

LEVELED BOOK • L

Eiffel Tower



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Focus Question

Why is the Eiffel Tower a famous structure?



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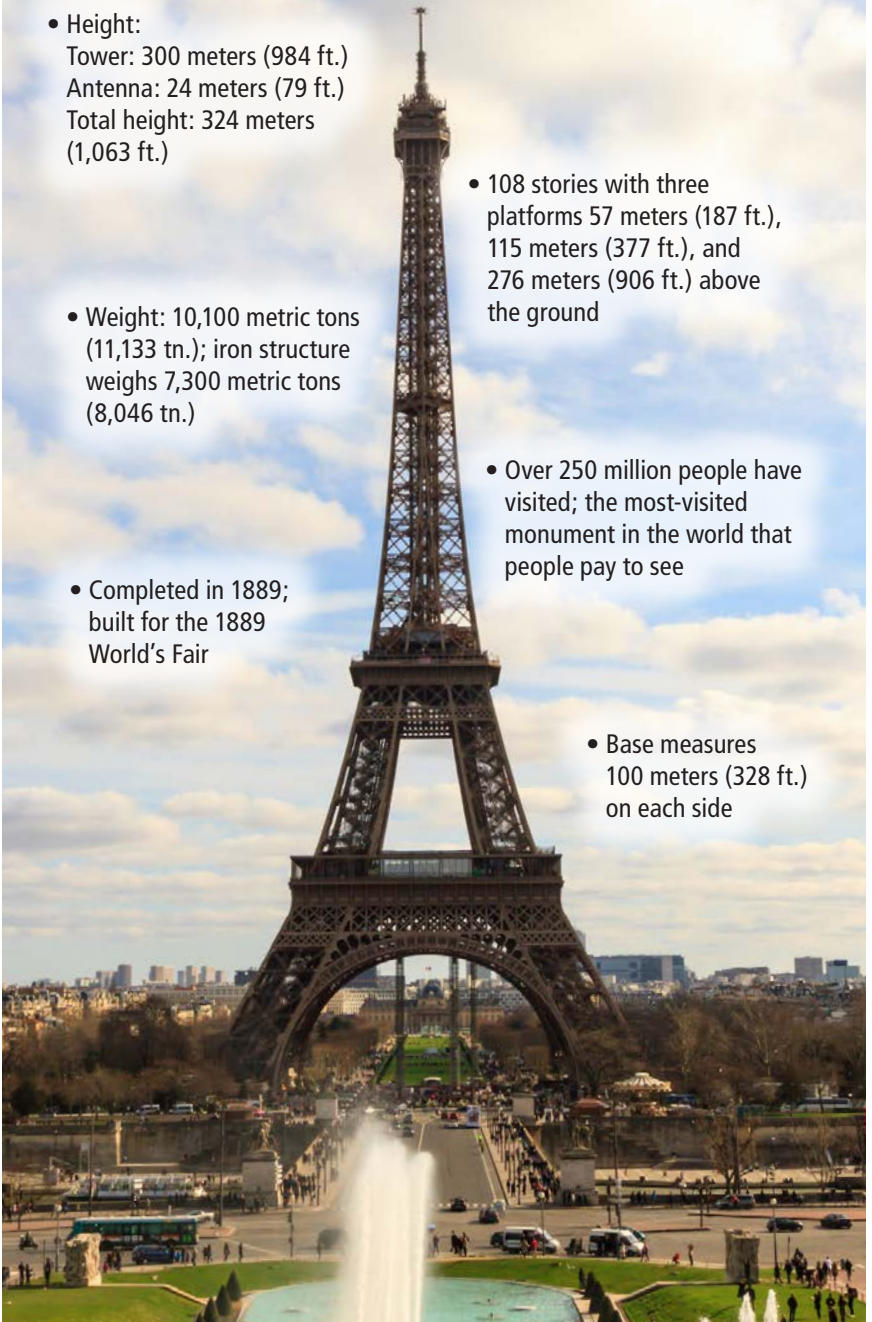
Visitors to Paris can take boat trips to the Eiffel Tower on the Seine (SEN) River (main). Walking under the tower and looking up, visitors get a good idea of its size (inset).

