

C'est la fête !

This book looks at some of the special days French people celebrate throughout the year. (There are of course others.) You could provide pupils with a few more facts about each, or pupils could do some research for themselves.



The reason for the crown in the photograph of the galette for *la Fête des Rois* is that hidden inside each cake is a token (it used to be a bean), called *une fève*. Whoever finds the token in their piece of cake becomes the king or queen for the day and wears a paper crown.

Easter and Christmas are both Christian religious festivals that are now commonly celebrated. Festivals with other religious origins, like the Muslim festival of Eid, are also celebrated in France.

France's national day goes back to the storming of the Bastille prison during the French Revolution in 1789.

Point out to pupils that the written names of the months of the year do not start with a capital letter in French. Notice, as well, the -ent ending for verbs after third person plural subjects (*ils, les Français*, etc).

Answers to quiz on page 9: 1c, 2d, 3a, 4c

English translation

It's party time!

- p2 The French love parties (festivals). On the 6th January, it's the Festival of the Kings (or Epiphany). French people eat a special cake: the Kings' galette.
- p3 In February, there is Mardi gras (literally: Fat Tuesday). French people eat pancakes and there are carnivals.
- p4 In March or in April, there is Easter. It's a religious festival. French people eat eggs, bells and animals made of chocolate!

p5 In France, July 14th is National Day. There are firework displays and people dance in the street.

p6 On 31st October, it's Hallowe'en. Children dress up as witches, ghosts, skeletons ... ooooooh!

p7 On 25th December, it's Christmas. French people decorate a Christmas tree and give presents. They eat oysters.

p8 Théo says: 'Me, my favourite celebration is in September ... it's my birthday!' 'Happy Birthday, Théo!'

p9 Do you have a good memory?

1. Which festival is on 25th December?
 - a) Festival of the Kings' b) Easter c) Christmas
 - d) Hallowe'en
2. French people eat chocolate animals...
 - a) for Mardi gras b) on 14th July c) at Christmas
 - d) at Easter
3. On the 14th July, French people...
 - a) dance b) dress up in fancy dress c) eat a kings' galette
 - d) give presents
4. French people eat pancakes...
 - a) at Hallowe'en b) on 14th July c) for Mardi gras
 - d) at Christmas

And you, what is your favourite celebration?

J'aime lire

The focus of this book is reading habits. In France, reading is a popular pastime with children of primary age, but during their years in secondary school, many young people lose the reading habit. In this book, some French children say what they enjoy reading.

Cartoons (*les bandes dessinées*, or *BD* for short) are something of a tradition in France and not just

