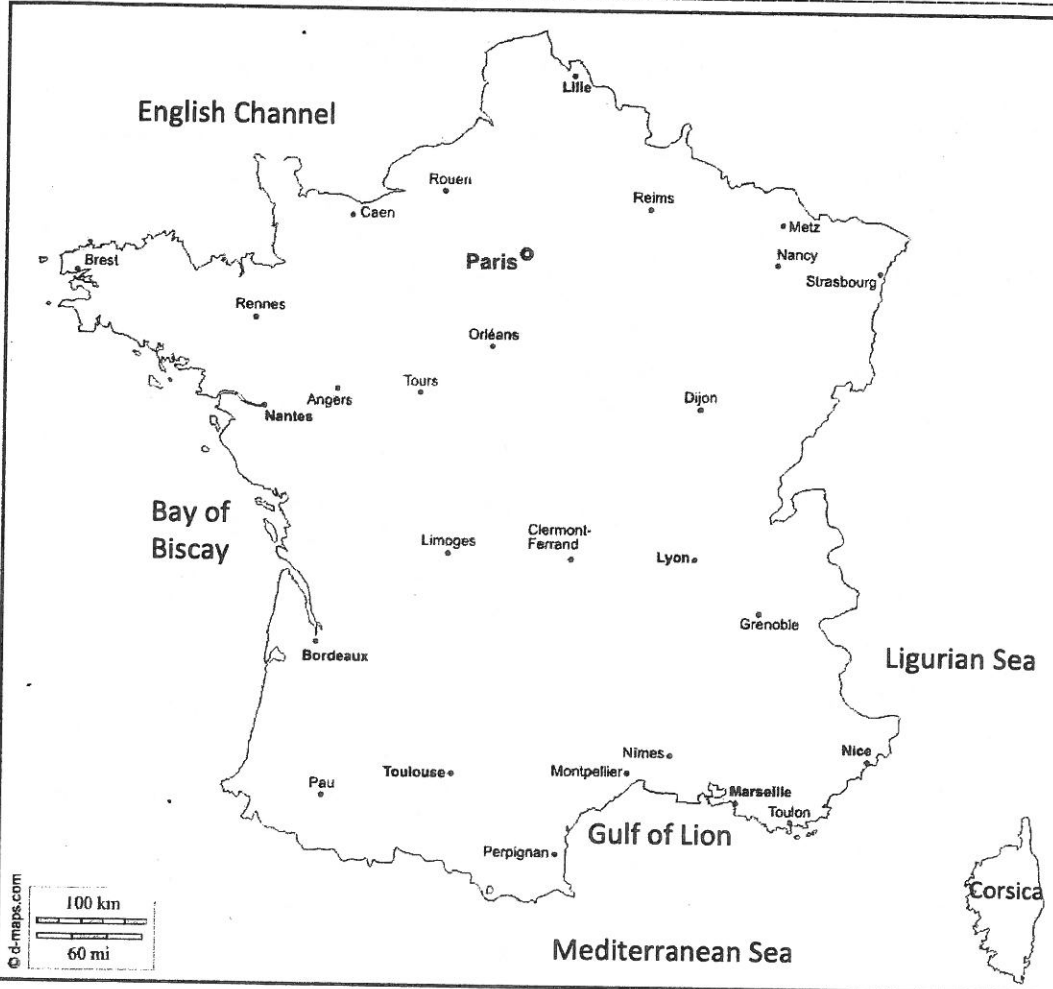


FRANCE

Name: _____



1. What is the capital of France?

2. If you traveled from Dijon to Nantes, which direction would you be going?

3. Which island is part of France?

4. Which body of water borders France to the west?

5. The Gulf of Lion is located near which area of France?

6. Make an inference. Which body of water separates France and England?

7. To travel from the Eiffel Tower in Paris, to the Matisse Museum (art museum) in Nice, which direction would you travel?

8. To travel from the Bordeaux Cathedral. (in Bordeaux), to Disneyland Paris (in Paris), which direction would you travel?

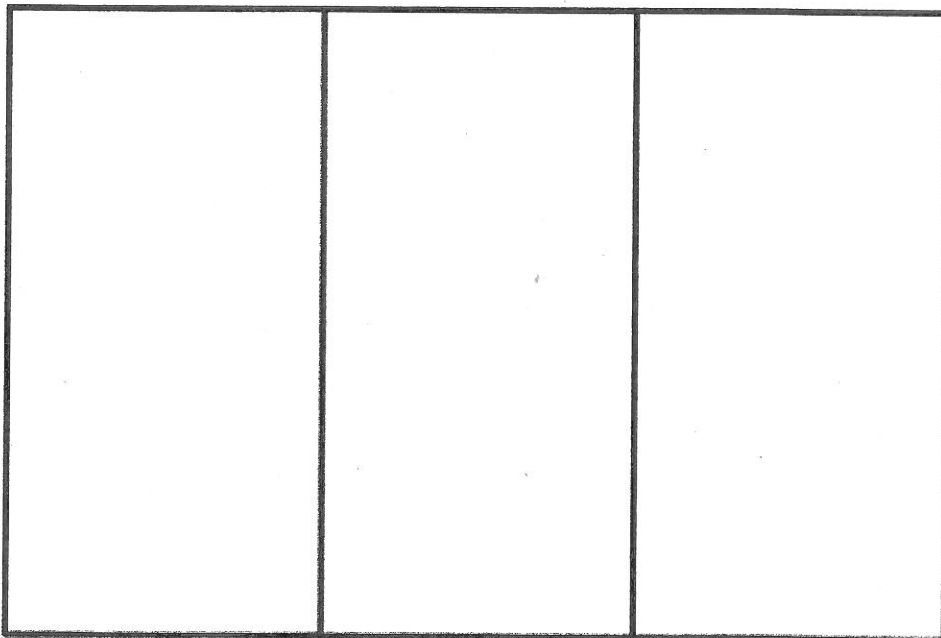
FRANCE

Name: _____

Color France on the World Map:



