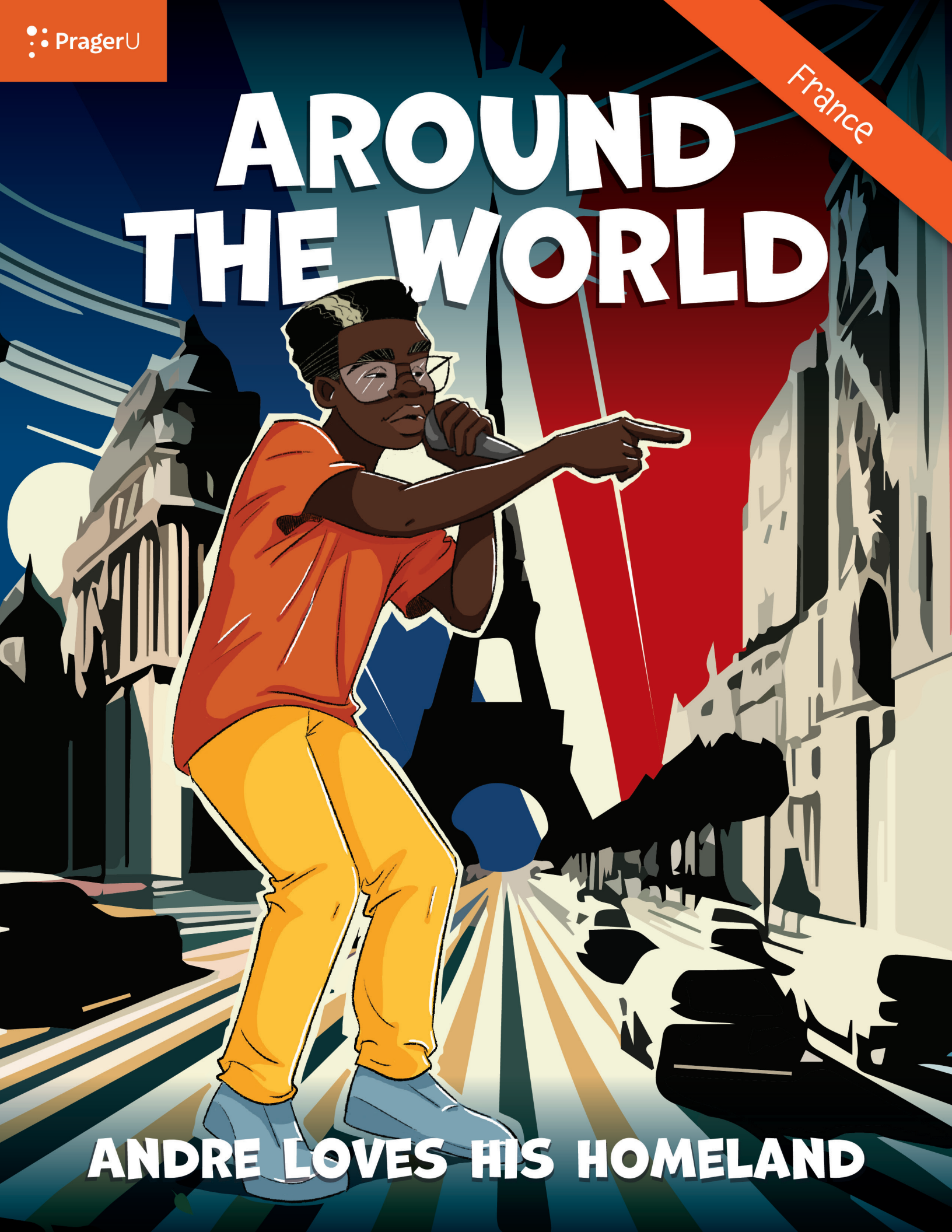


AROUND THE WORLD

ANDRE LOVES HIS HOMELAND





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WELCOME TO FRANCE



Bonjour, mes amis... and welcome to France!

With its magnificent landscapes, picturesque towns and villages, and its iconic capital, Paris, France is easily among the most beautiful countries in the world. In fact, most years France has hosted more international tourists than anywhere, but visitors are attracted to the country for far more than just its countless places to snap pretty photographs.



France is home to a unique culture famous for its elegant language, delicious cuisine, fine art, innovative fashion, and impressive architecture. It is truly a nation of which its citizens can be proud.

Over its history, France has also adopted **Western values** like freedom of expression and freedom of religion, and these beliefs have become as important to the nation's culture as its beauty. Today, France is considered a leader of the Western world, but like many places that share a commitment to freedom, its traditional culture is under attack.

For more than a century, France has opened its doors to immigrants, but in recent years, many newcomers have not shared France's Western values. These people do not seek to become part of the French culture and instead choose to hold onto the customs and values from where they came. In some of Paris's suburbs, an oppositional culture is growing, and it's made up of people who, despite living in France, have no desire to **assimilate** into French society. As a result, France is experiencing extreme divisions amongst its people, violence has risen, and the proud nation is being threatened from within its own borders.

Bonjour, Mes Amis

Hello friends (or good morning friends).

Western Values

A set of principles and ideas shared by Western countries, which are traditionally the nations of Western Europe, Canada, the USA, Australia, and New Zealand.

Assimilation

When individuals from a different culture or background adapt to and embrace the habits, language, and customs of a new culture, the culture they joined.

Meet Andre

Andre is fourteen years old. He lives in a third-story apartment with his parents, Amani and Mariam, and his younger sister, Sylvie. They live in Sarcelles, a Paris **banlieue** filled with families who have moved to France from its former colonies. Andre is very thoughtful and curious. He's an excellent student, and thanks to his outgoing personality, he has always loved instigating and participating in classroom discussions. He's a pretty big soccer fan and enjoys playing pick-up matches with his friends, but Andre's major passion is rapping.

Hip-hop culture is wildly popular in France, and the music, art, and fashion dominate immigrant banlieues like Andre's. He dreams of one day being a famous **emcee**, and Andre is well on his way. He's rarely seen without his old-school rhymebook and is constantly playing with words in his mind and then jotting down the best combinations in the notepad. There are many good freestylers and battle rappers in his neighborhood, but Andre is one of the best and one of the youngest.

Andre and his sister were born in Paris, but their parents came as immigrants from the West African nation of **Côte d'Ivoire**. Like many Ivorians living in France, Amani and Mariam are Christians, and France's commitment to religious freedom was a **pull factor** when choosing to leave Africa.

Especially during the cold French winters, it's easy for Amani and Mariam to think fondly of tropical Côte d'Ivoire, but they love their adopted homeland and are very patriotic. Along with the protected freedoms, France has provided the couple with economic opportunity and, until recently, a stable environment for their children to grow up in. The couple has always tried to teach their children gratitude and pride in being French, but lately, their son has given them concern.

