

## ON PRÉSENTE PARIS!

For this assignment, you will work with a partner to first create a "fact sheet" for a monument in Paris (see the list below). Then you and your partner will play the role of tour guides in Paris, giving directions to your monument and a brief tour.<sup>1</sup> Each group will describe a different monument. Your work will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

### Fact Sheet

- |                 |   |         |
|-----------------|---|---------|
| 1) Completeness | —all requested information is supplied  | 10 pts. |
| 2) Accuracy     | —information is up-to-date and accurate   | 10 pts. |
| 3) Presentation | —information is well-written, presented in typed form, with appropriate sources | 6 pts.  |

### Tour guide role

- |               |  |         |
|---------------|--|---------|
| 1) Directions | —directions are clear, easy-to-follow, and appropriate   | 12 pts. |
| 2) Tour       | —You should plan to bring clear visual aids for your presentation—photos, slides, posters, etc. Prepare to give a brief, but interesting "tour" of your monument | 12 pts. |

Along with your assignment, you should submit a brief description of how the work was divided between you and your partner.

On the next page, you will find a sample fact sheet for the *métro* system in Paris. Your instructor will also demonstrate the role of tour guide before the date of your presentations.

On your fact sheet, you should provide general information under the following headings:

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1) LOCATION:     | Where is the monument located in Paris? On which street(s)? In which <i>arrondissement</i> ? What is it near?   |
| 2) HISTORY:      | When was it designed/built? By whom? For what purpose? What is its historical significant?  |
| 3) CURRENT USES: | What is the modern day significance of the monument? What are its modern day uses? Does it serve the same purpose as when it was originally built?  |
| 4) RESOURCES:    | Give a full bibliographic reference for at least two resources for learning more about this monument (NOT an encyclopedia! Web pages and CD-ROMs are appropriate, but you must use more than one source.) |

Your fact sheet should be one page in length and single-spaced. When referring to your monument, please use the French spelling, placed in italics or quotation marks. During your presentation use the French pronunciation of your monument.

List of monuments in Paris (if you would like to do research on a monument not listed below, please consult with your instructor):

- |                                   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. l'Arc de Triomphe              | 10. le Moulin Rouge        |
| 2. le Centre Pompidou (Beaubourg) | 11. le Musée d'Orsay       |
| 3. les Champs-Élysées             | 12. Notre-Dame de Paris    |
| 4. le Cimetière du Père Lachaise  | 13. l'Obélisque de Louksor |
| 5. la Conciergerie                | 14. le Panthéon            |
| 6. les Invalides                  | 15. le Pont-Neuf           |
| 7. les Jardins des Tuileries      | 16. le Sacré-Cœur          |
| 8. le Louvre                      | 17. la Sorbonne            |
| 9. Montmartre                     | 18. la Tour Eiffel         |

# LE MÉTRO

## LOCATION

Although not technically a "monument," the *métro*, short for *métropolitain*, is certainly one of the most well known features of Paris. With 429 stations named after battlefields, revolutionaries, poets, and scientists to cite just a few categories, no point in the capital is more than 500 meters from a *bouche de métro* (a *métro* entrance/exit). Most of the 295 kilometers of track for the *métro* are located underground. However, the entire system is not subterranean; the station *Barbès-Rochechouart*, for example, near *Sacré-Cœur* in the 18<sup>th</sup> *arrondissement*, is an elevated station which affords a view of its surroundings.

## HISTORY

The first line of the *métro*, designed as a public transportation system by the engineer Fulgence Bienvenüe, was opened on July 19, 1900. It took travelers from the *Porte de Vincennes* to the *Porte Maillot* on the Right Bank. In that same year, the architect Hector Guimard designed whimsical *métro* entrance-ways in what became known as the *Art Nouveau* or "noodle" style. These entrance-ways, made of wrought iron, have a floral theme and are characterized by their curved design. They figure prominently in many films made in Paris because they are unique to this city. Indeed, the *métro* has been a prominent setting in many French films and is the scene of many tales, both gruesome and amusing, fact and fiction. For example, there is the tale of the general who met his end when his beard became trapped in the *métro*'s automatic doors, or the madwoman who sits on the platform "directing" the trains, or the commuters, stranded by one of the many transportation strikes, who marched down the railways lynching *métro* staff. Despite these tales the *métro* since its inauguration has remained a relatively safe and hospitable place.

## CURRENT USES

The *métro* has undergone constant modernization over the course of this century so that it may continue to serve its initial commuter transportation purpose among an ever-growing population. Today the *métro* serves approximately 5.5 million commuters each day and employs approximately 15,000 Parisians. With 3,500 cars in service, during rush hour a commuter never needs to wait more than 2 minutes for a train. The underground corridors of the *métro* also serve as a stage for many musicians soliciting donations. Some *métro* stations are veritable subterranean markets with vendors selling flowers, jewelry, and food. According to David Applefield, although "at times it gets a bit overcrowded, odoriferous, noisy, and confused," nevertheless "you can get nearly everywhere in a relatively short period of time for a reasonable price in relative safety and security on the Paris *Métro*."

## RESOURCES

Applefield, David. 1994. *Paris Inside Out: The Insider's Guide for Visitors, Residents, Professionals & Students on Living in Paris*. Paris: Parigramme.

*Michelin Tourist Guide: Paris*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. 1985. London: Michelin Tyre Company.

Osborne, Lawrence. 1995. "Métro Metaphysics." In J. O'Reilly, L. Habegger & S. O'Reilly, Eds., *Travelers' Tales: France*. San Francisco, CA: O'Reilly & Associates, Inc.

## FACT SHEET PREPARED BY:

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<sup>1</sup>Each of these activities can be done in French or in English as the level of the students permits.