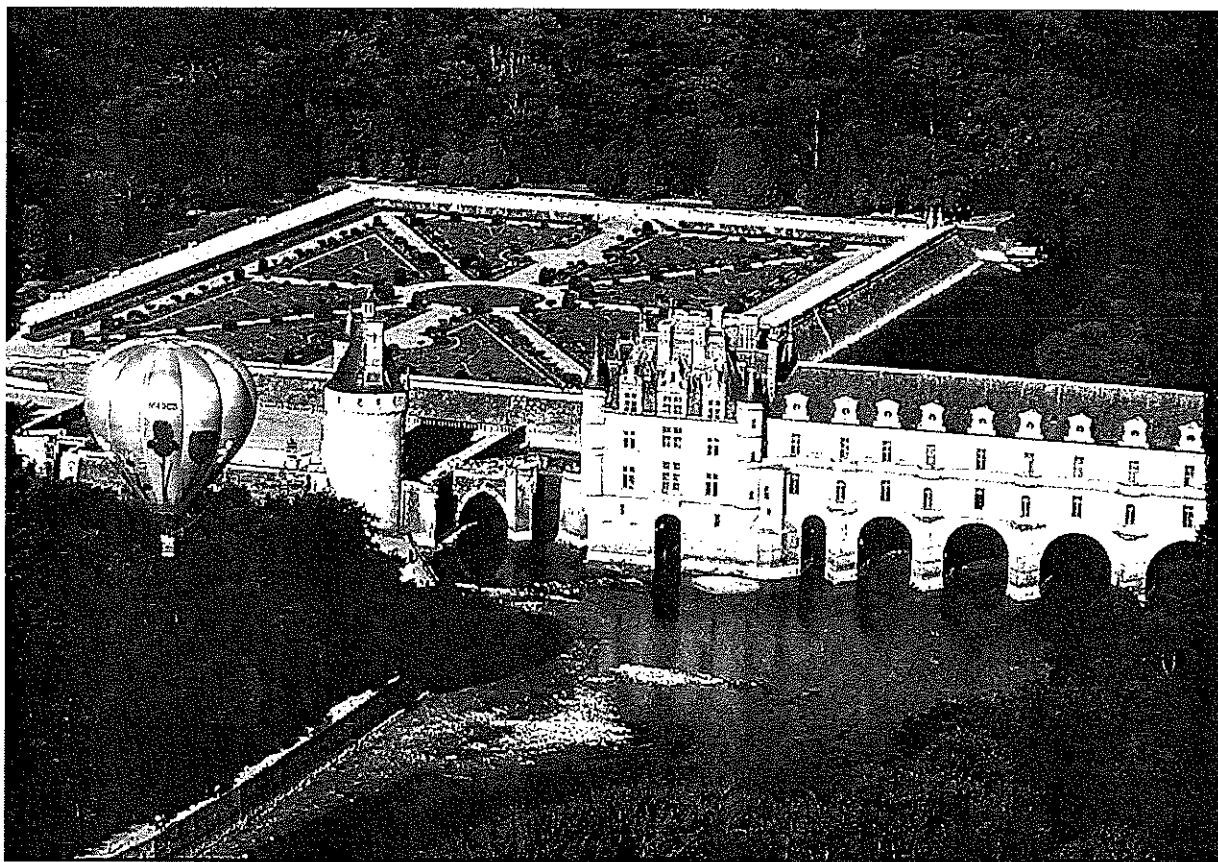


Unit **4**

La géographie

Geography



France

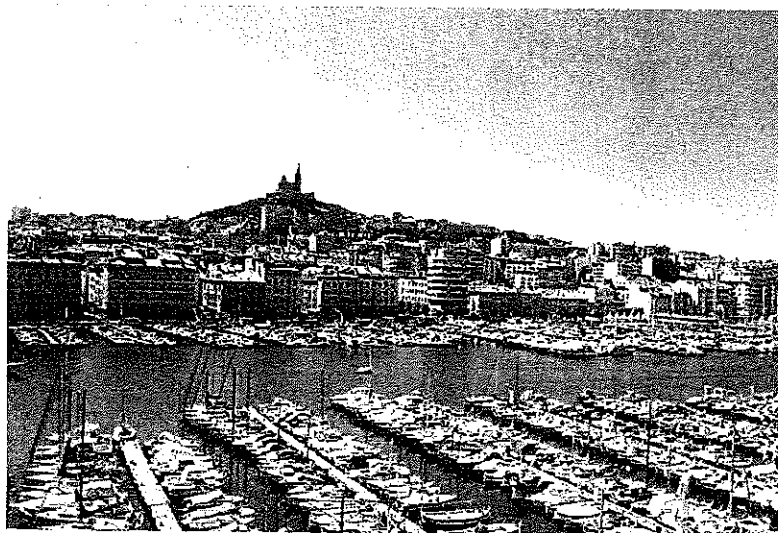
Important Cities

Paris, an inland port, is the capital of France and the most populated city. It is the economic, industrial, and cultural center of the nation and an international fashion center. Some outstanding landmarks include *la tour Eiffel* (Eiffel Tower), *le Centre Georges Pompidou* (Pompidou Center of Modern Art), *le Louvre* (Louvre Museum), *l'Opéra* (the Opera), *l'arc de triomphe* (Arch of Triumph), the avenue called the *Champs-Élysées*, and *Notre-Dame* (the Gothic Cathedral of Our Lady). The Seine River divides the city into the right and left banks called *la rive droite* and *la rive gauche*. Two amusement parks nearby are *le Parc Astérix* (based on a Gallic cartoon character who fights against the Romans) and *Disneyland Resort Paris*.