Banlieue

A suburban neighborhood outside the center city.

Emcee (or MC)

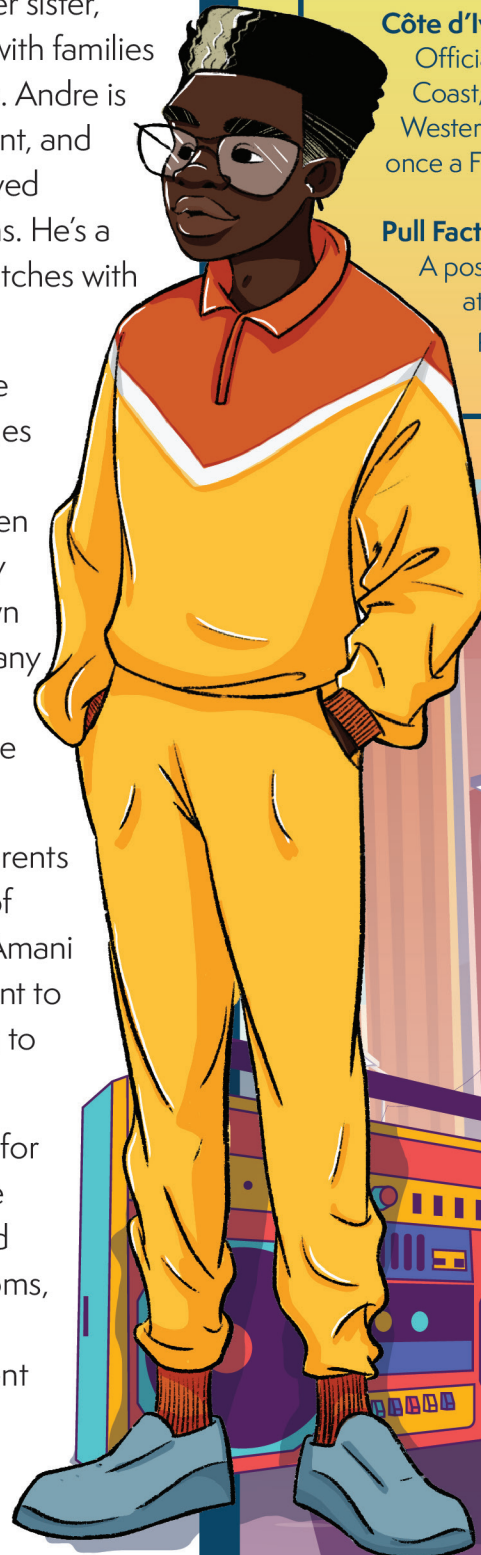
Short for Master of Ceremonies or Mic Controller. A rapper or vocalist who rhymes over beats.

Côte d'Ivoire

Official name for "Ivory Coast," a country in Western Africa that was once a French colony.

Pull Factor

A positive condition that attracts people to a place or activity.



French... or Not?

It's not a tricky question for Amani and Mariam, but Andre's parents are pretty unusual in Sarcelles. They are two of the few **naturalized** French citizens living in the neighborhood, and even more uncommon, they regularly vote, often fly the **tricolore** from their balcony, and celebrate French holidays.

For most of his life, Andre didn't give much thought to his parent's patriotism. For him, it was just normal to cheer on the French national sports teams and hold **Bastille Day** celebrations. He always looked forward to the family tradition of getting dressed in red, white, and blue and attending the **Victory Day** Parade in downtown Paris. However, as he's gotten older, and has begun spending more and more time with friends, Andre now often rolls his eyes when his parents "act *French*."





The majority of Andre's schoolmates were not born in France, and most of his neighbors have moved to France during the last ten years from **Muslim** countries in North Africa and the Middle East. Many are like his best friend, Chaba, and came from Algeria (a former French colony like Ivory Coast) when they were very young. Algeria, like many Muslim nations, is an **Islamic state**, where the government plays an active role in determining and policing religious practice and controls what people can and cannot say.

French is commonly spoken in the Muslim nations that were French colonies, but Arabic is their dominant language. Thanks to massive immigration, the Arabic language now dominates Andre's neighborhood, too. Many days, he won't hear French spoken outside his home or school. However, it's not just that his neighbors rarely speak French; they often don't speak highly of the nation Andre's family loves so much.

Many people are like Chaba, and despite living in France, they don't feel like it's home. Some of them often describe France as racist and hostile to outside cultures, and this message is common in popular raps that Andre and Chaba listen to.

Chaba is never mean, but he does often tease Andre about being more French than African. Andre usually smiles and shrugs at the jokes, but recently, they've left him questioning what "being *French*" is, anyway. His neighborhood sure doesn't feel very *French*.

Naturalized Citizen

Someone who completed a process to become a citizen of a country they live in but were not born in. In France, immigrants older than eighteen with no criminal record and five years of residency can complete the naturalization process.

Tricolore

The nickname for the three-colored national flag of France.

Bastille Day

A holiday that celebrates France as a nation. It takes place on July 14th and commemorates the storming of the Bastille during the French Revolution.

Victory Day

A European holiday celebrating the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II. France celebrates Victory Day on May 8th, the day when General Charles DeGaulle announced victory to the French public.

Muslim

Someone who believes and practices the religion of Islam—a popular world religion founded in the seventh century AD by Muhammed of Saudi Arabia.

Islamic State

Countries that have no separation between government and the Islamic religion. Laws are based on Muslim religious teachings.



A Balancing Act

While it's a short train ride away from the fancy Avenue des **Champs-Élysées**, Andre's banlieue is *not* the France tourists see. Crime and gang activity make it one of the places police call a "no-go zone." Beyond the crime, Sarcelles also looks different from the Paris seen in movies and on postcards. Instead of the famous Gothic, Renaissance, and Art Deco architecture that makes Paris memorable, the buildings where Andre lives are plain and block-shaped. Most of them are **public housing**, built for people like Andre's parents, who came during massive immigration waves from ex-colonies.

The waves started after World War II, when France needed newcomers to fill a labor shortage. The immigrants helped rebuild the country, and they brought aspects of the cultures that they left behind with them. Today, neighborhoods across Paris have some of the best African, Southeast Asian, and Middle Eastern restaurants in Europe. As a nation, France is proud that citizens can expose themselves to small pieces of outside cultures, especially in its cities. French people can enjoy foreign foods, listen to music with sounds from faraway lands, and celebrate all kinds of aspects from different cultures, but the nation has decided that it is very important that there is an overall *French* culture that can be shared by everyone—no matter race, religion, or even place of birth.