A Famous Structure

The Eiffel **Tower** is a **structure** that reaches up to the sky! The tower is famous. People around the world know about it. Almost seven million people visit the tower each year.

The Eiffel Tower

- Height:
Tower: 300 meters (984 ft.)
Antenna: 24 meters (79 ft.)
Total height: 324 meters (1,063 ft.)
- Weight: 10,100 metric tons (11,133 tn.); iron structure weighs 7,300 metric tons (8,046 tn.)
- Completed in 1889; built for the 1889 World's Fair
- 108 stories with three platforms 57 meters (187 ft.), 115 meters (377 ft.), and 276 meters (906 ft.) above the ground
- Over 250 million people have visited; the most-visited monument in the world that people pay to see
- Base measures 100 meters (328 ft.) on each side



High and Mighty

The Eiffel Tower is made of four long **beams** of metal. At the bottom, the beams are the four legs of the tower. The beams curve up and meet at the top. When the Eiffel Tower was built, it was the tallest structure in the world.



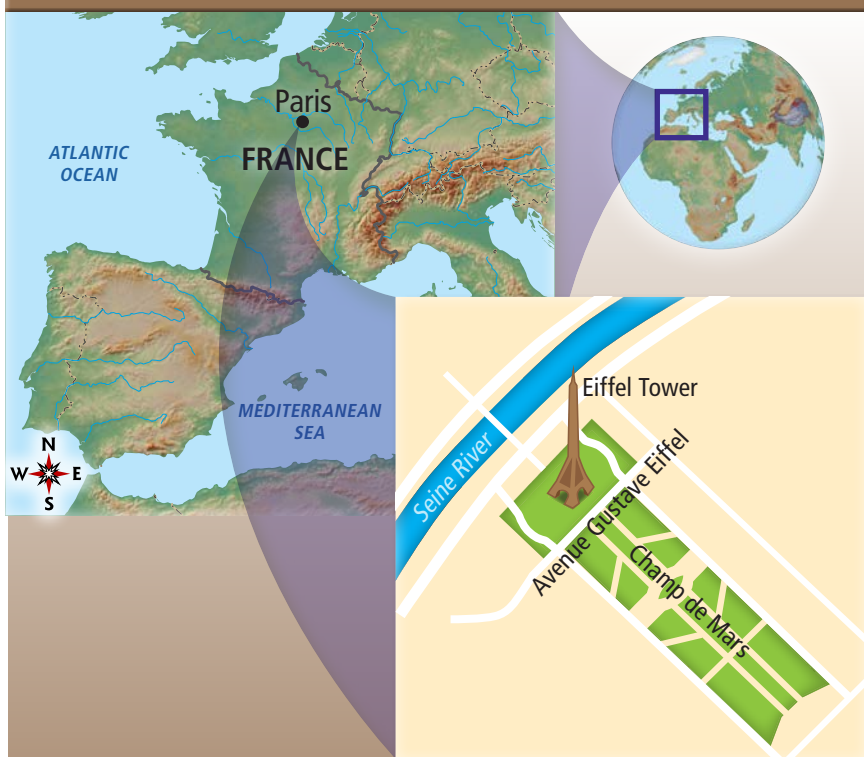
With its big antenna, the Eiffel Tower is about twice as tall as the Washington Monument.

Eiffel Tower:
324 meters
(1,063 ft.)

Washington
Monument:
160 meters
(525 ft.)