Lyon, the second largest city, is located on the site where the Saône and the Rhône Rivers join together. Two old Roman amphitheaters serve as stages for operas and rock concerts. In years past Lyon was a wealthy trade center for the silk industry. Today it houses banking, pharmaceutical, and textile industries. Lyon is also renowned for its culinary arts. For fun, people like to go to the parks for boating and picnics. They also enjoy the cycle rinks for stateboarding, roller-skating, and bike racing. For ice-skating and swimming there are other excellent facilities.

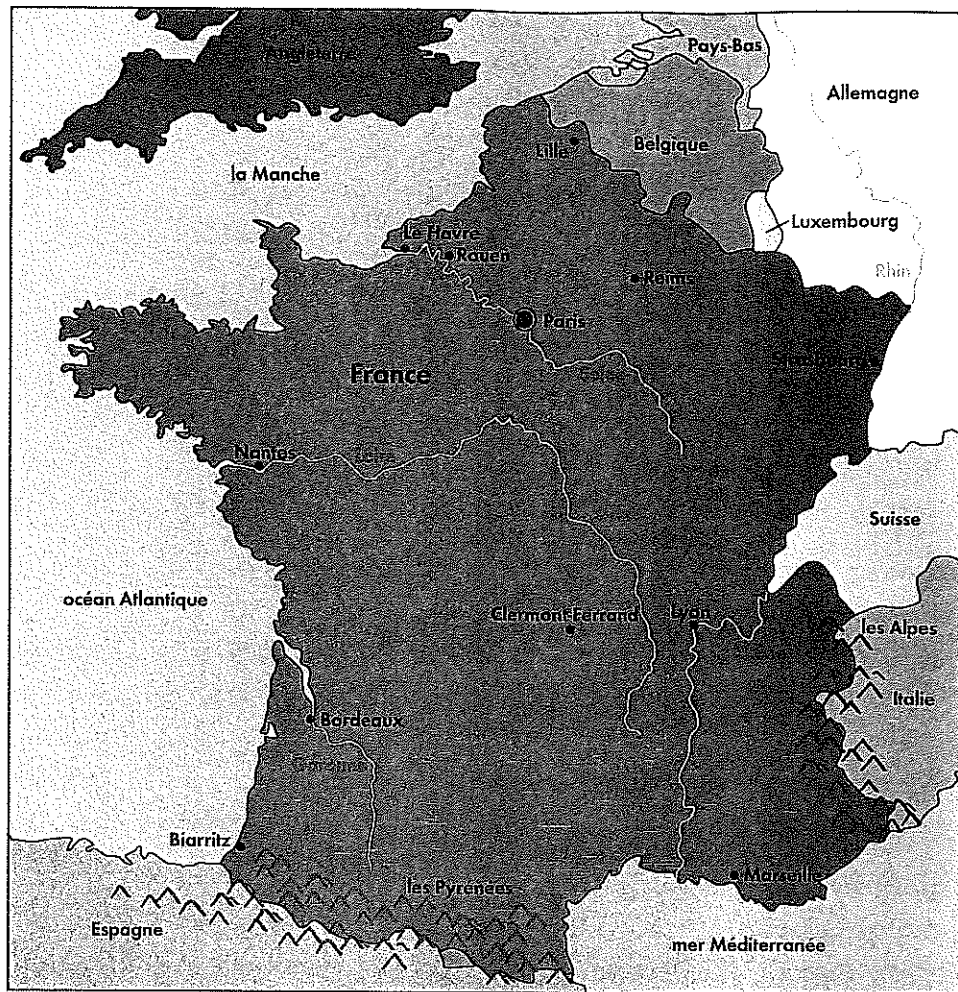


The Eiffel Tower, completed in 1889, is located at the Champ-de-Mars, a popular park in Paris.



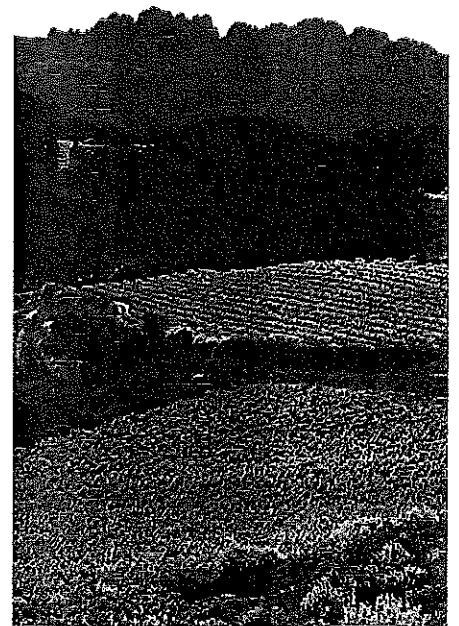
Tourists traveling by boat in the Mediterranean often sail into the port of Marseille.

Marseille, situated on the Mediterranean Sea, is France's third largest city and largest seaport, which welcomes ships primarily from North Africa, the Middle East, and the Orient. The city started as a Greek port and later became a Roman city. Today it is a melting pot of people of many races and national origins. Not far from the shore is *le château d'If*, a fortified prison, made famous by the writer Alexandre Dumas in his novel, *Le Comte de Monte-Cristo* (*The Count of Monte-Cristo*).



Lille, together with its suburbs, makes up the fourth largest urban area. Because it was once part of Belgium, Lille has an old Flemish quarter and a Flemish history. Traditionally it has been a major center for the production of cotton and linen fabrics, as well as industrial machinery. More recently it has developed a business quarter, *EuroLille*, which is a European center for high tech industries. Lille is only a short distance from the three headquarters of the European Union: Brussels, Belgium; Luxembourg City, Luxembourg; and Strasbourg, France. Lille has a zoo and a botanical garden.