It wasn't easy for Andre's parents to assimilate, but over time, they worked hard, adapted, and now participate fully in French society. Amani and Mariam have chosen to hang on to pieces of the Ivorian West African culture they grew up with, but they have never let it get in the way of assimilating and becoming French.

For decades, cultural assimilation was common among France's immigrants, but in recent years, things have shifted. Similar to many Western nations, a belief called **multiculturalism** has grown inside France, and its effects are dividing the country.

Multiculturalism discourages a shared national identity and instead promotes cultural differences. Activists and cynical leaders who advance multicultural thinking accuse a shared *French* culture of being discriminatory toward immigrants and label those who assimilate as traitors and sellouts.

Andre's parents have never felt like sellouts, but they understand that it isn't easy to mix old ways with new ways. They respect the delicate balance France maintains—respecting newcomers with different values while promoting unifying French traits—and they pray that their children will, too. They know Andre is exposed to lots of anti-Western and anti-France messages, but they hoped school would be a counterbalance. Their son began high school this year and is taking a class on French citizenship. They hoped it would reinforce the lessons they've taught and help Andre find cultural balance and a love for France, his homeland.



Champs-Élysées

A wide Paris avenue with shops, restaurants, and iconic landmarks. Each year, around 300,000 people visit per day.

Public Housing

Apartments or houses built by the government for lower-income families to live in.

Multiculturalism

The belief that people of different races, especially minority groups, should not assimilate into the larger culture within the country.



A stylized illustration of a young man with dark skin and short black hair, wearing glasses, an orange t-shirt, yellow pants, and blue sneakers. He is holding a microphone to his mouth with his right hand and pointing his left index finger towards the right. The background consists of horizontal bands of green, yellow, and orange, suggesting an outdoor setting.

La Vie en Banlieue

Andre's neighborhood feels alive on warm summer evenings. Stores stay open late, groups of children run around playing in groups, and Andre and his friends usually meet on the corner outside his building to show off their skills. They rap lyrics they've been working on, practice **beatboxing**, and battle back and forth with freestyles.

For years now, Andre has received a lot of respect for his corner performances. He specializes in making clever observations about the neighborhood and rapping jokes about school life. The mood around these corner-raps was light and fun while Andre was a middle schooler, but the vibe changed the night before the start of high school.

Chaba was first to rap that evening, and he led off with angry lyrics about a class he and Andre were scheduled to start the next day. In his verses, Chaba passionately claimed that the class was designed to take away his Algerian identity and force him to be French. The lyrics surprised Andre, but the rest of the group howled with approval. For the rest of the night, instead of the boys rapping about their silly life experiences, they focused on their feelings, and most of the messages were anti-France.

Andre didn't rap that night. His lyrics felt immature. He stayed quiet and nodded along as his friends rhymed into the night air. It was hard for him to stay focused. He kept thinking about tomorrow's class, which Chaba was already so upset about.

La Vie en Banlieue

Life in the suburbs.

Beatbox

Imitating the beats and sounds of percussion instruments with the voice.

Restoring French values in Schools

Terror attacks have haunted the Western world this century, and France is no exception. Deadly attacks killing hundreds have been carried out at Christian churches, inside theaters, and on busy streets during holidays. Many of the attackers have been Muslims who believed that France does not give their Islamic religion proper respect. By law, the government of France respects all religions equally. All people are free to choose their religion, and practicing peacefully is protected.

However, thanks to freedom of expression laws, making critical comments about religions or telling jokes about different faiths is also protected. Freedom of expression protects speech, but it doesn't protect feelings. Many of France's terrorist attackers have been deeply offended by commentary and jokes about Islam and have responded with violence.

One measure the French government has taken to ease tensions has been the introduction of national citizenship education. The class is called *l'éducation civique* (civics), and its aim is to reinforce the values of the French Republic and to promote community values and service.



First Day of Le Lycée

The day started like any other. Andre woke up for a quick jog, a shower, and an even quicker breakfast of leftovers wrapped in a **crêpe**. After his mother left for work, he walked Sylvie to her **le collège** and wished her a great first day of school.

With a sigh, he kept going. Andre met Chaba outside the new **Le Lycée** where they were both starting as ninth graders.

"Time to sell out and become *French*," Chaba said.
"You ready, Mbappé?"

Andre rolled his eyes. Since the World Cup, his friends had been teasing him by calling him Kylian Mbappé, the superstar striker who plays for the National Team and boasts of being French despite his African family roots. He knew Chaba was kidding, but he agreed with him that their mandatory citizenship class was a joke. Some of Andre's older friends had already taken the class, and it sounded boring... not to mention disrespectful to many Muslim beliefs.

"Let's talk about something else," Andre said as they entered the school building and officially became high schoolers.



Crêpe

A thin pancake commonly and traditionally eaten in France.

Le Collège

Middle school... not college for young adults. In France, that kind of "college" is called "l'université."

Le Lycée

High school.

Attrapé!

Here we go, Andre thought glumly. First day, and I'm already in trouble. Not long after class started, Andre had grown bored and pulled out his rhymebook to jot down some thoughts. Now, the notepad was in the hands of **Monsieur** Allard, his new, young-looking, and white civics teacher. The class was giggling, and Andre was holding his breath.

"Hmm." Monsieur Allard hummed as he flipped through the first few pages. "Not terrible. Your bars need work, though. Can we talk about them later?"

The class was shocked and roared with laughter.

"Umm sure," Andre muttered, giving Chaba a helpless look.

After school, Andre went back to Monsieur Allard's classroom to ask for his rhymebook. The lyrics he had written had language that was definitely not appropriate for school, and he'd distracted the class, so he was expecting some kind of punishment. But when he walked in, Mr. Allard greeted him with a smile. To his surprise, the new teacher gave him a warning, returned the book, and then asked what inspired his lyrics.

Andre's not sure how it happened, but their conversation went from rap to the banlieues and then to France's multi-racial soccer teams. Monsieur Allard seemed genuinely curious. Instead of lecturing, he kept asking Andre what *he* thought about what it means to belong someplace and yet feel like you don't belong.

Before he left, Andre noticed a small gold pin on Monsieur Allard's jacket, and he asked him about it. The pin had a French **emblem**: a gold and blue crest with the letters L, E, and F representing the national motto—**Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité**.

Attrapé

Caught.

Monsieur

French for "Mr." French kids traditionally call male grown-ups "Monsieur" followed by their last name.

Emblem

A sign or design that identifies something.

Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité

France's national motto: "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity."

On the walk home with Chaba, Andre admitted he enjoyed the talk he'd had with their new civics teacher.

