What is the capital of this region? _____
7. What war was the capital of this region involved in when it was besieged for seven months?

8. Who is the national heroine of France? _____
9. What is the national heroine of France known as because of the battle at the capital?

What Else Can You Discover?

With a parent's or teacher's permission, use an encyclopedia, Internet, or another resource to find answers to the following questions.

1. What is the population of Chenonceaux? _____
2. Where does the River Cher join the Loire River? _____
3. What two regions border the Centre Region to the north? _____

Destination: Marseille

Find Marseille on the map below and circle it. Marseille is France's oldest and second-largest city. It was founded around the year 600 B.C. by travelers from Greece. It later came under the rule of the Roman Empire. It gained some importance off and on over the years, but when the Suez Canal opened in 1869, the possibilities for shipping greatly increased. Its location on the Mediterranean Sea west of the French Riviera makes it the main seaport in the country. It is linked to other cities, especially Paris, by trains and highways, in addition to having an airport.

The city actually has two ports. The Old Harbor, or Old Port, is too small for today's ships and is used mainly for pleasure boats. There are many restaurants there, along with modern shops a little more inland. The modern port is about 5 miles (8 km) west of Old Harbor. Trading ships from all over the world come there and account for about one-third of all the shipping traffic for France's seaports. Many people from other countries move to Marseille to work there.

There are many industries in the area that process chemicals and petroleum along with other goods. Manufacturing includes the making of bricks, candles, medicines, soaps, and other products. Additionally, the area of Marseille is known for originating the fish soup called bouillabaisse, with recipes from Marseille often considered the most authentic.



Marseille at a Glance

1. When was Marseille founded? _____
2. Who founded Marseille? _____
3. When did the Suez Canal open? _____
4. Where in France is Marseille located? _____

5. What does its location help give it the distinction as? _____

6. What is the name of the smaller port in Marseille? _____
7. Where is the modern port located in relation to the smaller port in Marseille? _____

8. How much of France's shipping traffic does Marseille account for? _____
9. For what dish is Marseille often considered to have the most authentic recipes? _____

What Else Can You Discover?

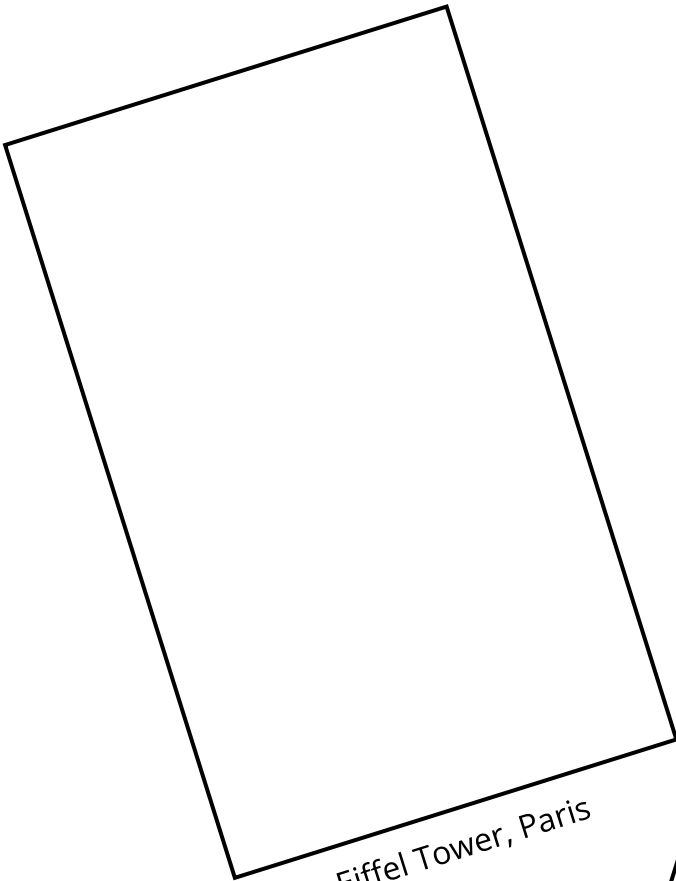
With a parent's or teacher's permission, use an encyclopedia, Internet, or another resource to find answers to the following questions.