Bordeaux, the fifth largest city, is found in the southwest. Located on the Garonne River and very close to the Atlantic Ocean, its history is tied to the production of wine and to international trade. The city has a zoo and several museums. Not far from Bordeaux is *Tépacap*, a fun park in the woods where children can spend a day being acrobatic adventurers as they walk on rope bridges and play outdoor games. An aquatic theme park, *Aqualand*, is also not far away.



Near Bordeaux, grapes are grown to make fine wines.

Le Havre is France's second largest seaport. It is found where the Seine River empties into the *la Manche* (English Channel). The port serves transoceanic cargo ships and car ferries en route to and from England. After its destruction in World War II, Le Havre was completely rebuilt. It now has new buildings, new streets, and beautiful parks. The fine arts museum contains many paintings by France's Impressionist artists. Located about 32 kilometers (20 miles) to the north are the spectacular seaside cliffs and rock formations of *Étretat*.

Nantes is a port city on the Loire River. A nearby historic landmark is the castle where Duchess Anne of Brittany was born in 1477. Many visitors to the city enjoy the maritime museum. Others take river cruises and go all the way up the Loire River to see the *châteaux*. * The botanical garden features a chestnut tree that is over a thousand years old. Children like to visit *Planète Sauvage* (Wild Planet), an attraction not too far away that includes an animal park with giraffes and a marine show with sea lions.

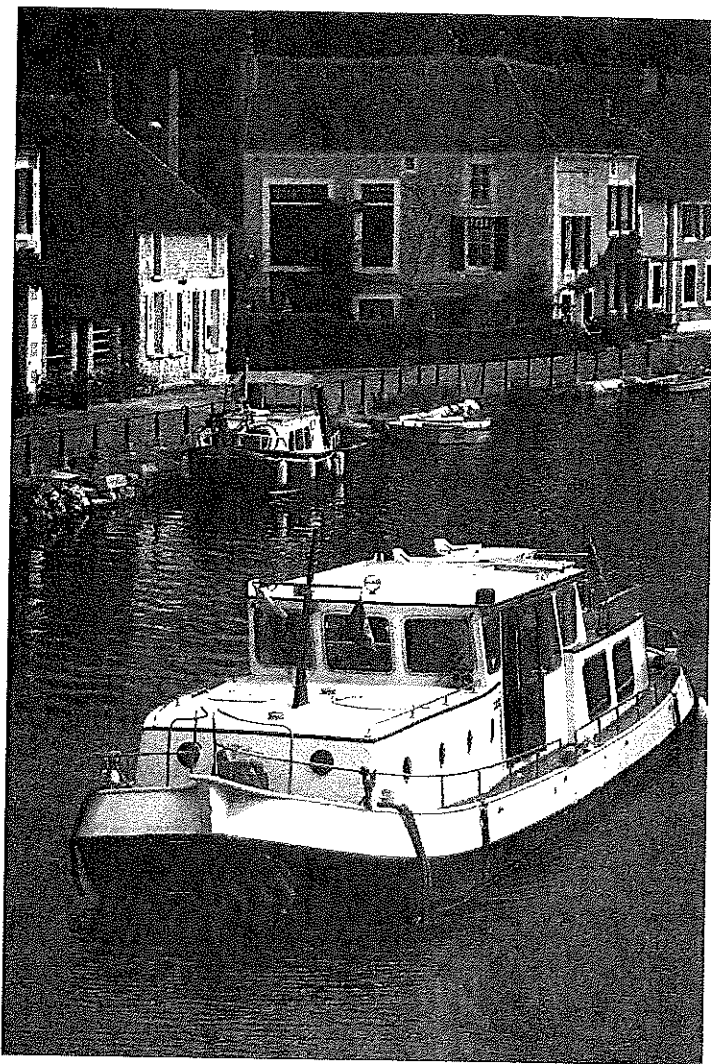
Strasbourg, situated on the Rhine River, is a major river port and commercial center. In the old historic district there are many picturesque medieval houses. The large Gothic cathedral has a stained glass rose window and an astronomical clock. Strasbourg has a strong cultural alliance with its next-door neighbor, Germany. Indeed, the German influence is reflected in the food, language, and architecture of the city. Strasbourg is also one of three capital cities of the European Union, and as such, is the site of the European Parliament. The Council of Europe (*le Conseil d'Europe*) holds regular meetings here.

Clermont-Ferrand is located in the center of the country where an extinct volcano, *Le Cantal*, now extinct, once erupted. Many of the old churches and houses were built with the black rocks created by the hardened lava. Today it is a commercial and industrial center known for the production of Michelin tires. People interested in architecture come to see the beautiful houses built by merchants during the Renaissance period (14th – 17th centuries). Families today enjoy visiting *Vulcania*, an interactive attraction where they can have fun while learning all about volcanos. Movie fans go to the annual short film festival.

Reims, located northeast of Paris, is noted historically for its Roman ruins and as the site where Clovis, King of the Franks, was baptized in the year 496. From the 11th century on, all French kings were crowned at the cathedral, giving Reims the nickname the "City of Coronations." At the conclusion of World War II, the Germans surrendered to the Allies in Reims. Today the city's economy is based chiefly on the annual grape harvest and on tourism to the museums and historical sites.

Biarritz is found along the southwestern Atlantic shore. Once a whaling port, it is now a resort with an aquarium, good beaches, scuba diving, and excellent surfing and windsurfing. Biarritz hosts one of the most popular international surfing contests every year. At the Basque Museum visitors can learn about the Basque people, who live in the region near Spain. At the Chocolate Museum, you can see how chocolate sculptures are made and even get free samples.

*The *châteaux* are also discussed in the section on France's important rivers.



Boats of all shapes and sizes can be found in France's five most navigable rivers.