"Allard's not too bad," Andre said, knowing this statement wouldn't be well received. "Maybe his class won't be as lame as we think."

Chaba scoffed in disgust.



Tense Discussions

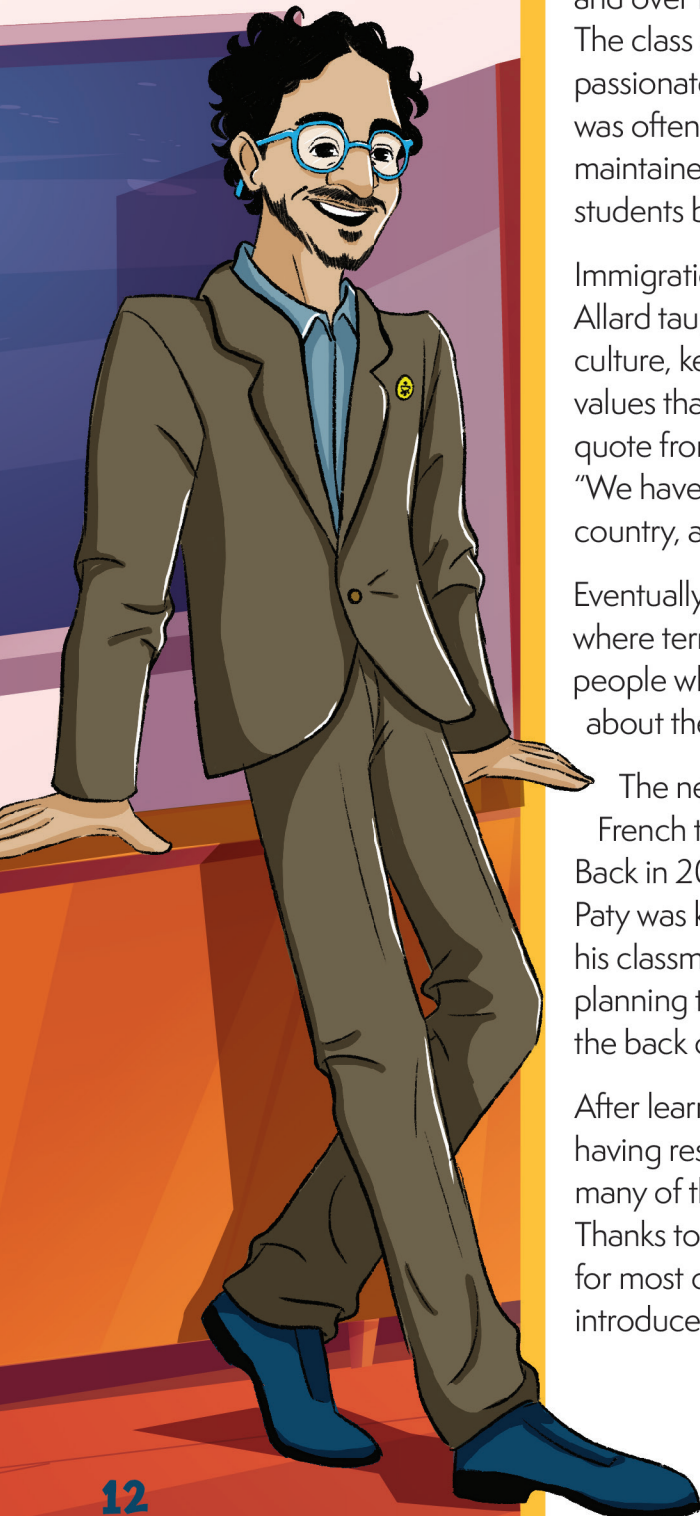
Civics class quickly became Andre's favorite, but he didn't feel comfortable letting anyone know. Monsieur Allard's job was not easy, and over the course of the school year, Andre grew to respect him a lot. The class covered many controversial topics, and it wasn't unusual for passionate debates to break out. To many of his students, Mr. Allard was often seen as an enemy, but Andre was impressed that he always maintained composure and excelled at skillfully redirecting emotional students back to the issues and away from their personal feelings.

Immigration and assimilation were popular topics of discussion. Mr. Allard taught lessons about **Laïcité** laws, which seek to preserve French culture, keep church and government separate, and promote national values that unify the country. One day, the class debated a famous quote from former President Nicolas Sarkozy, who declared in 2011, "We have focused too much on the identity of the person entering the country, and not enough on the identity of the host country."

Eventually, the class discussed the famous Charlie Hebdo tragedy, where terrorists attacked a magazine headquarters and killed twelve people who worked there. The magazine had made satirical jokes about the Islamic faith.

The next period, Mr. Allard told the class about **Samuel Paty**—a French teacher who taught the same civics course they were taking. Back in 2020, after giving a lesson about the Charlie Hebdo murders, Paty was killed that evening in the school parking lot. When Andre and his classmates learned that five of Paty's students had been involved in planning the murder, the class was silent. Andre could feel the hairs on the back of his neck stand up. *This Allard guy is brave...*

After learning about the Paty murder, more students joined Andre in having respect for Mr. Allard. They knew it took courage to teach many of these topics to classes filled with mostly Muslim students. Thanks to Mr. Allard's gained respect, tensions in class remained calm for most of the year, but then when the topic of clothing was introduced to the class, emotions kicked off again.



One day in spring, Mr. Allard wanted to discuss clothing bans, including a law that keeps French students from wearing the *hijab*—a traditional headscarf worn by Muslim women—while in school. He also wanted to debate bans on public workers wearing religious symbols and restricting face veils in public places.

When Monsieur Allard challenged his class to play **devil's advocate** and consider why the French government felt such laws were necessary, Andre was the only one to speak up. While he did not support every law, he liked the chance to learn more about them and try out different arguments for each side.

Because Andre's comments weren't specifically negative of France, many of his classmates hissed and grumbled with disapproval. Chaba only scowled, and Andre knew why. To him, public devotion to Islam was everything. Not wearing a religious head covering or symbol in public was something to take offense at, not a way to come together and respect France's laws and traditions.

After school, on their walk home, Chaba wouldn't stop talking about Mr. Allard. He was angry and said he was tired of their teacher and his class. Chaba mumbled something under his breath about "getting him" that gave Andre a chill. For a moment, he even thought about what happened to Samuel Paty.

But he laughed it off. Chaba was *joking*, wasn't he?

Laïcité

A controversial principle that comes from a 1905 French law declaring the Catholic Church separate from the state and government. In public debate, the word can mean "secularism." As a governing principle, laïcité is one basis for laws not allowing religious clothing or symbols in public schools.

Samuel Paty

A French teacher who was murdered outside his Paris school in 2020 after teaching a "Freedom of Expression" lesson. Six students were criminally charged for their involvement.

