

LEVELED BOOK • K

France



Written by Madeline McCall

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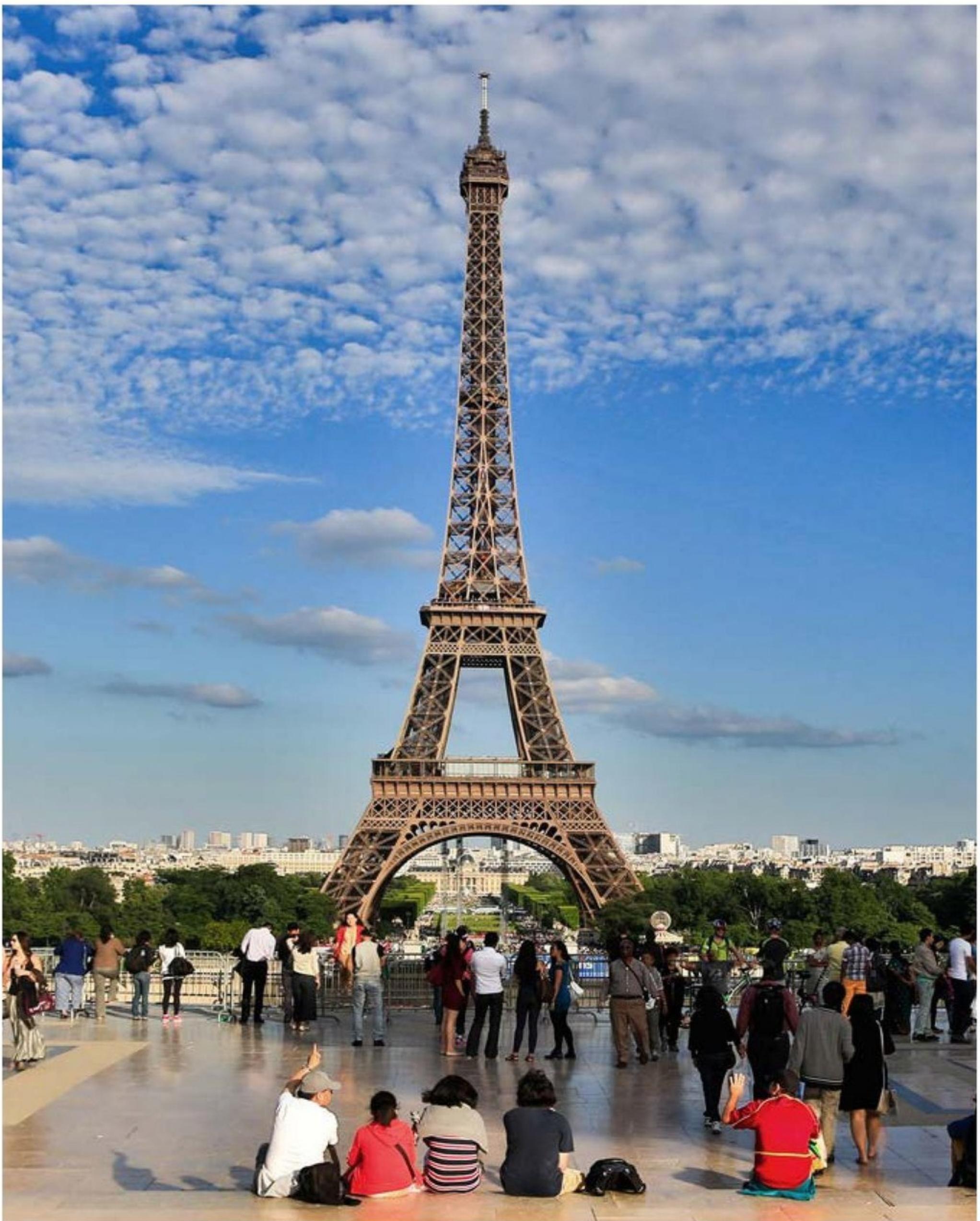
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Where Is It?

France is a country in Europe. Other countries are to the east. To the south is Spain. The Atlantic Ocean is to the north and to the west.

The United Kingdom is to the north. It is across a part of the Atlantic Ocean called the *English Channel*.



The Eiffel (EYE-ful) Tower is a famous tower in Paris.

Paris is the capital city of France. It is a very famous city. Millions of tourists visit Paris every year. More than ten million people live there.



The cities in France have many restaurants where people can eat outside.

People

More than sixty-six million people live in France. Most people live and work in cities. Some have jobs helping tourists who visit France.



Some farmers in France grow flowers like these sunflowers.

Some people live in the countryside and grow food on farms. More than half of the land in France is used for farming.

Most people in France speak French.

France's Landforms



Land

France has many different kinds of land. It has hills, forests, rivers, lakes, and beaches. Most of France is covered with low **plains** and hills.



Mont Blanc is the tallest mountain in western Europe. It is in the French Alps.

France also has five mountain ranges. They sit between France and other countries. The highest mountains are in the Alps.



Old stone castles can be found across France.

History

Long ago, France was called *Gaul*. Other countries took over Gaul many times. The Romans took it over first, and then the Franks took it from the Romans. France got its name from the Franks.



This painting shows Louis (LEW-ee) XIV, a powerful French king.

For a long time, France was ruled by powerful kings. Then the French people fought against one king. This was called the French **Revolution** (1789–1799). Today, France is a **democracy**.



People watch the fireworks over the Seine (SEN) River in Paris on July 14.

Celebrations

People in France celebrate the beginning of the revolution on July 14. They celebrate with fireworks and parades.