Five Important Rivers

La Seine is the most navigable of all French rivers. That means it is deep enough for barges and ships. As a result, it is the most important commercial river of France. It empties into the English Channel at *Le Havre*.

La Loire is the longest river in France. It is a popular tourist attraction due to the *châteaux* that are found scattered throughout the Loire Valley. The *châteaux* are the fortresses, castles, and palaces that in years past belonged to the royal family, aristocrats, and wealthy merchants.

La Garonne, the shortest river of France, is a major source of hydroelectric power. It starts in the *Pyrenées* Mountains and empties into the Atlantic Ocean.

La Rhône, which starts as a glacial stream in Switzerland, flows southward to the Mediterranean Sea. It also is an important hydroelectric power source.

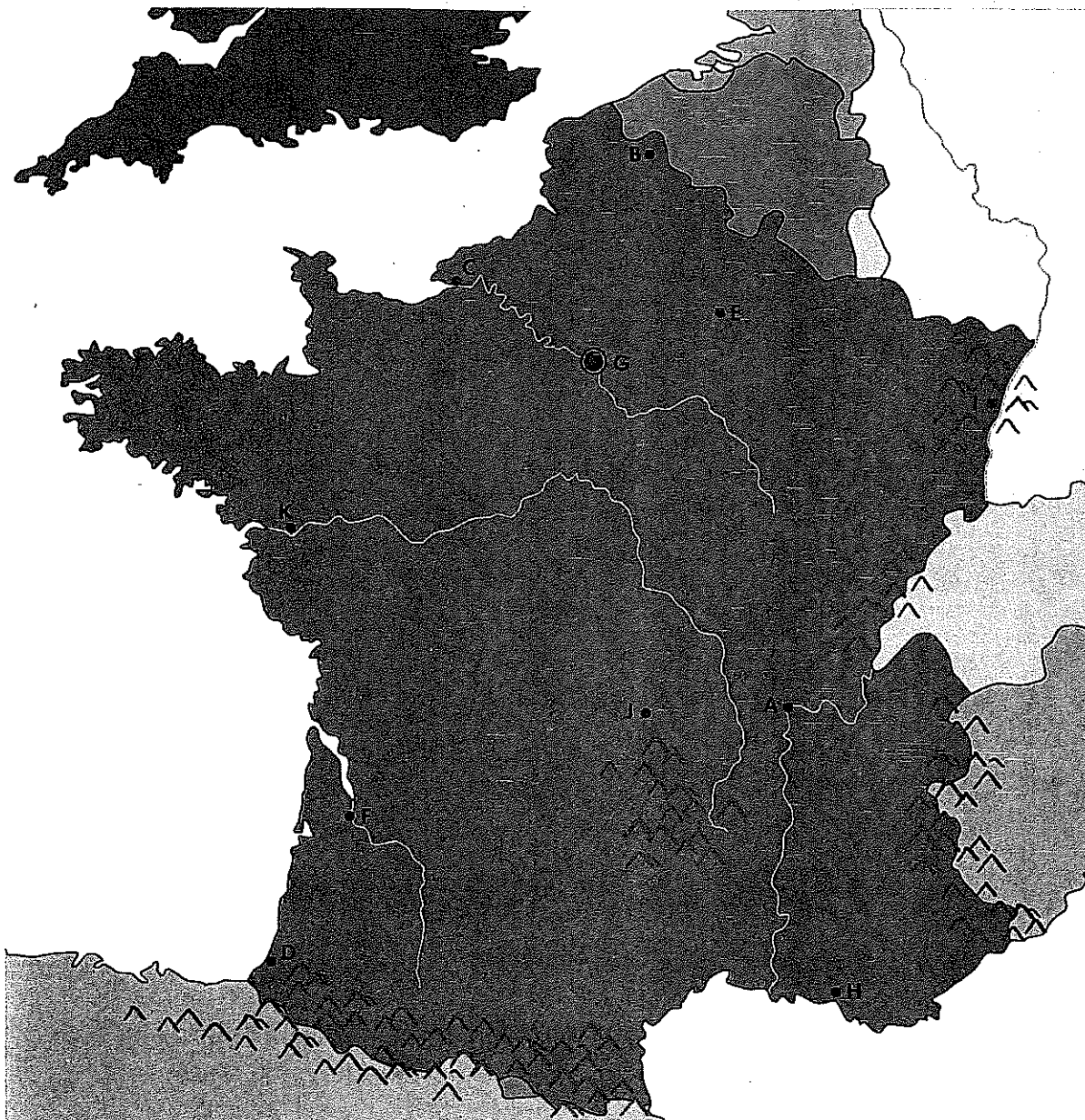
Le Rhin (the Rhine), which starts in Switzerland and flows through the Netherlands into the Atlantic Ocean, serves as a natural boundary with Germany. It provides France with a vital link to other parts of Europe and helps expedite the transfer of merchandise into and out of France.

Important Facts

- The English Channel is called *la Manche* in French. There is a train and motor tunnel underneath *la Manche*, enabling travelers between England and France to cross at great speed and convenience.
- There are five major mountain ranges: 1) the Pyrenees (*les Pyrénées*), which form a natural boundary with Spain, and 2) the Alps (*les Alpes*), which lie on France's borders with Italy and Switzerland. *Le Massif Central* is located in the southern center of the country around Clermont-Ferrand. Near Strasbourg by the German border are *les Vosges*. *Le Jura* is situated on the border between France and Switzerland and France and southern Germany (Bavaria).

Activités

A Write the letter of each city next to its name.



- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. _____ Biarritz | 7. _____ Lyon |
| 2. _____ Clermont-Ferrand | 8. _____ Paris |
| 3. _____ Le Havre | 9. _____ Reims |
| 4. _____ Marseille | 10. _____ Strasbourg |
| 5. _____ Nantes | 11. _____ Bordeaux |
| 6. _____ Lille | |

B

Identify the cities described in the information below.