Devil's Advocate

Taking and arguing a side you don't necessarily believe to deepen a debate.





Table Talk

Couscous

A fine, grain-like pasta popular in Algeria and around the world. Couscous is a staple food for many Africans living in France.

Secular

Not bound to God or any kind of religious basis.

Give to Caesar What is Caesar's

A famous saying from the New Testament of the Christian Bible.

Merci Beaucoup

Thank you very much.

After months of asking, Amani and Mariam finally got Andre to tell them about his civics class. When they served up one of his favorite dinners—chicken, minty **couscous**, and crêpes topped with fruit—Andre caved. He told them that Monsieur Allard is not like other teachers in the banlieues, many of whom don't care about their subject or students. When he mentioned freedom of expression and the balance of loving one's culture of origin while giving national traditions respect, Amani perked up.

"Sounds like the fifth commandment," he said with a wink. "Honor your mother and father."

Here we go, Andre thought. Before he could say anything, his Dad launched into his favorite topic—why Ivorians should celebrate France.

"Respecting our country is like honoring our parents," Amani explained. "When you live under our roof, you obey our rules and respect us. Well, we live under France's roof, so we honor its laws and traditions to show gratitude. In return, France gives us the freedom to express ourselves and protects our right to worship. Just like the freedoms you have in our house, our country's freedoms come with limits."

"But we're Christians," Andre protested. "Why should we respect **secular** laws when we're supposed to live out our faith? My Muslim friends don't respect them."

Mariam sat next to him.

"Well, that's a challenge people with religious faith have often faced," she said. "Do you remember what Jesus said when he was asked about paying taxes to the Romans?"

Andre smiled. That was an easy one. "He said **give to Caesar what is Caesar's**."

"That's right," Mariam said. "Our country protects us, so we give it the honor it deserves. Yes, France is secular, but that doesn't compromise our faith."



"Giving honor is something we all should do," Amani added. "If you worship at a church or a mosque, or if you don't worship at all, you're *still* French. When everyone gives our country the respect it needs, we hold together. Without that... you start to get the things that keep happening in Côte d'Ivoire."

Andre felt a chill. While he didn't fully understand, he remembered old news clips showing the Ivory Coast spiraling into civil war. He looked over and saw the red, blue, and white tricolore fluttering from the balcony.

"It's true," Mariam added. "A house divided cannot stand."

When he checked the time, Andre realized he was late. He had new lyrics and was excited to try them out at the corner. Chaba hadn't been at school that week, but he'd be there waiting for him.

"**Merci beaucoup,**" he said, clearing his plate. "Can I be excused?"





ultimatum

Andre finished his last rhyme... but the excitement he'd felt just a few minutes ago had become a cold, clammy sweat. He was used to his friends cheering him while he rapped, but things had changed. This time, the beat had picked up, and so did his lyrics, but none of his friends seemed to care. Were his lyrics *that bad*?

"What happened?" Andre asked Chaba. "Didn't think I'd bomb that hard. I rapped about all the things you guys like now."

"It's not your lyrics, bro," Chaba said. "Everyone knows you sold out to that white teacher."

Chaba continued, and the more he explained, the more Andre understood why no one cheered for him. Here in the banlieues, young people resented teachers like Monsieur Allard. Policemen, politicians, and especially those who thought they could come out to *their turf* and convince Muslims and immigrants to let go of their culture and "be more French" were not welcome.

Andre liked Mr. Allard, and he enjoyed his civics class, but these were his friends that he'd had for years. So what if he enjoyed what he was learning in Allard's class? Acceptance from his peers felt more important.

"I'm sorry, Chaba," Andre explained. "What can I do to show that I'm not with Mr. Allard? That I'm still with you guys?"

When Chaba explained what it would take to earn respect back, Andre's insides grew cold. "Stop talking in class all the time. You look like a teacher's pet. A pet, like how France wants us to be."

Andre reluctantly nodded his head in agreement. Then Chaba added with a grin, "And that stupid France pin he always wears... we're gonna need that."

Andre continued nodding, but his stomach was turning somersaults. Could he bring himself to *steal*?



Suspended

When Andre arrived home with the suspension letter, Amani and Mariam were speechless. When they asked him what happened, he scoffed and called his favorite class a “waste of time.” He even marched to their balcony and pulled the flag down.

“Careful with that,” Amani warned.

Andre scoffed. “If the Muslim girls at my school can’t wear their hijab, then why should I respect this thing?”

He dropped the flag, told his family he was done going to the Victory Day parade, walked to his room, and turned the music up.

Amani and Mariam were shocked. *How could this be?* Just recently, Andre had told them Monsieur Allard was getting him to think about French values and history in a whole new way. What was going on?



Hatching a Plan

A day later, Monsieur Allard sat down with Andre's parents for an after-school conference. He was surprised that they seemed happy to meet him—not angry or mistrustful, like other parents from the neighborhood he'd met. They started the meeting by telling him how grateful they were that Andre was being challenged in his class.

When Monsieur Allard told them how Andre's behavior had changed recently, they listened carefully. When he explained that he'd caught Andre trying to rip the gold pin off the jacket he kept on his chair, Amani and Mariam hung their heads.

"I wasn't expecting that," Monsieur Allard said. "Andre doesn't always agree with me, but he's a great student. Something's different, but I'm not sure what."

"I'm certain he was pressured into it by those friends he hangs out with on the corner," Amani replied. "But that is no excuse, and if Andre is suspended, we will support the school's decision."

Hmm, Monsieur Allard thought, contemplating the predicament. He knew Andre was close to his friend Chaba, who had not come to class that week and was rumored to be dropping out of school. He knew that Chaba and plenty of other students did no work and mocked the class whenever they could...

The Louvre

A famous national art museum in Paris. The Louvre houses some of the world's most iconic works of art.

Chaperone

(Another French word!) A person who oversees a group of people. As a verb, chaperone also means the act of overseeing a group.

"Tomorrow, we have a field trip to the **Louvre**," Monsieur Allard explained. "Instead of a suspension and staying home, I think Andre should come. I'll **chaperone** his group and talk to him."

After a little more discussion, Amani and Mariam both agreed.







In the Louvre

"Earphones," Monsieur Allard whispered.

Andre clicked his teeth and sighed but dutifully removed the earbuds. Surprisingly, so far, he had actually enjoyed the halls of paintings and sculptures, and the crowds of people who filled the vast rooms had been interesting, too. Most were excited tourists from around the world speaking languages Andre had never heard before.

"Over these next few halls," Mr. Allard told Andre, "notice the information card next to each painting. Pay attention to the artist's nationality, but see where they did their painting too."

