



# Fun French classes

## Let's learn about France

### GEOGRAPHY

#### Location

France is in Western Europe, bordered by Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, and Luxembourg. It faces the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea, and is close to the United Kingdom.

#### Varied Landscapes

France has mountains like the Alps and Pyrenees, rolling vineyards, flat plains, and beautiful beaches. Mont Blanc, in the Alps, is the highest peak in Western Europe.

#### Rivers & waterways

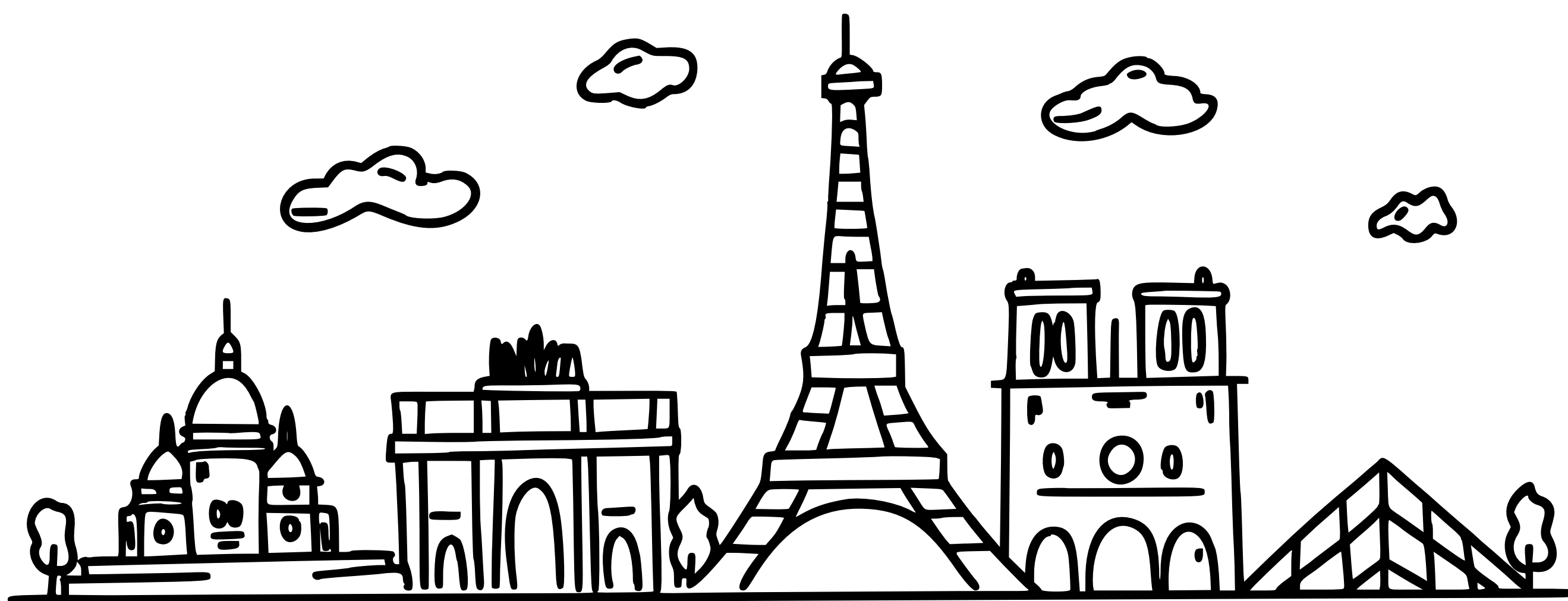
The Seine River flows through Paris, while the Loire, Rhône, and Garonne rivers are also important for transport and irrigation.

#### Diverse cities

Paris, the capital city, is home to over 2 million people and is known for its cultural and economic importance. Other major cities include Marseille, Lyon, and Toulouse.

#### Nice (Madame Anne grew up in Nice)

Nice is a beautiful city in southern France located on the French Riviera along the Mediterranean Sea. Known for its sunny weather, vibrant culture, and stunning beaches, Nice attracts visitors from around the world. The city is famous for the Promenade des Anglais, a long walkway along the seafront, and its charming Old Town with colorful buildings and bustling markets.



