

# *Summer Term 2: Explorers*

*New Tasks - 15.6.20*

*TASK 3 –  
Physical  
geography of  
France*

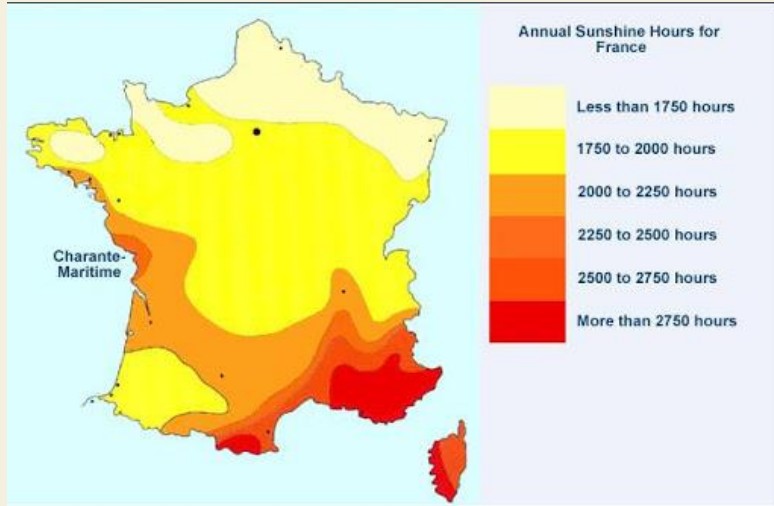
# Physical Geography of France

France is located in Western Europe, however it also has territory in South America, the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean. The terrain in the north and the west of France consists mainly of flat plains, or gently rolling hills, while the south and east regions are more mountainous.

The map to the right shows the relief (height of the land) across France - the darker the colour the higher the elevation of the land. The lowest point in France is in the Rhone river delta which is 2 m below sea level. In contrast, the peaks of its Alpine mountains reach almost 5,000 m above sea level.



# Climates of France



The climate in France is varied, with 4 main climatic zones. The Paris region is variable with summer temperatures averaging around 20 - 26 degrees Celsius. Spring in Paris is relatively dry, while, on average, the wettest month is October, with 71mm of rain.

In the south, the Mediterranean coast has the driest climate of the whole of France and is particularly associated with warm weather - perfect for holidays!

# Key physical features of France



› Mountains



› Rivers



› Islands



› Beaches



› Farms



# Mountains

Mont Blanc is France's highest mountain; it is 4807 metres high. Its name means 'white mountain', because it's always covered in snow, even in the summer. Mont Blanc is part of a vast mountain range called the Alps which extends right across Europe all the way east to Albania.



France has lots of other mountain ranges too. Some of the main ones are the Jura mountains, along the border with Switzerland, and the Pyrenees mountains, on the border with Spain.



In the middle of France is the Massif Central, which means 'central mountains'. Some of the mountains in the centre of France are actually ancient volcanoes.

# Rivers

France has more than 100 rivers, but there are five major ones. The most famous is the Seine, which runs right through the capital, Paris, on its way from Burgundy to the English Channel.



In the northeast of France is the Rhône. The Rhône, which is 505 miles (813 km) long, runs from the Alps to the Mediterranean Sea, and the Garonne runs to the Atlantic Ocean.

France's longest river is the Loire which also runs to the Atlantic from the Massif Central. The Loire is 1012km (628 miles) long.

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# Islands

France's islands are easy to visit by ferry. Many of the country's islands are in the northwest, like Belle-Île-en-Mer, which means 'beautiful island in the sea'. Further south, along the Atlantic Coast, is sunny Île de Ré, but you don't need to get a boat to this one as there's a long bridge connecting it to the mainland. France's biggest island is Corsica, in the Mediterranean Sea.



# Beaches

Most of France's beaches are sandy, but a few beaches have pebbles like the beach in the city of Nice (which is pronounced 'niece', not 'nice!').



# Farms

Over 60% of land in France is used for agriculture. Some farms have cows, which farmers raise for meat and milk, as well as other animals like sheep, goats and pigs. Others have wheat, vegetables and lavender growing in the fields.



France is famous for its wine which is the country's number one export. You'll see vineyards with rows and rows of grapevines all over France.



# TASK 3

From the information on the previous slides, we would like you to write your own **geography quiz round** (with a minimum of 10 questions)!

Write your questions out neatly, and then you can test your friends, your family and your teachers on their knowledge of France! Remember - you must know the answers!

If you want to test me or Mr Bull, remember to send your questions to us on twitter or the class emails 😊.