Some rhymes and beats would've been a nice soundtrack to the field trip, but Andre wasn't in a place to complain. Had his punishment involved staying home, there's no telling how much cleaning and scrubbing his mom would have made him do.

When it was time for lunch, Andre took a seat in the museum cafeteria. While unpacking what his mom had prepared for him, Mr. Allard sat down in a seat across the table. "Did you notice anything about the paintings in those last few halls? Anything interesting from the info cards?"



"OK, OK, Mr. Allard," Andre said with a grin he was trying to keep down. "I get it. The Louvre is a symbol of France. Perhaps the greatest art museum in the world. And artists from all over the world have their paintings presented here... in harmony."

Monsieur Allard nodded in approval and asked, "And what of the painters in the last few rooms? Like Van Gogh and Picasso?"

Begrudgingly, Andre replied, "Well, a lot of really great artists weren't from France, but they came here to do their painting... because France is *super awesome*... happy now?!?"

"I'm getting happier," Mr. Allard continued with a smile. Then he noticed Andre's lunch. "And would you mind explaining your lunch today, Mr. Andre?"

"I've got some of my mom's leftover Ivorian chicken and rice, some couscous from the Algerian stand by my building, and I've got some—"

Andre paused and looked around. He understood the analogy Mr. Allard was continuing to make and said, "And, I've got some delicious French crêpes to wrap up the foods from these other cultures, and the crêpes will hold it all together peacefully."

Mr. Allard, Andre, and others sitting nearby enjoyed a laugh together, and then everyone's cell phones started buzzing.



Trouble in the Banlieue

While Andre was enjoying his day at the Louvre, Chaba was getting into trouble back in Sarcelles. He, and two older guys who sometimes rap with Chaba and Andre, had stolen a car from downtown Paris and tried driving it back to the neighborhood. Along the way, the boys were stopped by police.

The incident turned ugly. Guns were drawn, and when the boys tried driving away, shots rang out. Chaba escaped, but one passenger was hit in the leg and taken to the hospital. Almost instantly, not only was Rue François Dubois filled up with angry, shouting young people, but social media was flooded with cries of *racisme*!

As soon as he saw the news, Andre's heart sank... plans to link up the banlieues in protest were already in the works, and ideas of making a scene on Victory Day were spreading.



Back Home

By the time Andre got back from the field trip, the streets of his neighborhood were already filling up with people angry over what Chaba had been involved in. Andre wanted to go to the corner and get the full details, but he had to get straight home. His mom had told him that punishment for Mr. Allard's pin hadn't been fulfilled, and she wanted to see him.

Mariam told her son to get plenty of rest because the next day was Victory Day, and she wanted her house spotless before the parade. The next morning, Andre scrubbed every corner of the apartment clean while his mother looked on with directions. While he scrubbed, his mother told Andre to think about the mistakes he had made, and he did, but he thought about more than that...

Andre thought about what he had learned that day at the museum, what he had learned from Mr. Allard and civics class, and he thought about his homeland. The Victory Day parade was just hours away. A time for France to celebrate.

Andre finished his punishment and ran out the door. He had to find Chaba.



Parade or Protest

Andre found Chaba at the corner and began peppering him with questions. The internet rumors were all true. Chaba had stolen a car and resisted arrest before any police shots had been fired.

Chaba didn't understand why his friend was asking all the questions and insisted that Andre come with him to a massive protest that was building.

"There will be thousands of us," Chaba said. "Just watch."

Finally, Andre shook his head, no... and his friend froze.

"Wait... you're not coming?"

"You guys stole a car," Andre said calmly. "Nobody *made* you do that. When the police stopped you and you tried to drive away, what did you think would happen?"

"What's wrong with you!" Chaba snapped. "Police are the enemy. *France* is the enemy. Whose side are you on?"

Andre told his friend, "I'm sorry, Chaba, but France isn't our enemy. It's our home."

Andre's world seemed completely upside down. Instead of mistrusting or even hating France, he was proud of his country. He even felt grateful for the police who confronted Chaba and came out to the dangerous banlieues simply to do their job. The more he thought about it, the more he realized there was nothing to protest.

With his friends or without them,
it was time to celebrate.



Andre Loves His Homeland

Today is Victory Day.

All along the Champs-Élysées, and as far as the **Arc de Triomphe**, streets and sidewalks are filled with people. Dressed in red, white, and blue, Amani, Mariam, and Sylvie are positioned in the family's usual spot.

Vive la France! the crowd chants.

Mariam is watching, but she's also keeping an eye on the street for Andre.

"Wait, there he is!" she shouts.

Andre walks towards his family wearing his Kylian Mbappé jersey. The balcony flag is draped over his shoulders, and a big grin is spread across his face.

"Bonjour, mon fils," says Amani.

Feeling an itch of pride in his chest, Andre responds with a smile, *"Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité!"*

Arc de Triomphe

A famous French monument shaped like an arch and surrounded by a traffic roundabout. The arch was constructed to celebrate Napoleon's military victories, but it was not completed until 1836 (fifteen years after he died).