### DEMOGRAPHY

#### Population

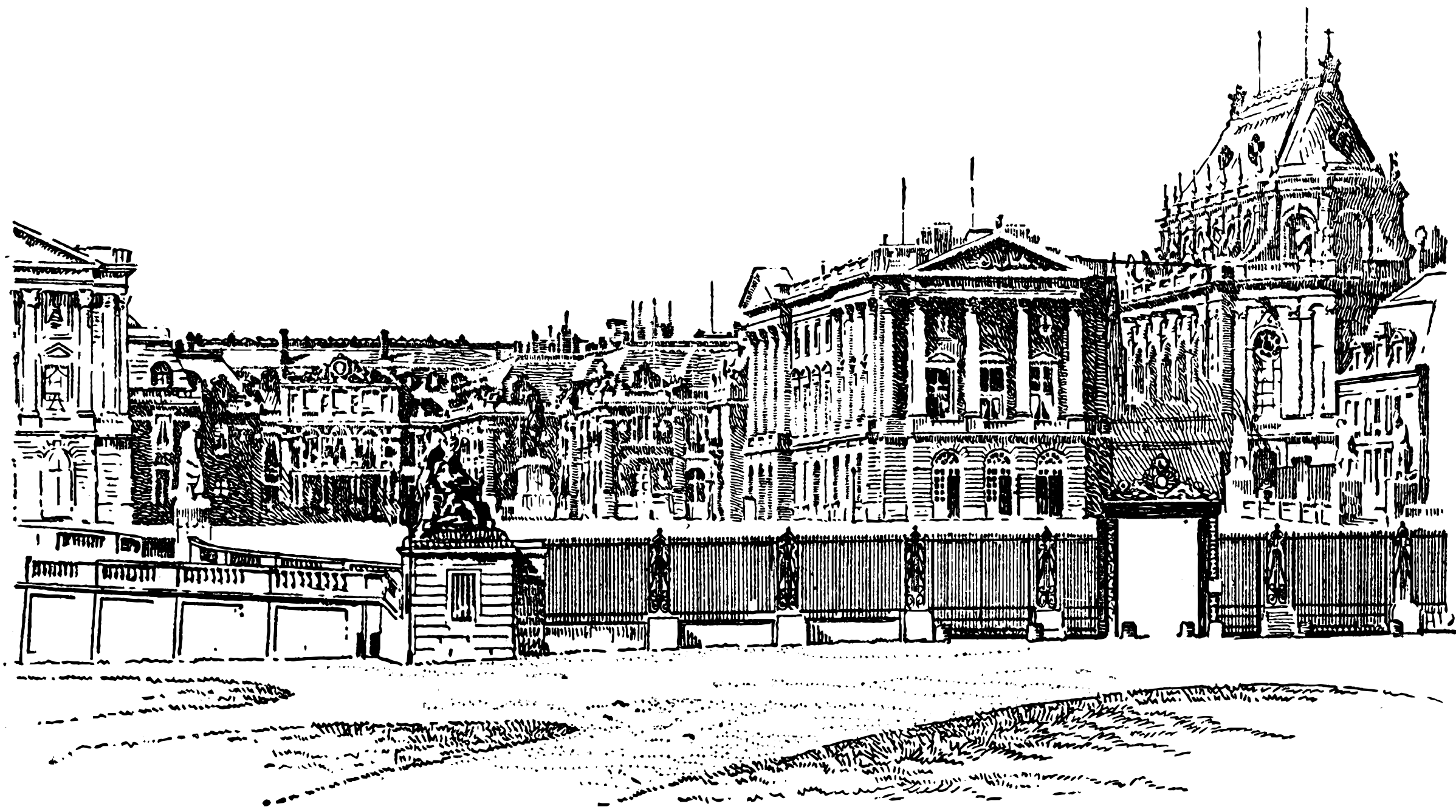
France has a population of about 68 million people, making it one of the largest countries in Europe by population.

#### Language

French is the official language of France, and it is spoken by nearly everyone in the country. A few people can speak English but it is not common to find someone who can speak English fluently.

#### Religion

While France is officially secular, the majority of people identify as Roman Catholic, with growing communities of Muslims, Protestants, and Jews.



## HISTORY

### Roman influence

France was once part of the Roman Empire and was called Gaul. Many ancient Roman ruins, like amphitheatres and aqueducts, can still be seen today.

### A long history of kings and queens

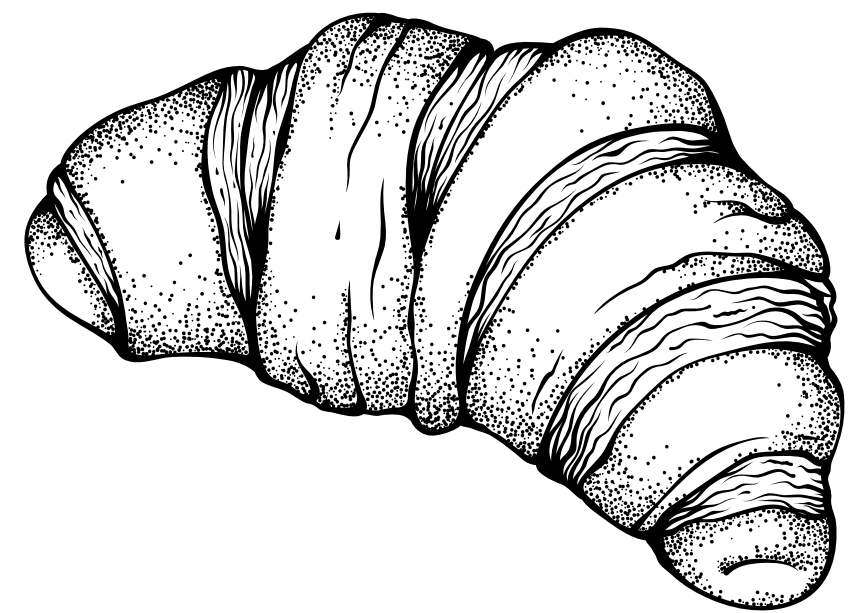
Before becoming a republic, France had many kings and queens. The Palace of Versailles is a beautiful place where some of them lived.

### French revolution

The French Revolution in 1789 ended the monarchy and brought significant changes to French society. It marked France's move toward secularism and its pursuit of liberty. And while there were indeed abuses of power by both the ruling elite and the Catholic Church, which held immense authority through the papacy, it overlooked that true freedom comes only from God, as Christ proclaimed, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." - John 8:36

### Napoleon Bonaparte

Napoleon, a famous French military leader, became emperor of France in 1804 and expanded its territory across Europe before being defeated in 1815.



## CULTURE

### Food and meals

Meals in France are more than just eating—they're a time to connect with family and friends. French cuisine is world-famous for dishes like ratatouille, croissant, and baguette.

### Bread is a cultural staple

Baguettes are more than food—they are a symbol of French culture! Many people still buy fresh bread daily from local bakeries.

### Art is highly celebrated

France has been home to many famous artists, like Claude Monet or Auguste Renoir. Art galleries are a big part of French life. France has famous art museums like the Louvre.

### Politeness and greetings matter

French people often greet each other with a kiss on both cheeks called "la bise" or a handshake. Saying "Bonjour" (hello) and "Merci" (thank you) is very important in everyday life.