1. Ocean vacation site: _____
2. High tech center: _____
3. City with an extinct volcano: _____
4. City where silk was made: _____
5. Center of the Council of Europe: _____
6. Chief port on the English Channel: _____
7. Capital city divided into two banks by a river: _____
8. City of Coronations: _____
9. City on the Garonne River: _____
10. City settled by the ancient Greeks and Romans: _____
11. Birthplace of Duchess Anne of Brittany: _____

C

Study the map on page 43 carefully so that you can identify the following items.

1. The mountain range separating France from Spain: _____
2. The river dividing France and Germany: _____
3. The ocean bordering France on the west and northwest: _____
4. The country bordering France on the north: _____
5. The longest river of France: _____



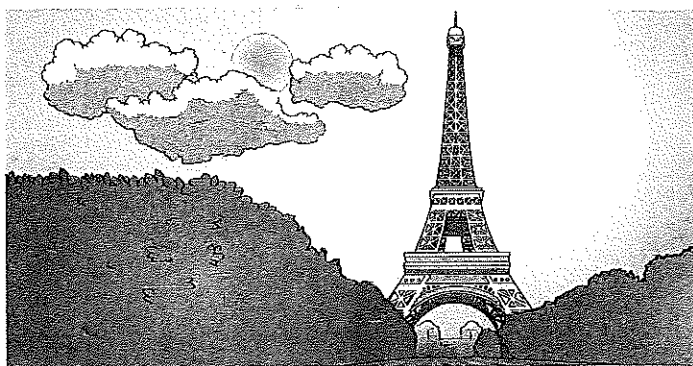
D Match Column A with Column B.

- | A | B |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. _____ Reims | A. international fashion center |
| 2. _____ Strasbourg | B. Mediterranean seaport |
| 3. _____ Nantes | C. port on the English Channel |
| 4. _____ Biarritz | D. city with two Roman amphitheaters |
| 5. _____ Clermont-Ferrand | E. city historically and culturally tied to Belgium |
| 6. _____ Marseille | F. city with cultural alliance with Germany |
| 7. _____ Lyon | G. city of French kings |
| 8. _____ Paris | H. city of black volcanic rock |
| 9. _____ Le Havre | I. place for good surfing |
| 10. _____ Lille | J. gateway to many châteaux |

E Écris le nom de la ville indiquée par chaque image. (*Name the city associated with each illustration.*)



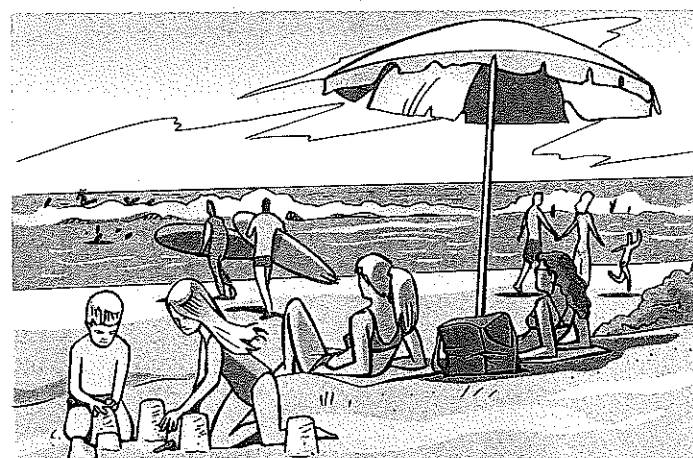
3.



4.



5.



F

Encerle la réponse correcte. (*Circle the correct answer.*)

1. The most populated city of France is _____.
 - A. Lille
 - B. Paris
 - C. Nantes
 - D. Marseille
2. The shortest river of France is _____.
 - A. the Seine
 - B. the Rhône
 - C. the Loire
 - D. the Garonne

3. The site of a chocolate museum is _____.
 - A. Biarritz
 - B. Paris
 - C. Lyon
 - D. Strasbourg
4. Lyon's history is linked to _____.
 - A. cotton
 - B. nylon
 - C. silk
 - D. linen
5. France's most navigable river is the _____.
 - A. Garonne
 - B. Seine
 - C. Loire
 - D. Rhône
6. A port city on the Loire River is _____.
 - A. Paris
 - B. Le Havre
 - C. Nantes
 - D. Bordeaux
7. Switzerland borders France on the _____.
 - A. east
 - B. north
 - C. south
 - D. west
8. Two major sources of hydroelectric power are the Garonne River and the _____.
 - A. Seine
 - B. Loire
 - C. Rhine
 - D. Rhône
9. The *Pyrénées* separate France from _____.
 - A. Luxembourg
 - B. Italy
 - C. Spain
 - D. Switzerland
10. The Alps mountain range separates France from Switzerland and _____.
 - A. Belgium
 - B. Italy
 - C. Spain
 - D. Germany