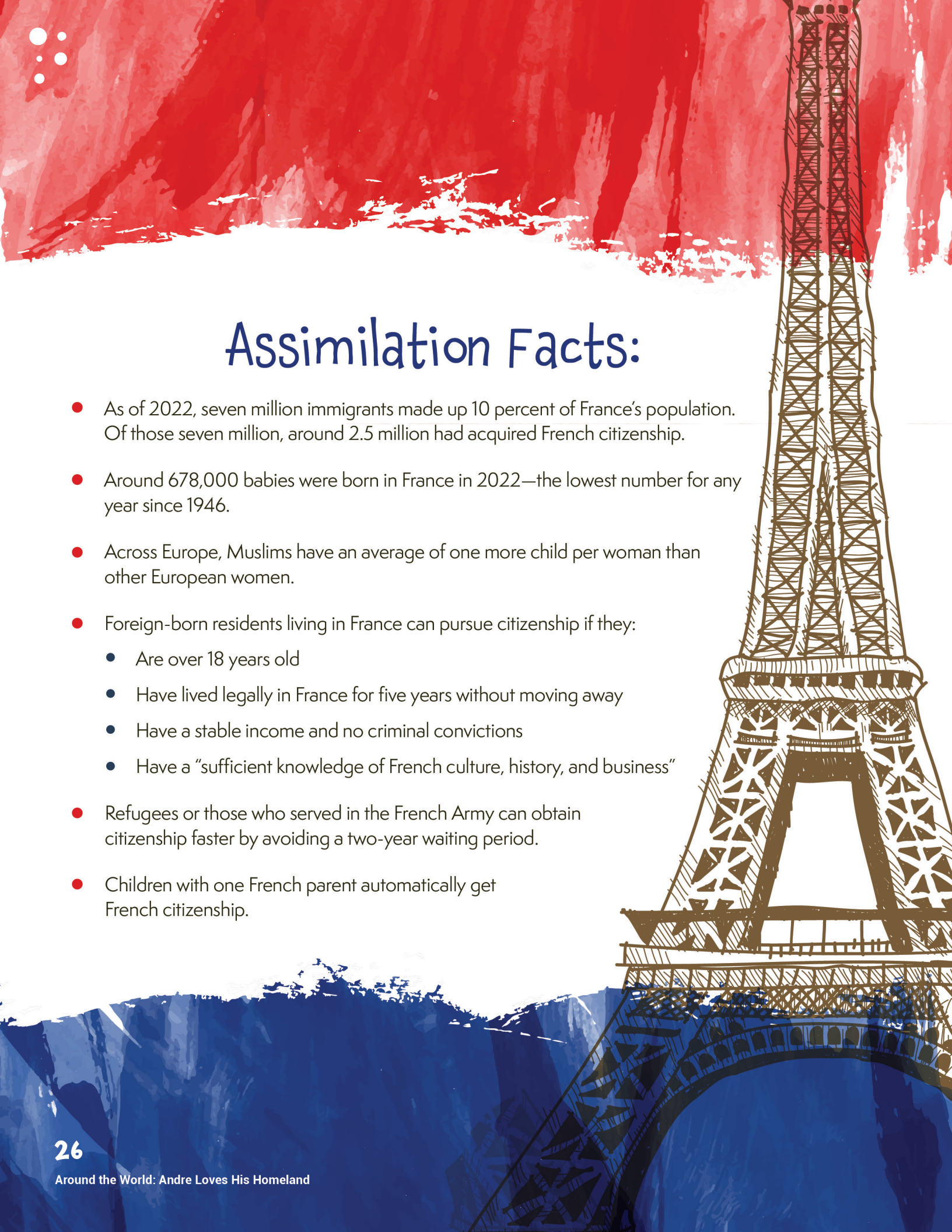
Vive la France

"Long live France."

Bonjour, mon fils

"Hello, my son."



A stylized illustration of the Eiffel Tower and the Parisian skyline. The tower is drawn in a sketchy, brown line-art style, rising from a blue, textured base that represents the city and water. The background is a vibrant red with white, paint-like splatters and streaks, creating a dramatic, artistic effect.

Assimilation Facts:

- As of 2022, seven million immigrants made up 10 percent of France's population. Of those seven million, around 2.5 million had acquired French citizenship.
- Around 678,000 babies were born in France in 2022—the lowest number for any year since 1946.
- Across Europe, Muslims have an average of one more child per woman than other European women.
- Foreign-born residents living in France can pursue citizenship if they:
 - Are over 18 years old
 - Have lived legally in France for five years without moving away
 - Have a stable income and no criminal convictions
 - Have a "sufficient knowledge of French culture, history, and business"
- Refugees or those who served in the French Army can obtain citizenship faster by avoiding a two-year waiting period.
- Children with one French parent automatically get French citizenship.

French Words We Use Everyday

You probably know more French words than you realize!
Here's a list of English words that come from or are actually French words.

Everyday Words

English Word

Advocate
Bon Voyage!
Boutique
Espionage
Passport
Government
Money
Soldier

French Word

Avocat (French word for a lawyer)
Bon Voyage (Good journey!)
Boutique
Espionnage
Passeport
Gouvernement
Monnaie
Soldat

Furniture and Architecture

English Word

Armoire
Canvas
Castle
Portrait
Theatre
Vault

French Word

Armoire
Canevas (Old French word for tapestry)
Château (From the Anglo-Norman French word castel)
Portrait
Théâtre
Voûte

Food

English Word

Caramel
Cream
Cuisine
Mayonnaise
Pastry
Salad
Sauté
Sauce

French Word

Caramel
Crème
Cuisine (French for "kitchen")
Mayonnaise
Pâtisserie
Salade
Sauté (French for "to jump")
Sauce

Préparons de Crêpes!

French crêpes are simple, delicious, and fun to make. Like pancakes—but much thinner and less fluffy—they go perfectly with fruit, chocolate spread, or other sugary toppings. You can also go savory by filling them with cream cheese, veggies, pesto, or even ham or chicken!

Prep Time: 15-20 minutes

Ingredients:

Flour	Milk	Eggs	Granulated sugar	Salt	Butter
	Vanilla extract		Powdered sugar (optional, for serving)		

Preparation:

- 1 In a small bowl, whisk the flour, milk, eggs, sugar, salt, and vanilla together with brisk movements. Keep going until the batter is frothy on top.
- 2 With your parents' help, use butter to grease an 8 or 10-inch skillet. Heat the skillet on your stove to a medium-high temperature.
- 3 For your first crêpe, pour $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of the batter into the center of the pan. With your parents' help, immediately lift the pan off the heat and tilt it around to spread the batter around the whole surface. Return the pan to the heat and cook for 30-60 seconds.
- 4 Use a spatula to carefully flip the crêpe over and cook for one minute longer on the other side. Keep going until it's golden brown.
- 5 When your first crêpe is done, remove it from the pan and put it on the plate (you can cover it to keep it warm). Repeat these steps for as many crêpes as you want!

More Varieties!

For a different cultural spin on your crêpes, try:

Persian Style: Crêpes filled with caramelized bananas and pistachios.

Suzette Style: French crêpes topped with caramelized sugar, butter, and a blend of orange and lemon juice.

Enchilada Style: Crêpes rolled like a burrito and filled with chicken or beef, melted cheese, and mole sauce.

Austrian Style: Crêpes crumpled into thick strips, served with jam, and sprinkled with powdered sugar.

Hungarian Style: Crêpes folded like a shell and stuffed with cottage cheese, raisins, and nuts. Be sure to sprinkle powdered sugar and drizzle with chocolate!



Writing Lyrics:

Andre is writing a song about his newfound appreciation for France. Using what you learned about France and French culture, help him write several lines! For an extra challenge, use some of the French words you learned... and make the last word of each line rhyme!