1. What is the population of Marseille? _____
2. On what gulf of the Mediterranean Sea is Marseille situated? _____

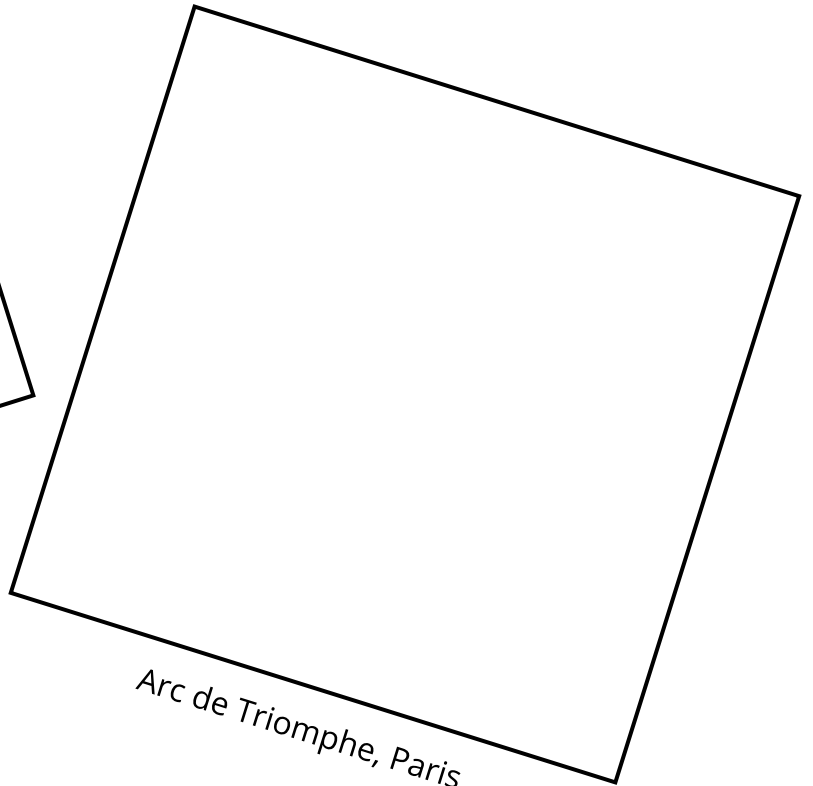
3. A canal near the mouth of what major French river connects the river to Marseille? _____

