

French History Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

French History trivia explores a past marked by monarchy, revolution, empire, and republic, tracing how France became one of Europe's most influential nations. Expect questions that range from famous figures and landmark dates to surprising cultural moments, offering a lively way to learn, recall, and compare what you know.

HARD FRENCH HISTORY TRIVIA

1. Which royal minister is identified as a principal finance minister under Louis XIV?

Answer: Jean-Baptiste Colbert

2. Early in the French Revolution, who commanded the National Guard?

Answer: The Marquis de Lafayette

3. Which medieval epic is listed as being associated with early French literature?

Answer: The Song of Roland

4. Which French region is noted for numerous Renaissance châteaux linked to royal history?

Answer: The Loire Valley

5. Which year is associated with a key milestone for French History?

Answer: 987

6. What collective title did Honoré de Balzac give to his large cycle of novels depicting French society?

Answer: La Comédie humaine

7. Which queen consort of Henry II later wielded major political influence as queen mother?

Answer: Catherine de' Medici

8. Who is traditionally regarded as the first king to unite much of the Frankish realm under one ruler?

Answer: Clovis I

9. Which French city built historic wealth through trade linked to its port on the Garonne?

Answer: Bordeaux

10. Which château is identified as one of the best-known French Renaissance castles?

Answer: Château de Chambord

11. Which chief minister succeeded Richelieu in royal service?

Answer: Cardinal Mazarin

12. Trick map question: the Battle of Austerlitz took place not in France but in what present-day country?

Answer: The Czech Republic

13. Which strategic French possession remained under English control until 1558?

Answer: Calais

14. Another rogue clue from the list: which player is associated with the famously distinctive double-zero jersey number?

Answer: Jim Otto

FUNNY FRENCH HISTORY TRIVIA

1. In the French Fifth Republic, what is the political arrangement called when the president and prime minister are basically forced to share the governmental couch from different political camps?

Answer: cohabitation

2. Napoleon III kicked off the Second Empire in which year?

Answer: 1852

3. What year saw the Treaty of Verdun politely solve a family inheritance issue by dividing Charlemagne's empire among his grandsons?

Answer: 843

4. Which figure became famous as Napoleon's powerful minister of police— basically the man nobody wanted to see taking notes?

Answer: Joseph Fouché

5. During the French Revolutionary Wars, what was the policy of mass military conscription called?

Answer: levée en masse

6. The Bourbon Restoration needed a constitutional rulebook. Which document filled that role?

Answer: The Charter of 1814

7. Which political memoir was written by Charles de Gaulle, proving that retirement sometimes means writing several volumes?

Answer: Mémoires de guerre

8. Jean de Lattre de Tassigny held what rank in the Second World War era: marshal, cardinal, or playwright with excellent posture?

Answer: marshal

9. Which leading minister of Henry IV is especially associated with financial reform— meaning he was closer to the treasury than to the poetry club?

Answer: The Duke of Sully

10. True or false: In the French Fifth Republic, 'cohabitation' means the president and prime minister come from different political camps, not that they are arguing over kitchen shelves.?

Answer: True

11. If you set your time machine for the very start of the Second Empire under Napoleon III, what year should you punch in?

Answer: 1852

12. Chronology check: which happened earlier, the signing of the Treaty of Verdun or the start of the Second Empire?

Answer: The Treaty of Verdun

13. Which Napoleonic official is best matched with police power rather than tax reform or memoir writing?

Answer: Joseph Fouché

FUN FRENCH HISTORY TRIVIA

1. Which battlefield became infamous as one of World War I's longest and most costly slugfests?

Answer: Verdun

2. Which Victor Hugo novel gives center stage to Notre-Dame and its famously unfortunate bell-ringer?

Answer: The Hunchback of Notre-Dame

3. In what year was Les Misérables published?

Answer: 1862

4. Who painted Liberty Leading the People, that revolution-charged canvas with the tricolor held high?

Answer: Eugène Delacroix

5. What is the name of France's national anthem?

Answer: La Marseillaise

6. Which swashbuckling adventure was written by Alexandre Dumas?

Answer: The Three Musketeers

7. Which powerful churchman served as chief minister to Louis XIII?

Answer: Cardinal Richelieu

8. Which revolutionary figure is most closely linked with the Jacobin movement and the Reign of Terror?

Answer: Maximilien Robespierre

9. After the Franco-Prussian War, which region was annexed by the German Empire?

Answer: Alsace-Lorraine

10. At which cathedral were French kings traditionally crowned?

Answer: Reims Cathedral

11. During much of World War II, what town served as the seat of the collaborationist French government?

Answer: Vichy

12. What name is given to the political and social order in France before the Revolution of 1789?

Answer: The Ancien R^egime

13. Before the Revolution, which estate represented the commoners?

Answer: The Third Estate

FRENCH HISTORY FAMILY TRIVIA

1. What famous fortress-prison in eastern Paris was stormed in 1789?

Answer: The Bastille

2. From which region did William the Conqueror launch his 1066 invasion of England?

Answer: Normandy

3. The Palace of Versailles is located in what city southwest of central Paris?

Answer: Versailles

4. Which device became a symbol of executions during the Reign of Terror?

Answer: The guillotine

5. In what year did France begin using the euro as physical currency?

Answer: 2002

6. Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo in which year?

Answer: 1815

7. What is the name of the civil code promulgated in 1804 under Napoleon?

Answer: The Napoleonic Code

8. Which 1789 document declared key principles and freedoms during the French Revolution?

Answer: The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen

9. What was the title of ^emile Zola's famous open letter defending Alfred Dreyfus?

Answer: J'Accuse!

10. Which French scientist is famous for major contributions to microbiology and vaccination in the 19th century?

Answer: Louis Pasteur

11. Who crowned himself Emperor of the French in 1804?

Answer: Napoleon Bonaparte

12. Which Gothic cathedral stands on the ^ele de la Cit^e in Paris?

Answer: Notre-Dame de Paris

EASY FRENCH HISTORY TRIVIA

1. What famous Paris landmark started as a medieval fortress before later becoming a royal palace and museum?

Answer: The Louvre

2. Which French city lies where the Rh[^]-ne and Sa[^]-ne rivers meet?

Answer: Lyon

3. Which major French city is one of the country's oldest and also a Mediterranean port?

Answer: Marseille

4. What is the name of the tidal island site in Normandy famous for its dramatic setting?

Answer: Mont-Saint-Michel

5. What famous embroidered work shows events leading up to the Norman conquest of England?

Answer: The Bayeux Tapestry

6. Which Claude Monet painting helped give Impressionism its name?

Answer: Impression, Sunrise

7. Which player became one of the most respected defensive backs in Arizona franchise history during the 1990s?

Answer: Aeneas Williams

8. The Rams have won how many NFL championships in franchise history?

Answer: Four

9. For most of their history, the Chargers were based in which city?

Answer: San Diego

10. Which French city served as the seat of the papacy during much of the 14th century?

Answer: Avignon

11. The 1870 battle that led to the capture of Napoleon III was the Battle of what?

Answer: Sedan

12. During the French Revolution, what new administrative units replaced many old provincial divisions?

Answer: Departments

13. What term refers broadly to the global community of French-speaking peoples and states?

Answer: Francophonie

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/french-history>