Color France's Flag



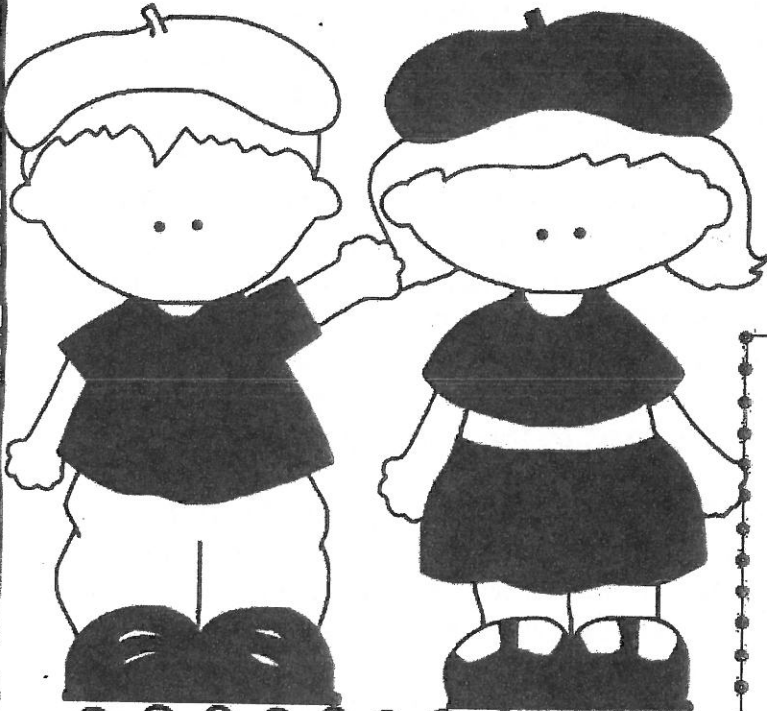
blue

white

red

FRANCE

Name: _____



HOW TO SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS:

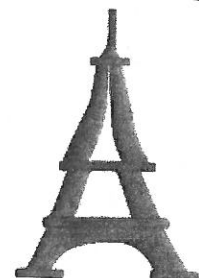
Joyeux Noel

(shwuh no eile)

Gift Giver:

A French Tradition:

TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY FOOD:



Christmas Around the World: France

Name: _____

Christmas celebrations in France begin with the first Sunday of the four Sundays of advent. Many children enjoy having an advent calendar to help them count the days until Christmas. They open one window each day and get a tiny piece of chocolate. Advent wreaths, which have four candles, are set on a table. One candle is lit for each of the Sundays of Advent.

The most popular Christmas decoration in France is the nativity. These special figures of the Christmas story, are made out of clay and are sold at many Christmas markets across the country. Not only is the nativity made of Christmas story figures, it also includes well known saints, as well as everyday people like a butcher, a police officer, and a baker. The nativities are arranged as large village scenes and children often enjoy going outside to find moss, stones, and evergreen branches to add to the decoration.

Other decorations include mistletoe, thought to bring good luck in the coming year, yule logs, which are fading in popularity but are still used in the southern part of France, and Christmas trees, which are actually not particularly popular. Those who do have Christmas trees enjoy having them decorated by Pere Noel (Father Christmas/Santa) when he visits the home on Christmas. Pere Noel arrives with his friend Pere Fouettard, who is dressed in black, and tells Pere Noel how each child has behaved this year!

Some traditions that are enjoyed during this season are Christmas plays and puppet shows. These are especially popular in Paris and Lyon. An interesting tradition (and law) has to do with children's letters to Pere Noel. The law was created in 1962 and states that anyone who writes a letter to Pere Noel must receive a postcard back!

Christmas Eve is a busy day! A huge dinner is prepared and this feast may last for several hours. Items are different depending upon where people live but may include goose, turkey, lobster, oysters, ham, seafood, herb potatoes, garlic and butter vegetables, and bread. Dessert is traditionally a yule log cake which is a chocolate sponge cake that is shaped like a yule log. On Christmas Eve, church bells ring and many families attend mass (church service). Children set their shoes by the fireplace, hoping they will be filled overnight. Some people also set out food and drinks in case Mary and baby Jesus visit their home during the night.

On Christmas Day, children open gifts from Pere Noel or the Baby Jesus, depending upon their beliefs. Adults will exchange gifts later, on New Year's Day. The Christmas season ends with the Epiphany on January 6th and many people enjoy eating a special dessert, a flat almond cake, on this day.

1. What's the difference between a regular wreath and an advent wreath?

2. What do children like to add to the nativity scenes?

3. In the third paragraph, the author states that yule logs are *fading in popularity*. Use context clues. What does this mean?

4. Make an inference. Why do you think the law was created in 1962, which required a postcard response back for every letter sent to Pere Noel?

5. Christmas for many people in France is a very religious season. List three details which support this point.