People in France enjoy many different kinds of cheese. They also eat crêpes (KRAYPS), or thin pancakes. The long thin loaf of bread is called a *baguette* (ba-GET).

Food

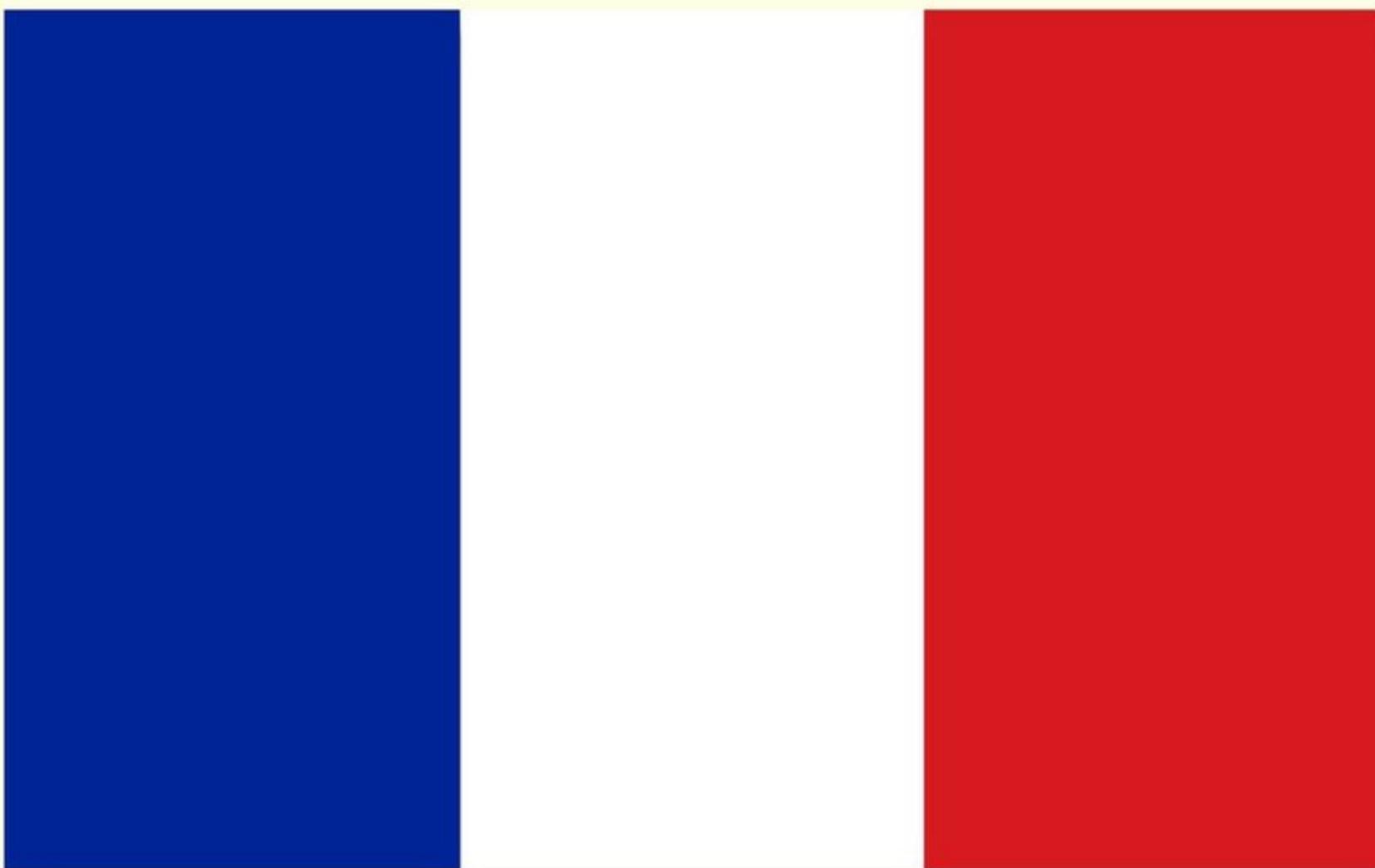
France is known for its food. One type of food is a long, thin loaf of bread. Many meals have more than one part. A meal may have soup, salad, a main **course**, and fruit for dessert.



Lavender, a type of flower, is grown in parts of France.

Conclusion

France is a beautiful country with a long history. It has rolling hills, forests, and mountains. Its food is known around the world. What do you like most about France?



Population: 66,259,012

Land: 620,427 sq km (239,548 sq. mi.)

Capital City: Paris

Primary Language: French

Currency: Euro (YUR-oh)



Source: Central Intelligence Agency (July 2014), World Bank

Glossary

course (<i>n.</i>)	one of the parts of a meal (p. 13)
democracy (<i>n.</i>)	a form of government that is run by the people (p. 11)
plains (<i>n.</i>)	large stretches of flat land, usually with few trees (p. 8)
ranges (<i>n.</i>)	rows of mountains that are connected (p. 9)
revolution (<i>n.</i>)	the removal of a government from power by force and its replacement with another (p. 11)
tourists (<i>n.</i>)	people who travel to a place for enjoyment or to learn more about it (p. 5)

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Front and back cover: The Eiffel (EYE-ful) Tower in Paris was named for the man who designed it, Gustave Eiffel.

Title page: Some farmers in France grow grapes in vineyards.

Page 3: People walk down a village street in a part of France called Alsace (al-SASS).

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Countries Around the World

Level K Leveled Book

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