

Le monde francophone



The French geographer Onésime Reclus first coined the word *francophonie* in 1880 to designate geographical entities where French was spoken. Today, *la francophonie* refers to the collective body of over one hundred million people all over the world who speak French, exclusively or in part, in their daily lives. The term *francophonie* refers to the diverse official organizations, governments, and countries that promote the use of French in economic, political, diplomatic, and cultural exchanges. Politically, French remains the second most important language in the world. In some Francophone nations, French is the official language (France), or the co-official language (Cameroon); in others, it is spoken by a minority who share a common cultural heritage (Andorra). The French language is present in Europe, Africa, the Americas, and Oceania.

Le monde

LE MONDE FRANCOPHONE

Le monde
The areas in color indicate the vast Francophone world.



La Mer des Antilles





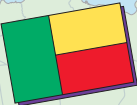

L'Europe



La francophonie

L'Afrique

Le Bénin






CAPITAL
Porto-Novo

POPULATION
7,041,000

FUN FACT
Benin has one of the most popular tourist attractions in all of West Africa—the fishing village of Ganvié built on stilts in the middle of a lagoon not far from the capital, Porto-Novo.

Le Burkina Faso






CAPITAL
Ouagadougou

POPULATION
13,228,000

FUN FACT
Burkina Faso is known for its friendly people. Villagers are fond of allowing foreigners to live in their homes and take part in village life.

Les Comores






CAPITAL
Moroni

POPULATION
633,000

FUN FACT
The beautiful Comores Islands in the Indian Ocean are known for their lovely, isolated beaches. These islands are among the few areas in the world where natural beauty reigns.

La République du Congo






CAPITAL
Brazzaville

POPULATION
2,954,000

FUN FACT
Seventy percent of the population lives in the capital city or near the railroad between it and Pointe-Noire about 250 miles to the west.

Le Burundi






CAPITAL
Bujumbura

POPULATION
6,096,000

FUN FACT
Burundi was first under German control. It then became Ruanda-Urundi under Belgian control. It became independent in 1962.

Le Cameroun






CAPITAL
Yaoundé

POPULATION
15,746,000

FUN FACT
Cameroon is known for its fantastic landscapes: Saharan desert, equatorial rain forest, tree-laden savannah, grassy plains, volcanic mountains with crater lakes, the swampy basin of Lake Chad, and one of the highest mountains in Africa.

L'Algérie






CAPITAL
Algiers

POPULATION
32,818,000

FUN FACT
Algeria is called "the geographic giant" of the Maghreb. It is four times the size of France. Most of the country lies in the Sahara desert.

La République Centrafricaine






CAPITAL
Bangui

POPULATION
3,684,000

FUN FACT
The Central African Republic has two very expensive exports—gold and diamonds.

Le Gabon






CAPITAL
Libreville

POPULATION
1,322,000

FUN FACT
More than three-quarters of the territory of Gabon is covered by forests. Its capital, Libreville (appropriately named), was founded by Catholic missionaries to house liberated slaves.

La Guinée






CAPITAL
Conakry

POPULATION
9,030,000

FUN FACT
Guinea is a country known for its strong tradition of live music. Almost any evening, you can find a wonderful musical celebration in the streets of Conakry, its capital.

Djibouti






CAPITAL
Djibouti

POPULATION
457,000

FUN FACT
Djibouti is the name of both the republic and its capital. Its position at the entrance to the Red Sea makes it one of the most important seaports in Africa.

La Guinée Équatoriale






CAPITAL
Malabo

POPULATION
510,000

FUN FACT
Equatorial Guinea is the only country in Africa where both Spanish and French are spoken even though French is considered the official language.

Madagascar






CAPITAL
Antananarivo

POPULATION
16,980,000

FUN FACT
Madagascar is a beautiful and, in some areas, rocky volcanic island in the Indian Ocean.

La République Démocratique du Congo






CAPITAL
Kinshasa

POPULATION
56,625,000

FUN FACT
The population of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is made up of six major ethnic groups which are divided into over 250 subgroups.

La Côte d'Ivoire






CAPITAL
Yamoussoukro

POPULATION
16,962,000

FUN FACT
The Ivory Coast's principal city, Abidjan, is West Africa's most cosmopolitan city and is often referred to as the "Paris of West Africa."

L'île Maurice






CAPITAL
Port Louis

POPULATION
1,210,000

FUN FACT
Mauritius is a volcanic island in the Indian Ocean known for its natural beauty.

La Mauritanie






CAPITAL
Nouakchott

POPULATION
2,913,000

FUN FACT
Mauritania is a bridge between the Maghreb in the North and sub-Saharan Africa in the South.

Le Tchad






CAPITAL
N'Djamena

POPULATION
9,253,000

FUN FACT
Chad has a lake in the southwest of the country that doubles in size during the rainy season.

Le Maroc






CAPITAL
Rabat

POPULATION
31,689,000

FUN FACT
Morocco is a country of many beautiful, fascinating cities, such as Casablanca, Tangiers, Fez, and Marrakech.