French Word Search

Use your new knowledge of the French language to find the French words below.

passport

bon voyage

cuisine

portrait

boutique

espionnage

château

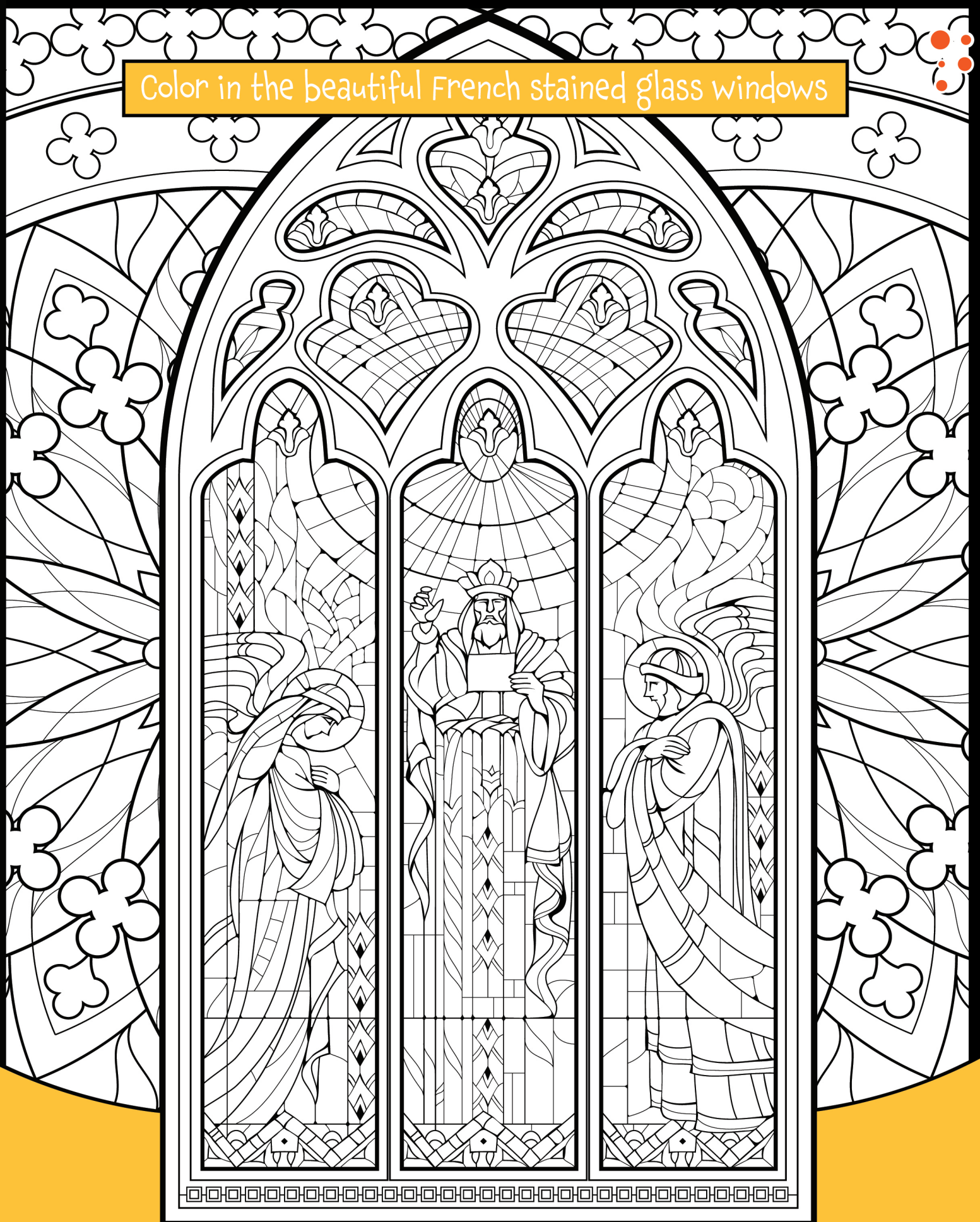
armoire

soldat

pâtisserie

E S P I O N N A G E P V O T I A U
F P O D H Z C M E K P Z S P V F Q
G Y R O B V W U U H G U A E F V J
T P U L W P W U X J U S W G H V V
M O A T W M E R B D S O I A H T T
B Z E I V O B C Q E O M Â Y J J B
F T T A B P I I P S C K C O Q D N
H S Â R C E E O P F T P O V Y R I
H A H T L Y R Y U A Â I F N U Z K
S P C R F T G O D T C L V O E L Â
R A G O X Z O L I I D Q V B N M C
T Z P P W Z O S N O J Y Q X I M I
N S D F G S S R R I J Q J C S D L
A X I A V E R M U R B K X S I G Z
B O D M R N A R M O I R E Â U D V
Â Q I I F B O U T I Q U E V C L V
Z Q E C H G Â I U S A C I D Y F C

Color in the beautiful French stained glass windows





Letter of Appreciation

Imagine you're writing a letter to a pen pal in another country. This pen pal is curious why you love your homeland! Make a list of things you appreciate about your country, state, or both, and describe them in a letter so your pen pal understands!



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Did you Find all the words?

E	S	P	I	O	N	N	A	G	E	P	V	O	T	I	A	U
F	P	O	D	H	Z	C	M	E	K	P	Z	S	P	V	F	Q
G	Y	R	O	B	V	W	U	H	G	U	A	E	F	V	J	
T	P	U	L	W	P	W	U	X	J	U	S	W	G	H	V	V
M	O	A	T	W	M	E	R	B	D	S	O	I	A	H	T	T
B	Z	E	I	V	O	B	C	Q	E	O	M	Â	Y	J	J	B
F	T	T	A	B	P	I	I	P	S	C	K	C	O	Q	D	N
H	S	Â	R	C	E	E	O	P	F	T	P	O	V	Y	R	I
H	A	H	T	L	Y	R	Y	U	Â	Â	I	F	N	U	Z	K
S	P	C	R	F	T	G	O	D	T	C	L	V	O	E	L	Â
R	A	G	O	X	Z	O	L	I	I	D	Q	V	B	N	M	C
T	Z	P	P	W	Z	O	S	N	O	J	Y	Q	X	I	M	I
N	S	D	F	G	S	S	R	I	J	Q	J	C	S	D	L	
A	X	I	A	V	E	R	M	U	R	B	K	X	S	I	G	Z
B	O	D	M	R	N	A	R	M	O	I	R	E	Â	U	D	V
Â	Q	I	I	F	B	O	U	T	I	Q	U	E	V	C	L	V
Z	Q	E	C	H	G	Â	I	U	S	A	C	I	D	Y	F	C

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An illustration of five diverse cartoon children standing in front of a stylized world map. From left to right: a boy in a grey military uniform with a peaked cap and medals; a boy in a blue and white soccer jersey with the number 30, holding an orange ball; a girl with long brown hair in a blue top and yellow skirt; a girl with dark skin and braided hair in a yellow top and patterned skirt; and a boy in an orange t-shirt and grey shorts. The background is a solid blue color with white outlines of the world's continents.

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