March 2, 2023

Tips and tools from your school library

LOW HANGING FRUIT

France for Spring Break? Language and Travel

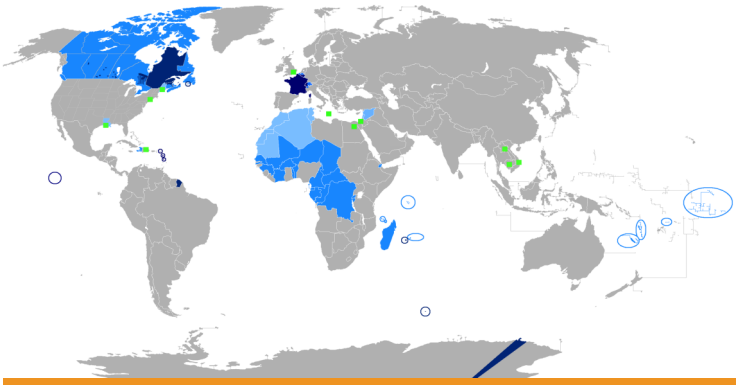
By Marina Rose

Heading out of town for spring break? Have fun international plans this summer? Perhaps you've always wanted to explore France, taking in the sights, tastes, and rich history of that beautiful country. Whatever your plans, if you're headed to a destination where English isn't the primary language, you'll probably need some language prep to help you on your way.

Naturally, you don't have to be an expert in the local language to enjoy travelling abroad, but a basic understanding along with a few pleasantries and phrases, can help you enjoy the experience more fully, and help you show respect for the people that live there. You can get a crash course in French from a fluent friend, or you can use Pronunciator's 8-week travel prep course—available in French and a number of other languages. Suggested practice time is 5 days a week for 30-60 minutes a day, but the course is designed to be flexible.

Did You Know?

According to Berlitz.com (https://bit.ly/3SqQRAm), 29 countries list French as a national language. Twenty-one of those 28 countries are in Africa, and of course, our very own neighbor, Canada, is on that list as well. Canadian French is offered through Pronunciator, in addition to the primary French course, so if you're planning a jaunt up to Quebec, there are resources to prepare you for that region's French dialect.



Regions where French is the primary or secondary language. Find more information at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_language

Are your students travelling with their families? Consider ways to engage learners of all ages in language immersion prior to their trip. Pronunciator provides language courses specifically designed for young learners (ages 3-6 and 7-12), so the entire family can take a language crash course before they embark on their next adventure!

LINKS TO MORE LEARNING

Visit The Louvre!

Can't make it to Paris in person? The Louvre at Home allows a glimpse of the art and history to be found in the museum, including Louvre Kids. Note: preview this site before sharing with your students for age appropriateness.

https://louvrekids.louvre.fr/tales/c/0

Mr. Eiffel's Tower

Built for the 1889 World's Fair, it's the "most visited monument in the world". Students from everyone can explore the tower virtually. It might be the next best thing to being there.
https://www.toureiffel.paris/en/explore

Normandy

PBS European travel host, Rick Steves, gives viewers the scoop on Normandy from food to invasions to abbeys.

https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/video/tv-show/normandy

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

French Fries? French Toast? French Dressing?

No. But check out the cookbooks section of your school or public library for a few ideas on French dishes for students to try.

Don't think kids will like French food? They will definitely like French pastry! Mostly.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=biJ2kmZyCQs

DIGITAL TOOLS

Pronunciator

Pronunciator provides both guided and self-directed instruction for 163 languages, and ESL for 51 languages, along with Course Designer, which allows for the creation and deployment of custom courses by educators. Pronunciator uses a variety of tools to provide 360-degree exposure to a language within a safe, structured learning environment.
https://lili.org/dbs/pronunciator/

Low Hanging Fruit is available through school libraries, and made possible with support of the Idaho Commission for Libraries. For previous editions, go to http://libraries.idaho.gov/lowhangingfruit.

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