4. Where does this river begin? _____

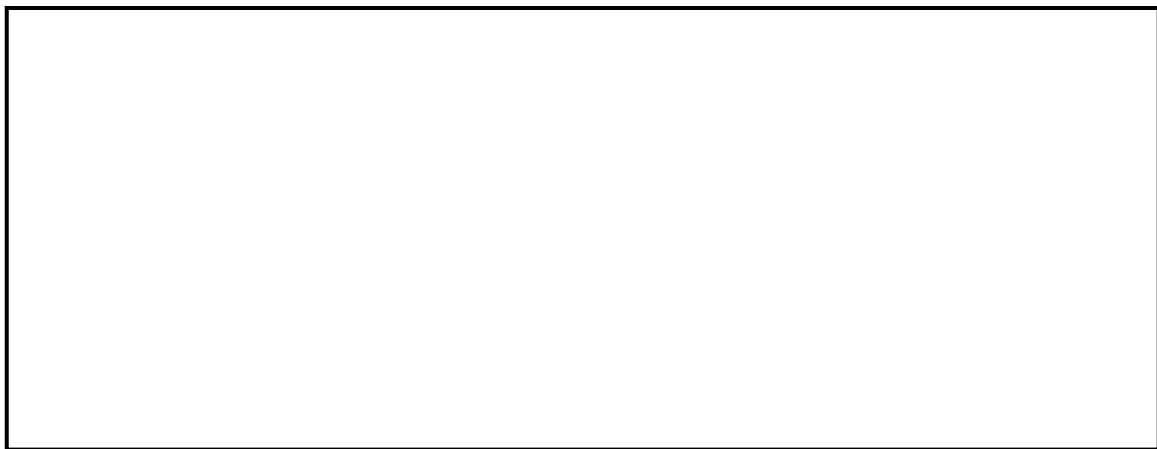
My Trip to France



Eiffel Tower, Paris

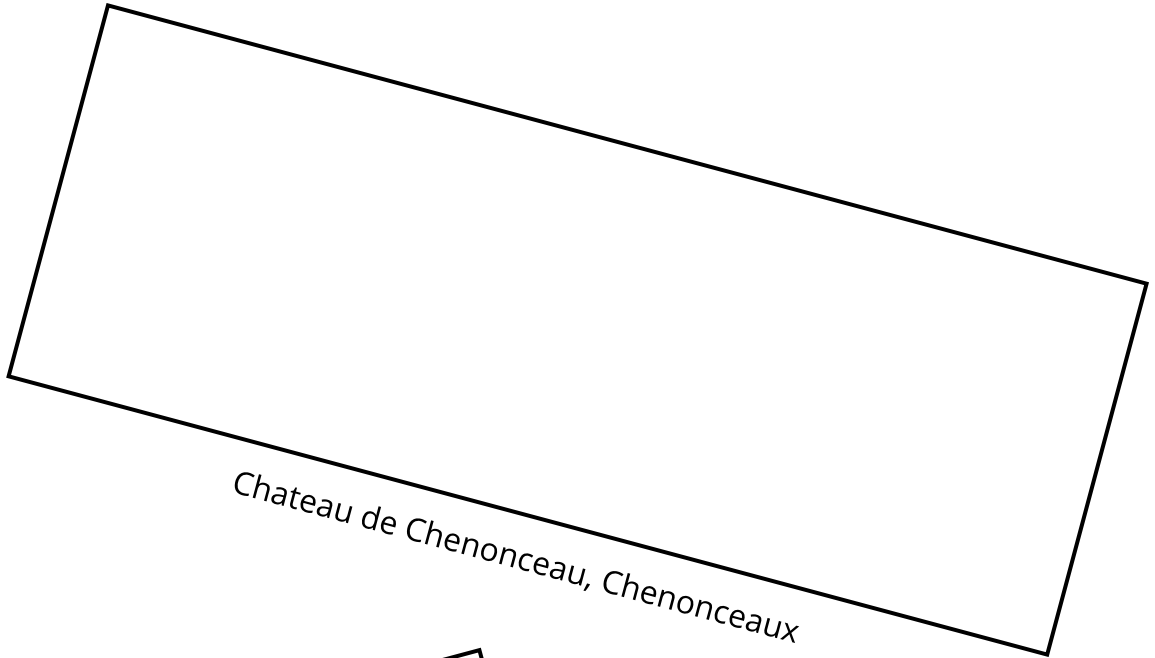


Arc de Triomphe, Paris