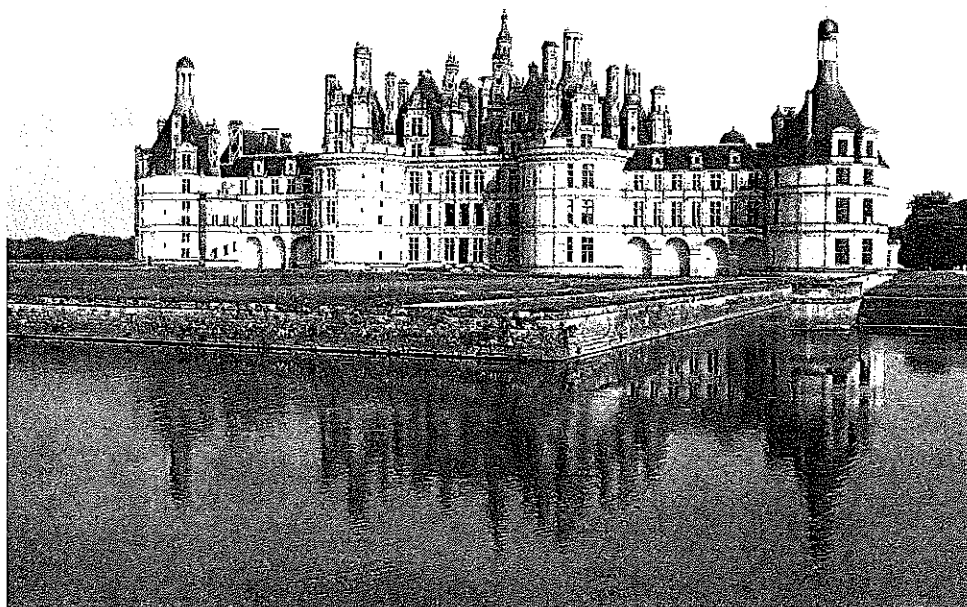


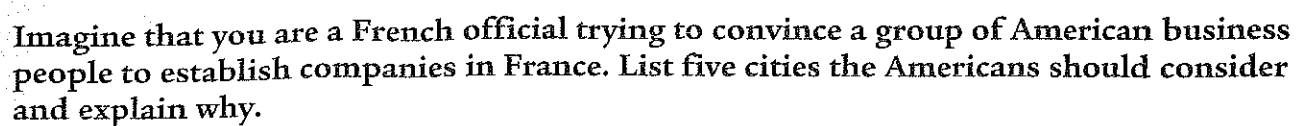
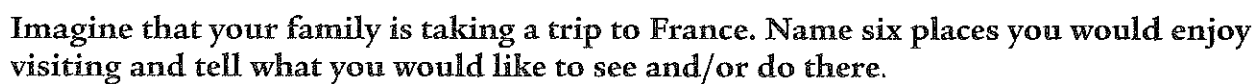
les Alpes

G

Write in each blank the geographical answer that makes each statement correct.

France is shaped like a hexagon, a six-sided figure. (1) _____ (a number) sides border the water and (2) _____ (a number) sides have land boundaries with other countries. The longest international border is with the country of (3) _____. In addition, two mountain ranges create natural boundaries for France. The (4) _____ Mountains separate France from Spain, while the (5) _____ divide France from Italy and Switzerland. Of the important rivers, only the (6) _____ flows southward. Starting as a glacial stream in Switzerland, it passes through the city of (7) _____ and empties into the Mediterranean Sea. The (8) _____ River flows into the English Channel. It is considered France's most (9) _____ river. In Paris, merchandise for transoceanic export is either loaded into barges and shipped to (10) _____, or transported overland to that city. Another busy commercial river is the (11) _____, a natural water border with Germany. Although of little value in terms of transportation, the (12) _____ River is invaluable as a source of hydroelectric power. It begins in the Pyrenees Mountains and passes through the port city of (13) _____. A pleasure cruise on the (14) _____ River or one of its tributaries offers spectacular views of the historic residences called *châteaux*. At the mouth of this river (where the river empties into the ocean), one may take a swim in the (15) _____ Ocean.



[illegible]This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

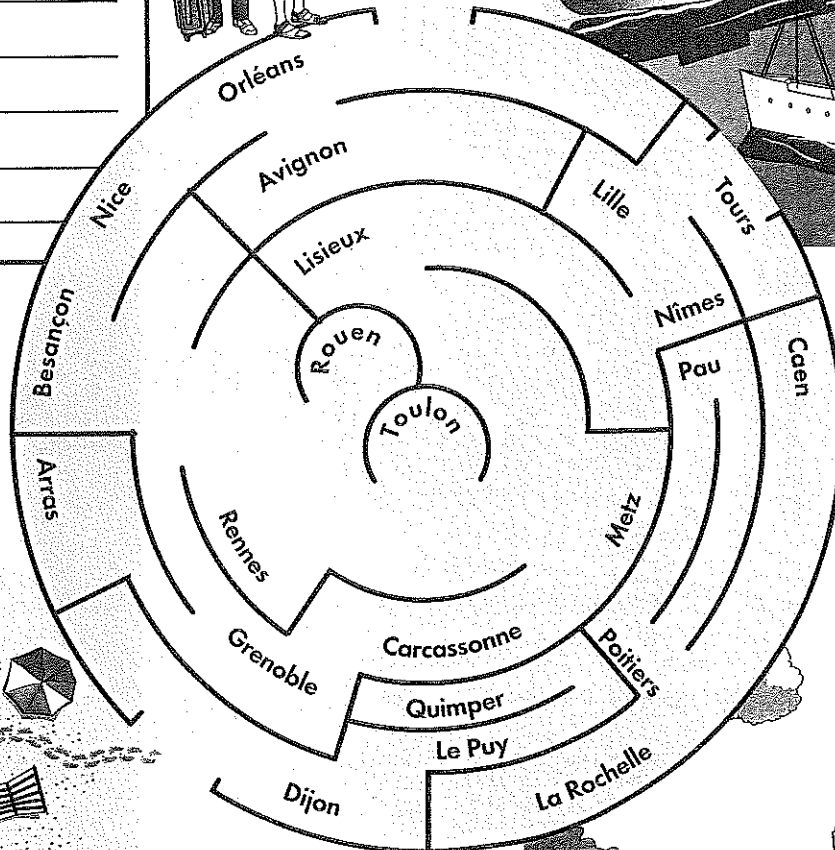
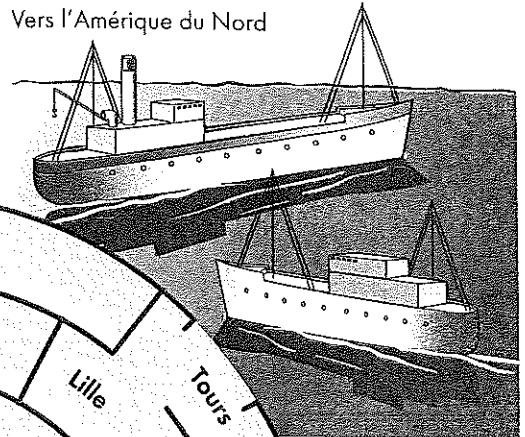