Les Seychelles






CAPITAL
Victoria

POPULATION
86,000

FUN FACT
The Republic of the Seychelles is made up of more than one hundred islands and is a vacationer's paradise. The Seychelles attract people from all over the world.

Le Niger






CAPITAL
Niamey

POPULATION
11,059,000

FUN FACT
Niger is a starkly dramatic country with its desert terrain. The capital, Niamey, on the fringe of the Sahara, is a city of modern buildings and wide boulevards—where many times you will see camels walking.

La Réunion






PRÉFECTURE
Saint-Denis

POPULATION
755,000

FUN FACT
Réunion, a French overseas department, is a beautiful island in the Indian Ocean with many beaches. It has a very hot, tropical climate.

Le Rwanda






CAPITAL
Kigali

POPULATION
7,810,000

FUN FACT
Rwanda, located in Central Africa, is a country of many lakes. It has one of the densest populations in all of Africa.

Le Sénégal






CAPITAL
Dakar

POPULATION
10,580,000

FUN FACT
Senegal is a country that has a fabulous mix of Afro-French characteristics. More visitors go to Senegal than to any other Western African country.

Le Togo






CAPITAL
Lomé

POPULATION
5,429,000

FUN FACT
Togo is a pencil-thin strip of land whose capital, Lomé, has some of the most beautiful beaches just a block or two from the heart of town.

Le Mali






CAPITAL
Bamako

POPULATION
11,626,000

FUN FACT
Mali is the home of Timbuktu, which was and still is the terminus of a camel caravan route across the Sahara, linking Arabia with West Africa since ancient times.

La Tunisie

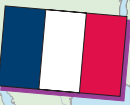

CAPITAL
Tunis

POPULATION
9,925,000

FUN FACT
Tunisia contains Roman archaeological sites second only to Rome itself.

L'Amérique du Nord et du Sud

La Guadeloupe

PRÉFECTURE
Basse-Terre

POPULATION
440,000

FUN FACT
Guadeloupe, a French overseas department in the Caribbean, is made up of two major islands in addition to some smaller ones. It is known for its jungle highlands and beautiful seaside resorts.

La Guyane française




PRÉFECTURE
Cayenne

POPULATION
187,000

FUN FACT
French Guyana on the east coast of South America is an overseas French department. It is famous for its Devil's Island, which once served as a French penal colony.

Haiti






CAPITAL
Port-au-Prince

POPULATION
7,528,000

FUN FACT
Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic. Its friendly people are known for their musical and artistic talents. Haitian art is sought after in art galleries around the world.

La province de Québec

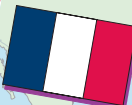




CAPITAL
Québec

POPULATION
7,040,000

FUN FACT
Quebec is the oldest and largest of Canada's provinces. About 90 percent of Quebec's inhabitants are French-speaking.

La Martinique

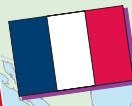




PRÉFECTURE
Fort-de-France

POPULATION
426,000

FUN FACT
Martinique, like Guadeloupe, is a French overseas department in the Caribbean Sea. It is a highly beautiful island famous for its beautiful, exotic flowers—orchids, hibiscus, and flamingo flowers.

Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon



PRÉFECTURE
Saint-Pierre

POPULATION
7,000

FUN FACT
Saint-Pierre and Miquelon are French-speaking islands in the Atlantic Ocean, south of Newfoundland. Many residents work in the cod-fishing industry.

L'Europe

La principauté d'Andorre






CAPITAL
Andorre-la-Vieille

POPULATION
69,000

FUN FACT
Andorra is a co-principality governed by France's president and a Spanish bishop.

La Belgique






CAPITAL
Bruxelles

POPULATION
10,289,000

FUN FACT
Belgium is a rather small country but one of the world's most densely populated. Belgium has two distinct cultures—Flemish in the North and French in the South.

La France






CAPITAL
Paris

POPULATION
60,181,000

FUN FACT
France is a country known for its savoir vivre, delicious cuisine, and beautiful scenery, which changes dramatically from province to province.

Le grand-duché de Luxembourg






CAPITAL
Luxembourg

POPULATION
454,000

FUN FACT
Luxembourg is smaller than the state of Rhode Island. The native Luxembourgers all speak three languages fluently: Luxembourgish, German, and French.

La principauté de Monaco






CAPITAL
Monaco

POPULATION
32,000

FUN FACT
Monaco is one of the world's smallest sovereign states. It is located on a horseshoe-shaped strip of land bathed by the Mediterranean on one side and shielded by alpine peaks on the other.

La Suisse


CAPITAL
Berne

POPULATION
7,319,000

FUN FACT
The beautiful country of Switzerland is dominated by the Alps. Its population density is among the lowest in Europe. Thus, it has fabulous wide-open spaces.