The Eiffel Tower



City on the Seine

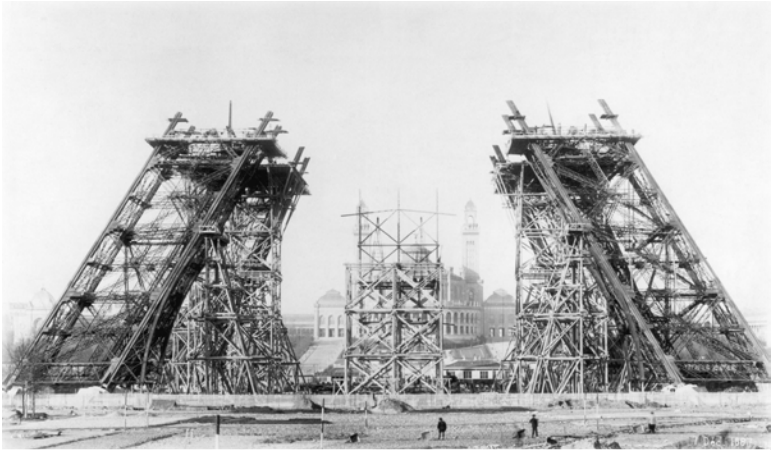
The Eiffel Tower is in Paris, which is the **capital** of France. The tower is much taller than other structures in Paris. It is at one end of a large park. The Seine (SEN) River flows next to the tower. Many museums, gardens, and ponds are nearby.

A Tower of Strength

Gustave Eiffel and three other men worked together on the idea for the Eiffel Tower. A contest was held to get ideas for a special structure for the 1889 World's Fair. The men won the contest. It took many workers about two years to build the tower.



The Eiffel Tower was named for Gustave Eiffel. He built hundreds of metal structures before he built the tower.



The four metal legs are being put up in 1887. The legs are held up with wood (top). Four metal beams connect the legs in 1888 (bottom).

The Eiffel Tower was built out of more than eighteen thousand pieces of iron. Iron is a type of metal. Mr. Eiffel wanted to prove that metal is as strong as stone.

First, stone and **cement** were placed in the ground. Next, the small pieces of iron were put together to make the large beams. Then, workers put the beams on top of the stone and cement. The tower grew taller and taller.



In July 1888, the second floor of the tower had been built (left). In November, the tower was almost finished (right).



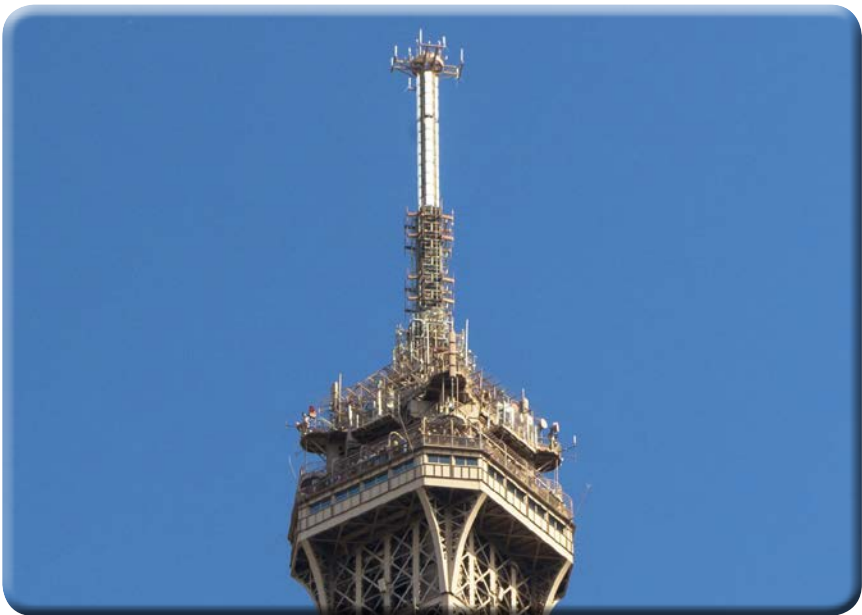
At night, the Eiffel Tower lights up every hour for five minutes.