Maze. Alain and Marie-France are ready to travel. Trace their vacation route to find out where they will be spending the summer. Name their destination in the space provided.

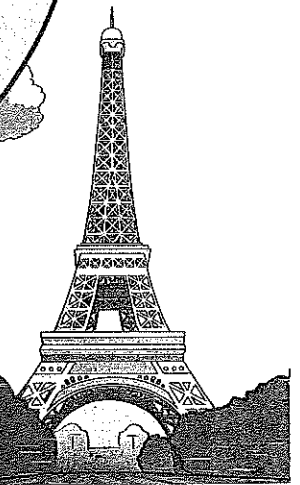
Places they'll visit:



Vers l'Amérique du Nord

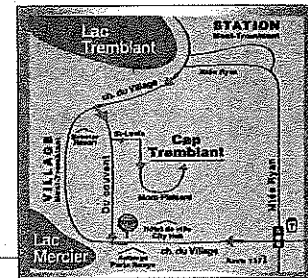
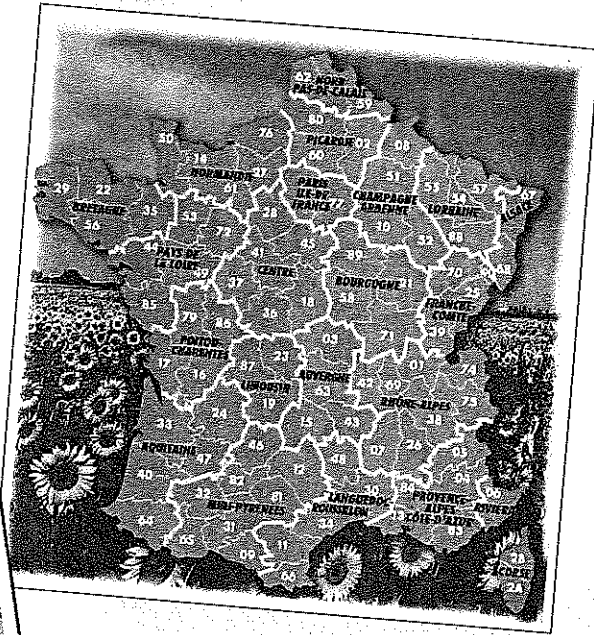
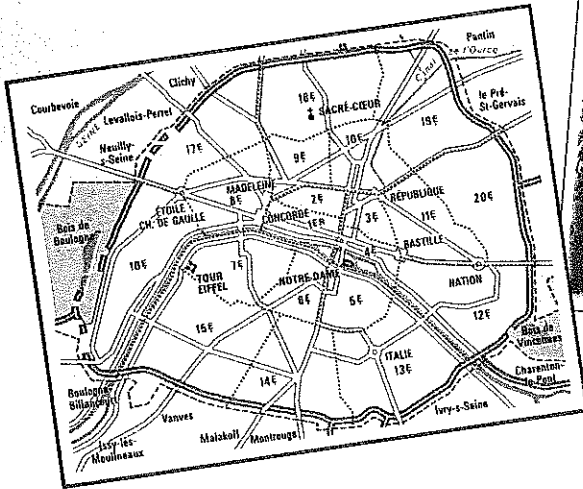


Their destination is:



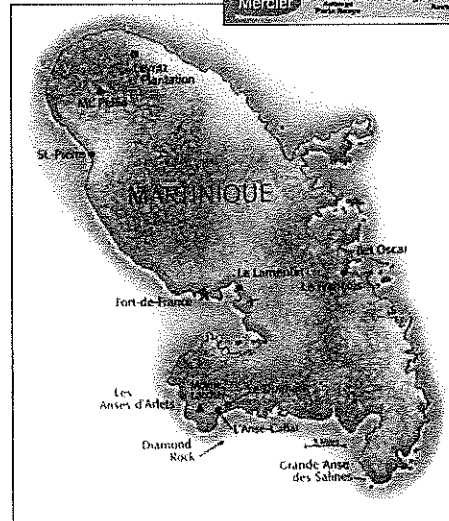
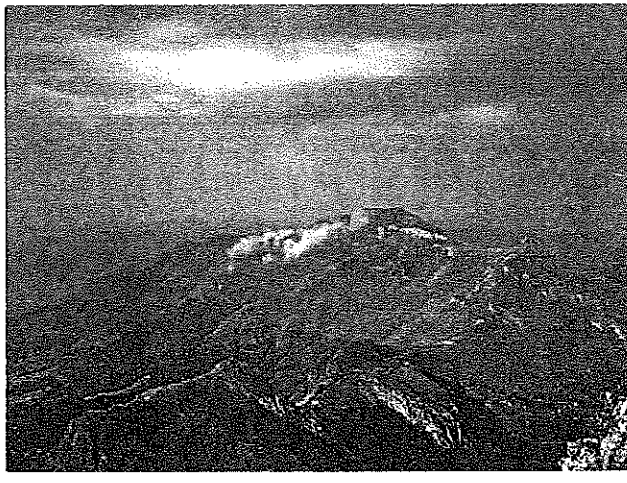
C'est à toi! Travel Agency Role-play! Pretend that you are going on a trip to a French city. Ask for recommendations of places to visit. Your partner will play the part of the travel agent and make several suggestions. Be sure to use French greeting and leave-taking expressions.