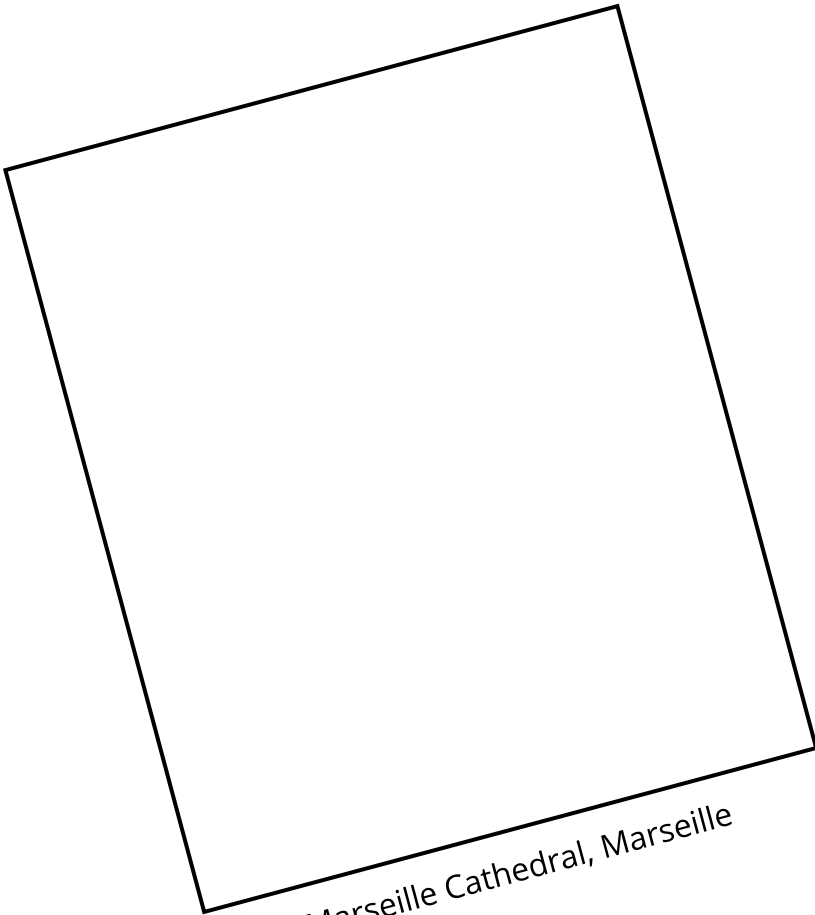


Centre Pompidou, Paris

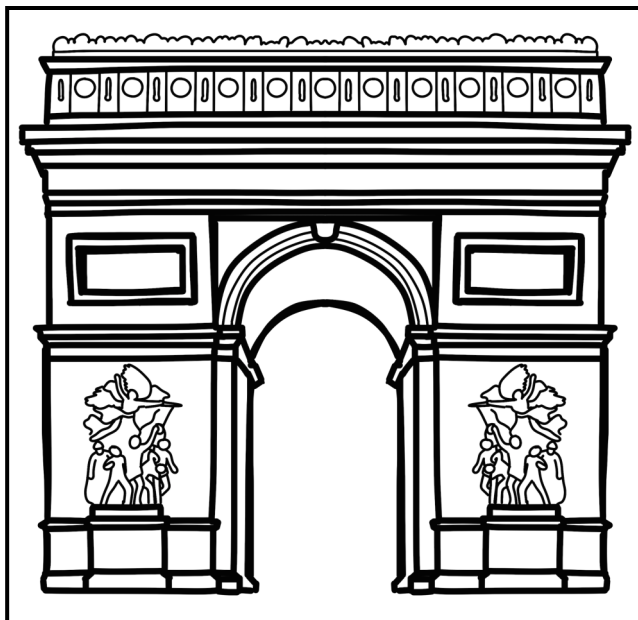
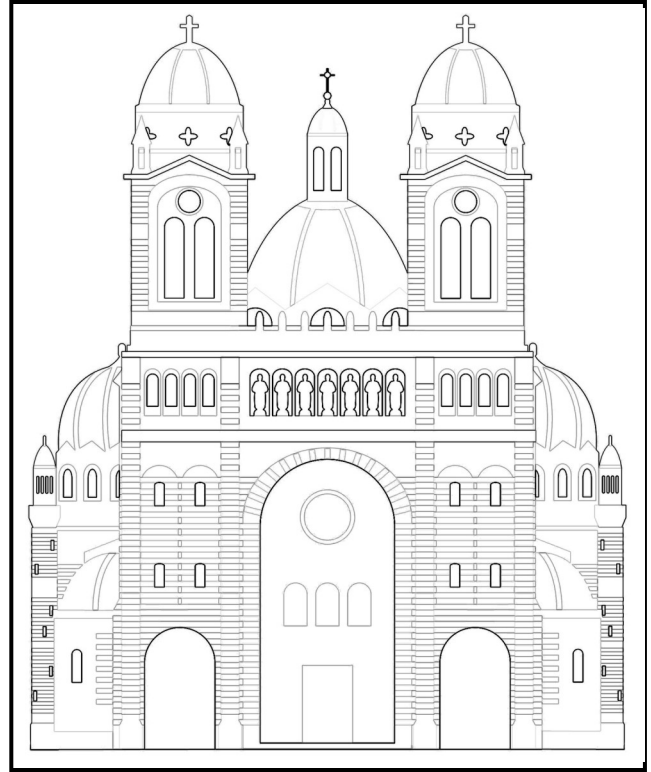
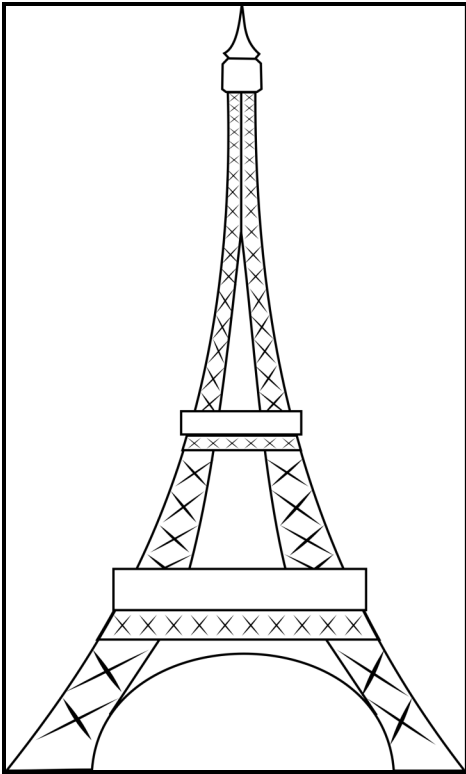
My Trip to France

