

Olympic Games: France Fact Sheet



Facts about France

- Mont Blanc, Europe's tallest mountain peak, is in the French Alps.
- The first woman to wear a long white dress on her wedding day came from France. Her name was Anne of Brittany and she married Louis XII in 1499.
- The bridge across the Millau Viaduct in southern France is the tallest bridge in the world. It was opened in 2004 and is 343 metres above the ground.
- Denim was first made in Nimes in France.
- April Fool's day was first celebrated in France in 1582
- Puss in Boots, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty and Little Red Riding Hood were all written by Frenchman Charles Perrault.
- The world's most famous cycling race, the Tour de France, is held every year in France.
- Between 350 and 400 different types of cheeses are made in France.



The Olympic Games in Paris

- The Olympic Games in Paris (held in 1900 and 1924).
- The 1900 Paris games lasted 5 months. Twenty-eight countries entered and there were 75 events including cricket, croquet and golf.
- Women competed in the 1900 Olympic Games for the very first time. Charlotte Cooper won the women's tennis for Great Britain.
- The 1924 Paris Olympics inspired the film Chariots of Fire. Harold Abrahams was the first European ever to win the 100 metre race and Christian Eric Liddell refused to compete in the 100 metre race because it was held on a Sunday. He entered the 400 metre race instead and won, breaking the world record at the same time.
- Tarzan also competed in the 1924 Olympics. Actor Johnny Weissmuller swam his way to victory winning three gold medals. He later went on to become the famous Hollywood actor.