L'Océanie

La Nouvelle-Calédonie





CAPITAL
Nouméa

POPULATION
211,000

FUN FACT
New Caledonia is a French overseas territory in the South Pacific. It is made up of one large island and numerous small, beautiful coral islands.

Vanuatu




CAPITAL
Port-Vila

POPULATION
199,000

FUN FACT
The republic of Vanuatu is an archipelago in the South Pacific, made up of forty islands of volcanic origin. Some of the volcanoes are still active.

La Polynésie française

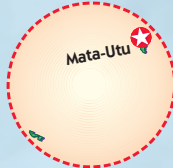
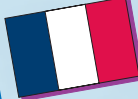


CAPITAL
Papeete

POPULATION
262,000

FUN FACT
French Polynesia is a French overseas territory made up of approximately 130 islands. The islands are known for their volcanic mountains, tropical climate, and beautiful bays and coves.

Wallis-et-Futuna



CAPITAL
Mata-Utu

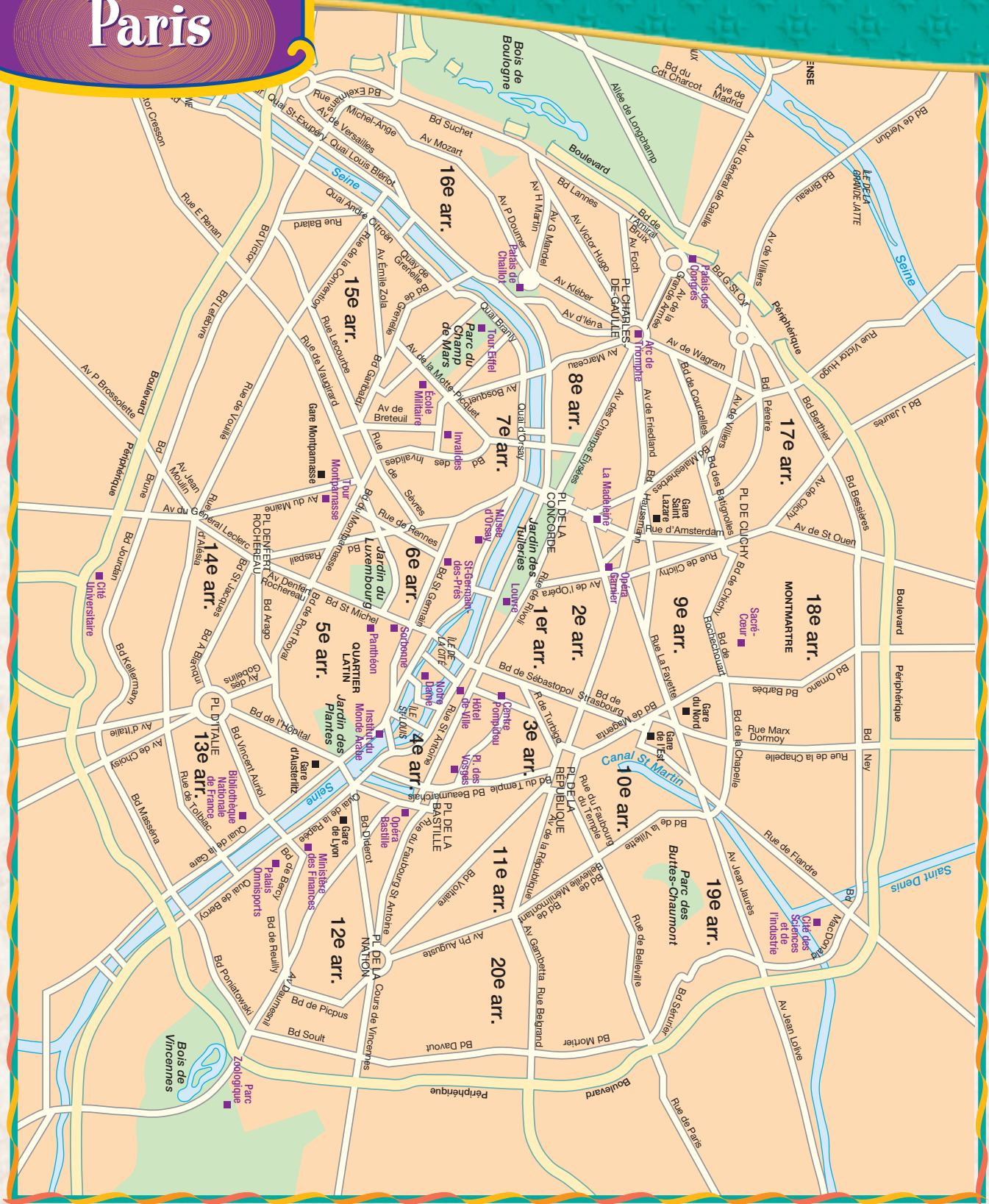
POPULATION
16,000

FUN FACT
Wallis-et-Futuna is a French overseas territory in the South Pacific. The mountainous islands of the archipelago are surrounded by coral reefs.

La France



Paris



Métro



Le Canada



L'Afrique

