



## France and Europe – How do Countries in Europe Show Friendship?

### Overview

- France is a country in western Europe.
- It is bordered by Italy, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Monaco, Andorra, Luxembourg and Switzerland.
- It also has large coastlines on the Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean.
- France covers an area of 551,695 sq. km. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest European country.
- About 67 million people live in France. The capital city is Paris.
- France also includes several overseas territories, e.g. French Guiana and Reunion.



### Human Geography

France has a long and rich history, and a culture which has developed over hundreds of years. It is a major economic centre and is also a tourism hotspot – millions visit Paris and other areas of France every year.

|                   |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Population        |  | -The population of France is around 67 million people. This makes it the fourth most populous country in Europe. The population density is 118 people per square kilometre. This is the 15 <sup>th</sup> highest population density in Europe.          |
| Settlements       |  | -The most populous and capital city of France is Paris. It has a population of over 10.5 million people (metro area). Other large settlements include Lyon, Marseille, Toulouse and Nice. Many settlements are found around rivers and along the coast. |
| Economic Activity |  | -France is a part of the European Union and its currency is the Euro. It is one of the G7 - countries with the most advanced economies in the world. Alongside Germany and the UK, it is considered a 'European powerhouse.'                            |
| Resources/ Trade  |  | -France is a large worldwide exporter of vehicles, food and wine, medicines and chemicals. French is spoken in many countries around the world, helping France's strong trade links with many other countries.                                          |

### Key Vocabulary

|                      |          |                 |           |         |        |             |            |         |
|----------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------|------------|---------|
| France               | Europe   | Italy           | Spain     | Germany | Monaco | Switzerland | Luxembourg | Andorra |
| Mediterranean Sea    |          | coastal regions |           |         |        |             |            |         |
| Overseas territories |          |                 |           |         |        |             |            |         |
| Paris                | Toulouse | Lyon            | Marseille | Nice    |        |             |            |         |

### Comparison with the UK

- Both countries are in Europe: the UK is slightly north of France, across the English Channel.
- Due to its slightly more southerly position (closer to the Equator) France is generally a little warmer than the UK.
- France is larger than the UK – 551,695 sq. km compared to 243,610sq km.
- Slightly more people live in France than the UK – 67 million people compared to 66 million people.



France is located on western mainland Europe.

- France is relatively flat in the north and west, but has the mountainous Pyrenees in the south and Alps in the west.
- France also includes the five overseas territories of Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guyana, Mayotte and Reunion.
- France has generally warm summers and cool winters. The temperature is warmer in the south, with hot summers along the Mediterranean.
- Rainfall is heaviest in the areas around the Pyrenees mountains.
- The longest river entirely in France is the Loire, which is 1012km long. However, the Rhine is partially in France, and is 1230km long.
- France is close to the United Kingdom, via the English Channel. At the Strait of Dover, the countries are separated by only 18 miles of sea!

## Sticky Knowledge

### I know...

- where France is in relation to the rest of the world
- that France is in Europe
- that France borders Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany, Monaco, Andorra
- that France has a large coastline to the west and south
- that the north of France is similar in topography to the south of the UK
- that France has a different timezone to the UK (understand GM time)
- that France is very hot in the south during summer because it's closer to the equator than the UK
- that Paris is the capital of France
- that Toulouse, Lyon and Nice are major cities in France
- that The Alps and The Pyrenees are large mountain ranges in France
- that the south of France is a very popular tourist destination
- that there are many huge cathedrals in cities in France
- that France is divided into regions and departments (similar to our counties)
- that France produces a lot of cheese and wine
- that France is a large country that farms extensively (vineyards and cattle)
- that France's longest river is the Loire