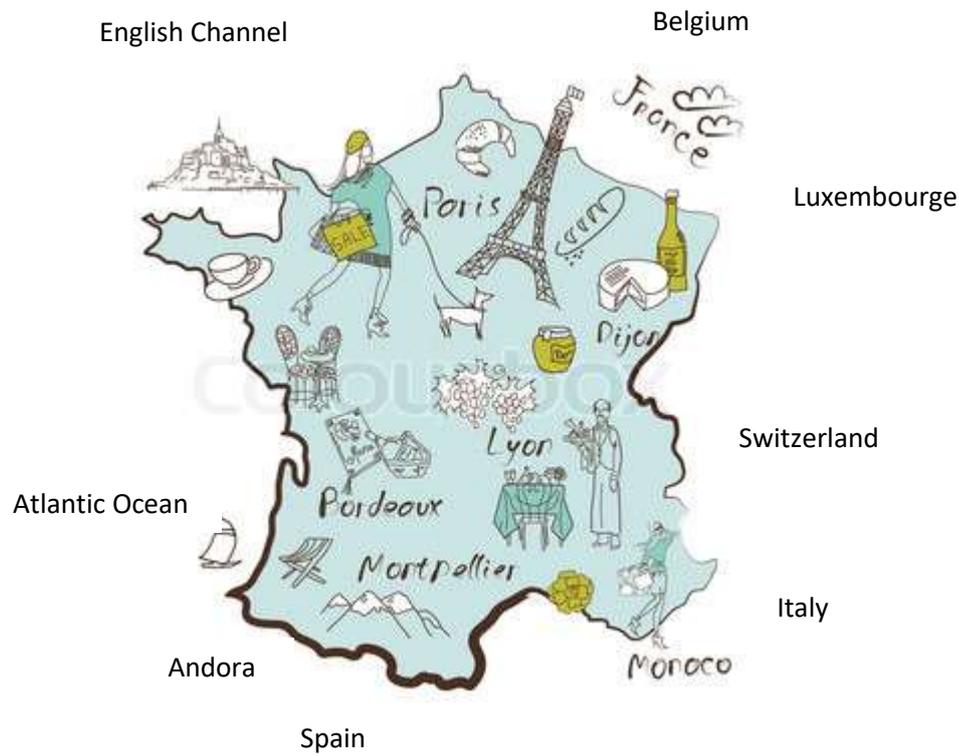# FRANCE

France is one of the European countries surrounded by Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Belgium, Andorra, Luxembourg and Italy. Try France's traditional foods eclairs, frogs' legs, croissants and don't forget snails. With 643,801 square kilo metres you will have fun in every square. Come to Paris the biggest city in France come see the Eifel tower arc de, Triomph and the Louvre museum. Learn about France's deep history such as the Gaul's (where Asterix came from) when Romans occupied France in 51bc until the Germanic Franks freed the region in 476ad and renamed it the kingdom of Francia , and finally in 987ad the kingdom of France was created and King Augustus was the first king of France. During the renaissance period France became the 2nd largest global empire and King Louis XIV was king. In the 16th century religious civil war's broke out between the Catholics and Protestants (Huguenots). In the 18th century the French revolution overthrew the King (the monarchy), making France one of the first republics. This is a very famous event and there is a popular musical Les Misérables, that features this. In the 19th century Napoleon took over France and made a French Empire. Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo by Lord Nelson. My mummy's ancestor Sir George Cockburn was given the task to take Napoleon to his exile in St. Helena. The Empire collapsed and was replaced with the French Third Republic in 1870. Following numerous wars France established the Fifth Republic in 1958 and this form of government remains today.

Enough of history, let me take you to some of the most spectacular places in France

English Channel

Belgium

Luxembourge

Switzerland

Atlantic Ocean

Italy

Andora

Spain

PARIS

The capital city of France is located in the Ile-de-France region which is towards the north of France. Paris was originally inhabited by the Parisii tribe and today the people of Paris are called Parisians. By the 12th century Paris had become the economic and cultural centre of France. The king Louis VII started the construction of the Notre Dame Cathedral next to the river Seine. It is believed there is a hunchback living in the bell

tower of Notre Dame Cathedral who rings the bells. In 2019 a fire ripped through the cathedral destroying a large area including the bell tower.

During the Parisian uprising in 1682 the king Louis XIV built a new palace in Versailles. Paris prospered and many famous landmarks where made including the famous Champs-

Elysees road which runs through the centre of Paris. In the summer of 1789 the French Revolution broke out and the king Louis XVI was sent to the guillotine.

R.I.P king Louis XVI

Other famous landmarks in Paris include the Eiffel tower built in 1887 which was used as a radio tower during the world wars. The Lourve museum which houses Leonardo da Vinci's famous Mona Lisa painting, and many other museums which have the impressionist's paintings like Monet. The city's favourite football team Paris Saint Germain are also found in Paris. (they have the fastest football stricker Mbappe in their team). Roland Garros tennis stadium is also home to the famous Grand slam tournament held every year in Paris.

Eiffel Tower

Mona Lisa

BORDEAUX

The city of Bordeaux is found south of Paris close to the Atlantic Ocean. This is the wine region of France with some of the oldest wine estates in the world. Bordeaux is the

Capital city for the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region which includes many coastal resort towns around the Arcachon Bay. This bay is famous for it's oysters and the biggest sand dune in Europe. Originally the area was occupied by the Romans in 60bc. In the 12th century the Duchess Eleonore of Aquitaine married the French speaking Count Henri Plantagenet who later became King Henry II of England. At this time Bordeaux became very prosperous with its free trade with England. In the 17th century King Louis XIV of France

invaded Bordeaux and the city was concurred and became part of France. The river Garonne flows through the centre of Bordeaux. In order for Napoleon I to take his troops across the river on their campaigns to Spain, a stone bridge was built linking the left bank to the right bank of the city. The bridge was known as Ponte de pierre which means 'Stone Bridge' in English.

The Dune du Pilat is the tallest sand dune in Europe which reaches a height of 106m above sea level and is about 2.7km long. It is a very popular tourist destination where you can climb to the top and slide back down.

MARSEILLE

The second biggest city in France and it is found on the Mediterranean Sea. Today Marseille is the main trading port of France. The port entrance is flanked by two forts, Saint Nicolas on the south side and Fort Saint-Jean on the north side. The Greeks originally occupied the region until 49bc when the Romans conquered the city of Marseille. Soon after the Gallo-Roman culture prospered, Christianity became the main religion. The Great Plague of Marseille in 1720 killed a large number of the population which only recovered 30 years later. The French Revolution started soon after and the

National Anthem of France, "La Marseillaise", was born in Marseille which was first sung in Paris. The German Wehrmacht heavily damaged the city during World War II. Today the city is the centre for immigrants coming from Africa to Europe.

The old Port Entrance

The Abbey of St. Victor

The Abbey of saint Victor is one of the oldest places of Christian worship in Europe. Every year a Black Madonna is carried from the Abbey to the archbishop for a blessing and mass ceremony.

France has many fascinating facts and spectacular sites for tourists to visit this amazing and cool country.