

Activities

Bastille Day - Primary History (Cycle 2) in France

Project Title	VISITOR (VIrtual muSeums In The cOvid eRa)
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Name of Activity	Bastille Day - Primary History (Cycle 2) in France
Age Range	9-11 years old
Curriculum Subject Areas	Primary History (Cycle 2)
Curriculum Links (Nation)	https://www.education.gouv.fr/bo/20/Hebdo31/MENE2018714A.htm
	Programme d'enseignement du cycle des apprentissages fondamentaux (cycle 2)
	Cycle 2
	Repérer des périodes de l'histoire du monde occidental et de la France en particulier, quelques grandes dates et personnages clés Quelques personnages et dates. Ressources locales (monuments, architecture, etc.), récits, témoignages, films vus comme des éléments d'enquête.
	Teaching program for the fundamental learning cycle (cycle 2)
	Identify periods in the history of the Western world and of France in particular, some major dates and key figures Some characters and dates. Local resources (monuments, architecture, etc.), stories, testimonies, films seen as elements of investigation.
Resources Needed	Audio-visual equipment, Internet connection, printed worksheets.





Links to Museum	https://www.francetraveltips.com/remains-of-the-bastille/ http://www.colonne-de-juillet.fr/ https://www.carnavalet.paris.fr/ https://www.carnavalet.paris.fr/en/collections/bastille-early-days-its-demolition
Time Allocation	30 minutes
Description of Activity	Show excerpts from the websites above to illustrate that there are still places in Paris to learn about the Bastille and to see remnants of it, even though it was demolished after July 14th, 1789. Students to carry out the comprehension activity on the accompanying worksheet.

Bastille Day

Task: Read the following statements about Bastille Day, and answer the following questions in English.

- Bastille Day is **France's National Day** (like Independence Day in America, or Canada Day in Canada). It is celebrated on the 14th July every year.
- It is known to the French as *le 14 juillet* or *la Fête nationale*.
- It commemorates the **Storming of the Bastille** on 14th July 1789, a turning point in the French revolution.
- The French revolution lasted from 1789 to 1799.
- It led to the end of an **absolute monarchy**.
- Under King Louis XVI, lower and middle class citizens suffered enormously. They could be sentenced to imprisonment for no reason; they had huge taxes to pay which meant they often struggled to make ends meet; and they starved as there was a famine.





- Anger towards the monarchy increased.
- The Bastille was a prison in Paris. It was a **symbol** of the King's authority, and had an **excessive ammunition store**.
- On the morning of the 14th July 1789, the citizens of Paris decided to siege the Bastille. They released all the prisoners (although there were only seven at the time!) and took all the gunpowder.
- This marked the start of the revolution, and the overthrowing of the monarchy.
- King Louis and his wife (*Marie Antionette*) were executed by guillotine in 1793.

Questions: Answer in full sentences.

- 1. What is Bastille day?
- 2. When is it?
- 3. What does it celebrate?
- 4. How long did the French revolution last for?
- 5. What happened to the poorer people underneath King Louis XVI?
- 6. What was inside the Bastille prison?
- 7. What did the people of Paris take from the Bastille?