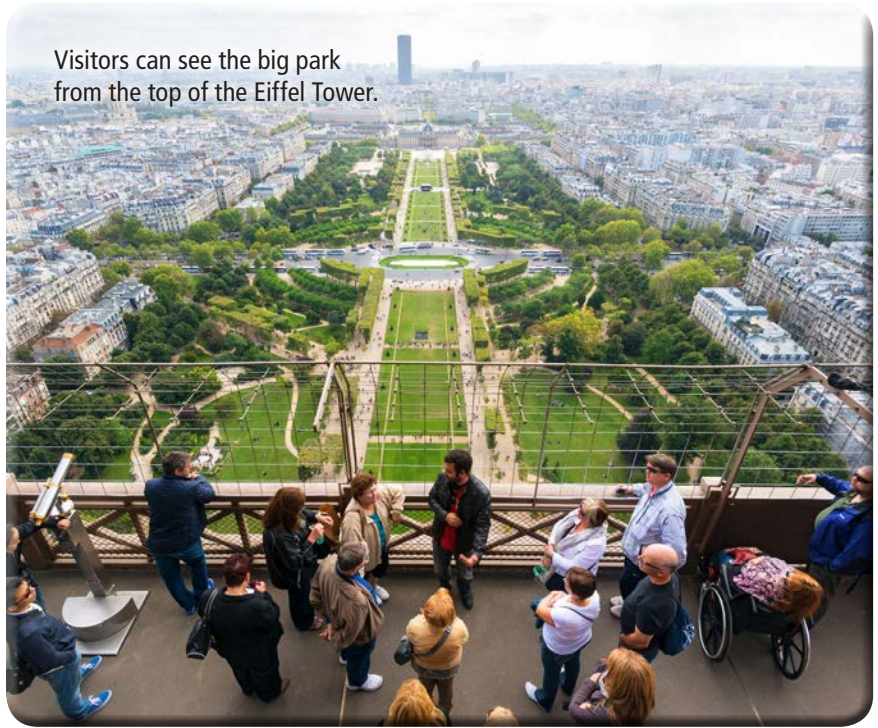
Here to Stay

Long ago, structures were not as tall as they are today. Many people thought Mr. Eiffel could not build such a tall tower. Other people thought the tower would be ugly. When the Eiffel Tower was finished, it was beautiful!

Mr. Eiffel wanted to make the tower useful to people so it would stay standing for many years. He put a science lab in the tower. Many people came to use the lab. Later, people used the tower to send radio and TV **signals**. The first French radio station with news and music began in 1921. It sent signals from the tower.



The Eiffel Tower now has more than one hundred radio and TV antennas.



Visiting the Tower

Take a ride in a glass elevator to the top of the Eiffel Tower. The city of Paris looks amazing from that high! The second floor has shops, restaurants, and displays about how the tower was built. The first floor has a see-through floor. There is also ice-skating every winter.

The Eiffel Tower doesn't always look the same. Workers paint it every seven years, and sometimes the color changes. The tower has been dark red, dark yellow, and brown at different times. It's always huge and amazing!



It takes twenty-five painters more than a year to paint the Eiffel Tower.

Fireworks make the Eiffel Tower look like a rocket that's ready to take off.



Lighting Up the Sky

In 2004, the Eiffel Tower's lights were red for the Chinese New Year. In 2006, the lights were blue for another holiday. They were green and gold for a big sports contest in 2007. The tower had a special show of lights and fireworks to welcome the year 2000. Something fun is always happening at the tower!

Glossary

beams (<i>n.</i>)	long, sturdy pieces of wood or metal that are used in building (p. 6)
capital (<i>n.</i>)	the city where a government's main offices are located (p. 7)
cement (<i>n.</i>)	a powder of limestone and clay that can be mixed with water and gravel to make concrete (p. 10)
signals (<i>n.</i>)	electrical messages that are sent or received (p. 12)
structure (<i>n.</i>)	something built from a collection of parts, such as a building or bridge (p. 4)
tower (<i>n.</i>)	a tall, narrow building (p. 4)

Words to Know

beams
capital
cement

signals
structure
tower

Front cover: The Eiffel Tower is in the city of Paris, France.

Title page: A beautiful park with gardens is beside the tower.

Page 3: From high above, visitors get a great view of the city.

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Connections

Writing

Imagine you have just visited the Eiffel Tower. Write a postcard home to your family describing your experience.

Social Studies

Create a model or diagram of the Eiffel Tower. Use the information in the book to help you.



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