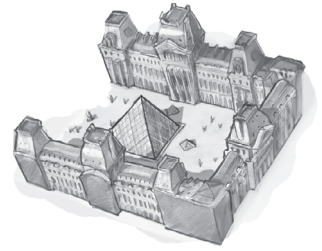


A day out in Paris

Teachers' notes



- As a class, investigate the different ways of getting to Paris from the United Kingdom, the distances involved, the time journeys take and some of the main costs involved. Methods might include direct flight from a regional airport, car journey and ferry crossing, and train and use of the Channel Tunnel. Hand out **Photocopiable 2**, 'Paris Journey', for the children to fill in.
- Use the A2 poster of Paris and street maps of the city (visit www.worldexecutive.com/cityguides/paris/maps.html or <http://travel-guides.com/city>) to find out more about moving around in Paris itself. Discuss the Metro and mainline stations like the Gard du Nord, where Channel Tunnel trains arrive, and the Gare St Lazare, which is close to many of the main attractions. Locate important road systems like the Champs Élysées, the Quai d'Orsay alongside the River Seine, and bridges over the river like the Pont Neuf (the oldest bridge in Paris).
- Some of the best sightseeing vantage points are obtained from a boat journey along the River Seine. Ask the children what important landmarks would be seen. What are the main advantages of using river transport? Children can use books and the internet to find out more about the Seine. How does its length compare with other European rivers? Where is its source? Where does it flow into the sea?
- Study photographs of the Eiffel Tower. Where is it situated in the city? Who was its designer? When was it built? How high is it? Encourage the children to design and build their own girder-like towers using simple equipment. Hand out **Photocopiable 3**, 'Top tower', to challenge the children to build the tallest tower they can out of specific materials.
- Examine photographs of the huge glass pyramid entrance to the Louvre. As a class, build a skeletal version of this shape using straws and small blobs of Plasticine at each vertex. What type of pyramid is this? How does it differ from other shapes using triangles, like the tetrahedron and the triangular prism?
- The Louvre is both a museum and an art gallery. It houses one of the world's most famous paintings, Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* or *La Gioconda*. Challenge the children to discover more about other paintings found inside the Louvre. They could also find out about other well-known artists associated with Paris, like Picasso and the sculptor Rodin.
- Study the church of Notre Dame, pointing out its towers, 90m spire, elaborate gargoyles and flying buttresses. Also, look at pictures of the North and South Rose Windows. Challenge the children to make their own stained-glass window designs using black sugar paper and coloured cellophane or tissue paper.
- The former Emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte, is buried in Les Invalides. Encourage children to find out more about his life and why he is such an important character in French history.
- Provide the children with copies of **Photocopiable 4**, 'Out and about in Paris', so they can try out some conversational role play that would be useful during their time in Paris. Start by introducing simple phrases like *Où est...?* (Where is...?), *Pour aller...?* (How do you get to...?), *Qu'est-ce que...?* (What is...?) and *C'est* (It is). Get children to speak and listen to the phrases carefully, and encourage plenty of repetition.