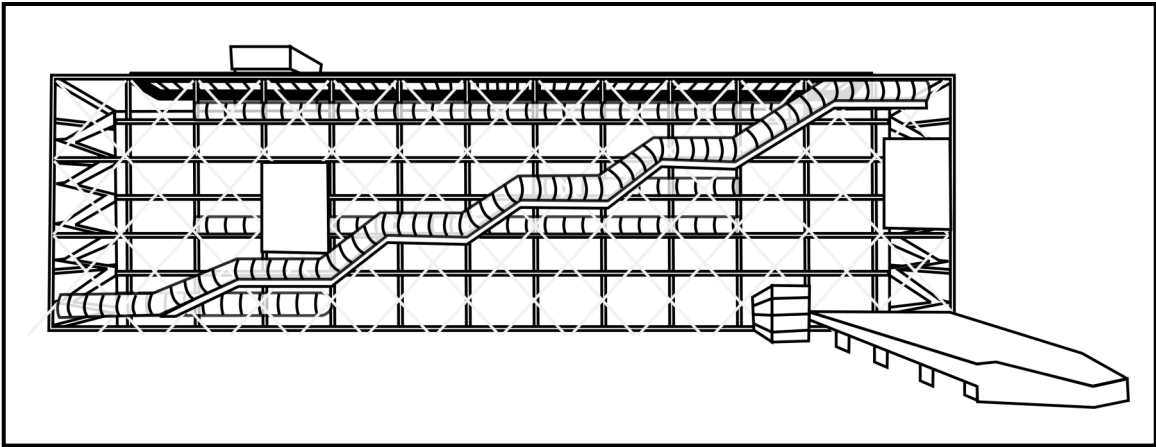
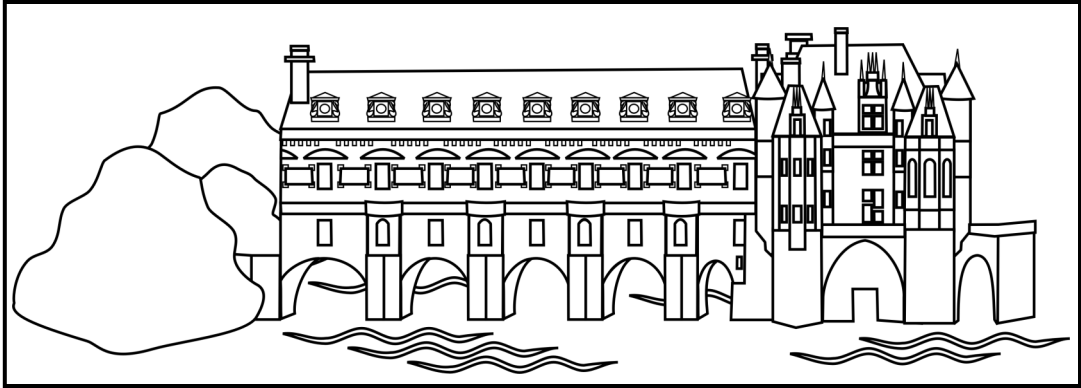


Chateau de Chenonceau, Chenonceaux



Marseille Cathedral, Marseille





Answer Key

France at a Glance

1. western coast
2. Russia and Ukraine
3. Bay of Biscay
4. English Channel
5. Strait of Dover
6. Belgium and Luxembourg
7. Switzerland, Germany, and Italy
8. Mediterranean Sea, Spain, Andorra and Monaco
9. Mediterranean Sea
10. Paris

Paris at a Glance

1. City of Light
2. floodlights
3. 8 miles (13 km)
4. on an island in the Seine River
5. boulevards
6. First Battle of the Marne River
7. an open city
8. August 1944
9. Champs Elysees

Chenonceaux at a Glance

1. about 16 miles (26 km) east of Tours
2. River Cher
3. Loire River
4. its chateau
5. Centre Region
6. Orléans
7. Hundred Years' War
8. Joan of Arc
9. Maid of Orléans

Marseille at a Glance

1. around the year 600 B.C.
2. travelers from Greece
3. 1869
4. on the Mediterranean Sea west of the French Riviera
5. the main seaport in the country
6. Old Harbor or Old Port
7. about 5 miles (8 km) west of Old Harbor
8. about one-third
9. bouillabaisse

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