Langue vivante!



Quel est le plus grand volcan d'Europe ?

Le Cantal en Auvergne (France) est le plus grand volcan d'Europe ! Il s'agit d'un strato-volcan qui a un diamètre d'environ 70 km et une superficie de l'ordre de 2 600 km². En revanche, le plus grand volcan actif d'Europe est l'Etna, en Sicile. Agé de plus de 500 000 ans, ce dernier s'élève à 3350 m et rejette environ 300 millions de m³ de produits volcaniques par an.



L

Answer the following questions about Paris, France's volcano, and Quebec.

1. To what metropolitan area does the term *Île de France* refer? _____
2. Is the *Notre-Dame* cathedral located on an island? _____
3. Is the *Étoile Ch. De Gaulle* located in the east of Paris? _____
4. Is the Basilica of the *Sacré-Coeur* located in the 20th district? _____
5. Is the *tour Eiffel* located in the 7th city district? _____
6. What is the name of the highest volcano in Europe? _____
7. In which province is it located? _____
8. About how many kilometers is the crater's diameter? _____
9. Where is *Etna*, the highest active volcano in Europe? _____
10. What two lakes are near Québec's ski resort, *Cap Tremblant*? _____

M

The map shows the names of 22 provinces in France. Using the direction words "north," "south," "east," "west," and "center," locate the following provinces:

1. *Poitou-Charentes* _____
2. *Midi-Pyrénées* _____
3. *Picardie* _____
4. *Auvergne* _____
5. *Franche-Comté* _____

N

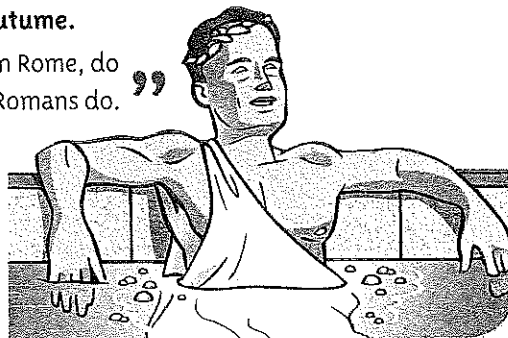
Martinique is an overseas territory in the Caribbean Sea.

1. What is the name of its capital? _____
2. Where is the airport? _____
3. In what part of the island is *Mt. Pelée*, Martinique's own volcano? _____

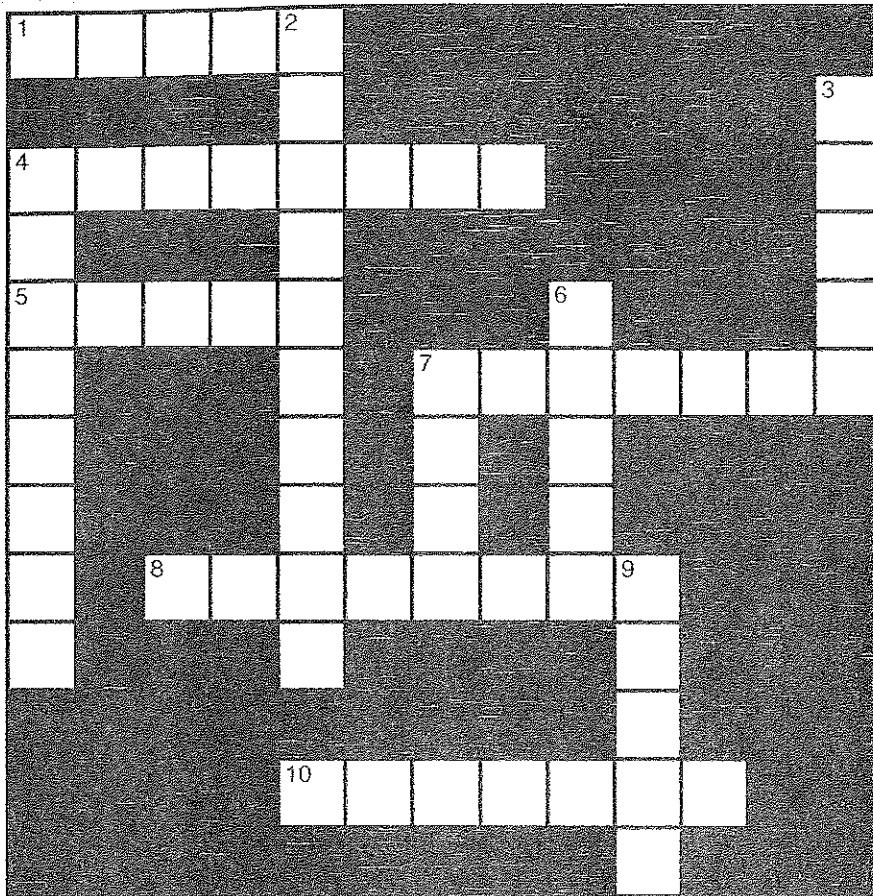
Proverbe

“Autre pays, autre
coutume.”

When in Rome, do
as the Romans do.”



Mots croisés



Horizontalement

1. city where you can see *l'arc de triomphe*
4. town with a famous aquarium
5. where Clovis was crowned
7. port city on *la Manche*
8. natural southern boundary near Spain
10. shortest river

Verticalement

2. city in the northeast
3. city with high tech industry
4. fifth largest city
6. French river that starts as a glacier
7. city with two Roman amphitheaters
9. northern river