

Read and view Theme 1 - Paris

- Read the text, History of the Eiffel Tower and answer the following questions in full sentences unless otherwise stated.
- Remember to use the correct spelling and punctuation when answering the questions.
- When asked for your opinions ensure that you give full answers and that the answers answer the question 'why?'
- **The marks given are only an indication for the length of your answer. It does not count for marks!**

History of the Eiffel Tower

The beginning

The most popular tourist attraction in Paris has stretched to the Parisian skies for 127 years. Although now symbolic of France, it wasn't meant to last. Without a doubt, the turning point in the Eiffel Tower history took place at the 1889 Universal Exposition. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution, a competition was organised with the aim to "build on the Champ-de-Mars an iron tower with a square base, 125 meters wide and 300 meters high." Out of the 107 proposals submitted, Gustave Eiffel's was chosen. By his side were engineers Maurice Koechlin and Emile Nouguier as well as architect Stephen Sauvestre.

The history of the construction of the Eiffel Tower (1887- 1889)

Despite all the uproar, the frail iron tower would nonetheless see the day. To understand the history of the Eiffel Tower, it is important to know that its construction followed different steps. The construction itself lasted two years.

- **June 1884:** The project began and the first drawings were done.
- **January 28th, 1887:** The works begin.
- **April 1st, 1888:** The first stage was completed.
- **August 14th, 1888:** The second stage was completed.
- **March 31st, 1889:** The third and final stage in which the tower was completed in its entirety ended.
- **The Eiffel Tower was inaugurated on March 31, 1889.** Gustave Eiffel walked the 1,710 steps to the top of the Tower to place the tricolored French flag at its summit. At the time, the Tower was 312 meters high.

Vocabulary:

- 👤 **tricolored** - having three colours.
- 👤 **summit** - the highest point of a hill or mountain
- 👤 **frail** - easily damaged or broken; weak.
- 👤 **Parisian** - a native or inhabitant of Paris
- 👤 **commemorate** - mark or celebrate (an event or person) by doing or producing something
- 👤 **inaugurated** - mark the beginning or first public use of (an organization or project) with a special event or ceremony/ opening ceremony
- 👤 **Champ-de-Mars** – place in Paris where the Eiffel tower is

The Iron Lady facing scepticism

The Eiffel Tower history was not an easy one. At the time, many were against the building and voiced their concern in a letter entitled "Artists Against Mr. Eiffel's Tower", stating the tower to be a threat against the beauty of Paris. An iron tower erected smack in the heart of Paris was considered unacceptable, a big contrast to the elegance and refined beauty of the city. For example, Verlaine nicknamed the Eiffel Tower the "Skeleton of Beffroi" to demonstrate the giant tower's awkward appearance that was bound to "disfigure" the city.

Story of a temporary building turned into a French symbol

When the project started, it had been established that the licensing rights for the tower's construction would last only 20 years, followed by imminent destruction. However, two million people visited the Tower during the Universal Exposition. Following this incredible success, the building became a symbol of French industrial power. The Tower was as equally as successful during the 1900 Universal Exposition. Determined to avoid the Tower's destruction, Gustave Eiffel went to great lengths to prove its scientific use. Scientific experiments were conducted in the fields of astronomy and physiology but what would really save the Tower in the end was its use as a radio antenna tower. First for military communications and then for permanent, radiotelegraphy communications; in fact, the Tower served many a purpose during the First World War. The Eiffel Tower is part of the French History.

Vocabulary:

- ⚠ **erected** - put together and set upright (a building, wall, or other structure).
- ⚠ **disfigure** - spoil the appearance of
- ⚠ **imminent** - about to happen.
- ⚠ **destruction** - the action or process of causing so much damage to something that it no longer exists or cannot be repaired.

- Answer the following questions in full sentences unless otherwise stated.
- Remember to use the correct spelling and punctuation.
- When asked for your opinions ensure that you give full answers and that the answers answer the question 'why?'

These questions may seem difficult, try to think outside the box and really give your opinion when asked, motivate properly and try your best.

I know you can do it!

Questions:

1. What saved the tower from destruction in the end? 1
2. Licencing rights were only valid for _____ years. 1
3. Can you imagine Paris without the Eiffel Tower? Motivate your answer. 2
4. Does South Africa have a landmark that is known across the world? What is it? 2
5. Do you want to visit Paris? Motivate your answer. 2
6. Do you think the tower has a positive or negative influence on the city?
Motivate your answer. 2
7. Would you have joined the uproar against the Eiffel Tower? Motivate your answer. 2
8. How do you feel about the fact that the Eiffel Tower was used for military purposes? Motivate your answer. 2
9. What does the military's use of the tower tell us about the French government and the governments' values? (Do you think they did the right thing? Were they sneaky?) 2
10. Do you feel sorry for Gustav Eiffel? Motivate your answer. 2
11. How would you have felt if you were in Gustav Eiffel's position and your hard work was bound to be destroyed? Give a reason for your answer. 2