

Instructions:

1. Watch the Reading Comprehension Strategies video.
2. Read the text, History of the Eiffel Tower.
3. Apply these strategies when completing the quiz, History of the Eiffel Tower, Part 1.
4. Remember to answer in full sentences unless otherwise stated.
5. Please use the correct spelling and punctuation.

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5PL5B85bGo>

French flag:



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.

Read and view

Date: _____

Complete the following questions in full sentences unless otherwise stated.

1. Was the Eiffel Tower meant to be a permanent structure?
2. On what date was the construction on the Eiffel Tower completed?
3. Which people were involved in the construction of the Eiffel Tower?
 - a) Gustave Eiffel; Maurice Koechlin; Emile Nouguier
 - b) Gustave Eiffel; Emile Nouguier; Champ-de-Mars
 - c) Gustave Eiffel; Verlaine Beffroi; Maurice Koechlin



4. According to the text, what is another name for the Eiffel Tower?
 - a) According to the text, another name for the Eiffel Tower is, Lady of Steel.
 - b) According to the text, another name for the Eiffel Tower is, The Skeleton of Beffroi.
 - c) According to the text, another name for the Eiffel Tower is, The Iron Lady.
5. What are the dimensions of the tower? (The size)
6. Where in Paris is the Eiffel Tower?
 - a) The Eiffel Tower is in Paris.
 - b) The Eiffel Tower is on the Champ-de-Mars.
 - c) The Eiffel Tower is in the Louvre Museum.
7. Complete the timeline:

Date	Event
June 1884	a)
b)	The works begin.
1 April 1888	c)
d)	The second stage was completed.
31 March 1889	e)

8. What are the colours of the French flag?

- a) blue; yellow; red
- b) green; black; blue
- c) red; white; blue
- d) white; red; black

9. How many stairs are there to the top of the Eiffel Tower?

10. How high was it upon completion?

- a) The Eiffel Tower was 250 meters high upon completion.
- b) The Eiffel Tower was 300 meters high upon completion.
- c) The Eiffel Tower was 330 meters high upon completion.

11. Why was the Eiffel Tower built?