

PARIS: A VIRTUAL TOUR

Note to the teacher: The primary objective of the lesson is for students to be able to use the *métro* to find their way around Paris. Additionally, they will become familiar with the geography of Paris, several monuments and museums, and some French vocabulary. The lesson is appropriate for French I and II students at the high school level. Access to the Internet is needed to complete the lesson. The lesson is designed for students to work independently. If so desired, the teacher may assign the extension found at the end of the lesson.

Today, we will be taking a virtual tour of Paris. Type [<http://www.paris.org>] in the location box at the top of the screen. That will take you to a page that has “Paris” written in blue, white, and red between two statues. Scroll to the bottom of the screen. Under the selection “Other Sections” click on “Interactive map of museums and monuments.”

You will see a map of Paris with three sets of numbers. You’ll see some large numbers in black, some numbers in blue circles, and some numbers in red boxes.

The first thing you need to know to find your way around is that Paris is divided into 20 areas called *arrondissements*. The large numbers in black illustrate the 20 *arrondissements*. Put your finger on the black number 1 (right in the center of the map) and follow the numbers 1 through 20. What do you notice about the numbering pattern? Write your answer here:



The numbers in blue circles indicate museums.
A list of 21 museums is provided above the map.

The numbers in the red boxes indicate monuments.
A list of 23 monuments is provided under the map.



Look at the map again. You will see a blue line that starts at the bottom right, goes through the center of Paris, then exits at the bottom left. The line represents the river Seine. The Seine divides Paris into two major sections, to the north or right when facing downstream, *la rive droite*, and to the south or left when facing downstream, *la rive gauche*. Knowing on which side of the Seine something is located will be useful as you find your way around Paris.

Find the two gray areas where red boxes 1 and 2 are. The Seine widens here around two islands. The smaller island is *l’Île Saint-Louis*, two islands are the oldest parts of Paris. The *Conciergerie* are located on the *Île de la Cité*.



and 2 are. The Seine widens here around two islands. The smaller island is *l’Île de la Cité*. These monuments Notre-Dame de Paris and *la*

In today’s virtual tour, we will visit 3 museums and 5 monuments. Your first task is to identify the *arrondissement* in which each museum and monument of the virtual tour is located. Using the map, complete the right side of the chart below by filling in the number of the *arrondissement* for each museum and monument on our tour.

Museum/Monument (Number in list on interactive map)	<i>arrondissement</i>
Musée du Louvre (blue 1)	_____
Musée National d’Art Moderne–Centre Georges Pompidou (blue 10)	_____
Musée d’Orsay (blue 16)	_____
Panthéon (red 11)	_____
Hôtel National des Invalides (red 16)	_____
Tour Eiffel (red 17)	_____
Arc de Triomphe (red 18)	_____
Basilique du Sacré-Cœur (red 23)	_____

It looks as if the museums and monuments are located close enough together so that you could walk to visit all of them. While it is true that Paris is a fascinating city in which to stroll, you may want to use the *métro*, the subway system, to get around.

To use the *métro* to get to a particular museum or monument, you must first determine the name of the closest *métro* station. This information is easy to locate on our virtual tour. Let's take the monument Notre-Dame as an example. Go to the list of monuments under the map and click on Notre-Dame (or click on the red box #1).

The icon for the *métro* is a red dot with a white M.



You can see from the list of information that the closest *métro* station for Notre-Dame is *Cité*. You might also notice the icon that says RER, which is an extended *métro* line. To go to Notre-Dame, you could take the RER and get off at either *Châtelet-Les Halles* or *Saint Michel-Notre Dame* or take the *métro* and get off at *Cité*.

Use the back arrow to return to the map. Find the *métro* station for each of the 8 museums and monuments on our virtual tour. (Click on the blue dot or the red box for the particular museum or monument to find the *métro* station.) Write the name of the *métro* station in the right column in the chart below. There may be more than one *métro* station given. They will be separated by commas. If more than one *métro* station is provided, write only the first one on your chart. If no *métro* station is given, use the RER stop.

Museum/Monument (number in list on interactive map)	<i>métro</i> station
<i>Musée du Louvre</i> (blue 1)	_____
<i>Musée National d'Art Moderne—Centre Georges Pompidou</i> (blue 10)	_____
<i>Musée d'Orsay</i> (blue 16)	_____
<i>Panthéon</i> (red 11)	_____
<i>Hôtel National des Invalides</i> (red 16)	_____
<i>Tour Eiffel</i> (red 17)	_____
<i>Arc de Triomphe</i> (red 18)	_____
<i>Basilique du Sacré-Cœur</i> (red 23)	_____

Now that we have identified the various stations we will need on our tour, let's learn how to use the *métro*. Follow the directions below to find an interactive *métro* map.

1. Go to [<http://www.subwaynavigator.com>].
2. Click on Paris (France) in the blue box on the top left side of the screen.
3. You'll see the title "Route Finder" on the top left side of the screen. Scroll to the bottom and click on the word "map."

The *métro* system is made up of several lines. Each line is named, numbered, and color coded. Let's take line 1, the yellow line, as an example.

Line 1 runs right through the middle of Paris. Look on the left side of the map, about in the middle, for a number 1 in a yellow circle. Put your cursor right below the circled number 1. You should see a box pop up. In the box you'll see *Station* in blue and *La Défense* in white.

Each line is named by its two end stations. *La Défense* is the name of line 1 on one end. Trace line 1 with your cursor until you get to the other end. What is the name of the line 1 on this end? Write your answer here:

If you said *Château de Vincennes*, you are right! So, the name of line 1 is *La Défense/Château de Vincennes*.

Very slowly trace line 1 with your cursor. As you go along, you will see other station names pop up. The *métro* train stops at each station. You can get off and on at any of the stations.

Move your cursor back to *Château de Vincennes* and slowly trace line 1 with your cursor until *Nation* pops up. Notice the white box at the *Nation* station. This is a transfer point. More than one line stops at *Nation*. Notice how the red line, two different green lines, and the blue line all stop at the *Nation* station.

Continue moving your cursor on line 1 until you come to the station *Reuilly/Diderot*. This is also a transfer point. What are the colors of the lines that stop at the *Reuilly/Diderot* station? Write your answer here:

Every white box and white circle on the map represents a transfer point. There are many transfer points, aren't there?

For each line on the *métro* there are trains that go in both directions. You need to be aware of the direction you want to go. Let's see an example.

Follow the yellow line until you come to the station *Gare de Lyon*. Let's pretend that you got on the *métro* train at the *Gare de Lyon* and you want to get off the train at the Franklin D. Roosevelt station, which is also on line 1. Trace line 1 until you come to the Franklin D. Roosevelt station. Since you are headed toward the end of the line named *La Défense*, you need to follow the signs in the *métro* that say, *Direction La Défense*.

Let's see how well you understand the *métro* system so far. Write answers to quiz #1 which follows.

Quiz #1

1. What are the 2 names for line number 4?
2. One name for line number 9 is *Mairie de Montreuil*. What is the other name?
3. You got on the train at the station *Mairie d'Issy* (line 12 at the bottom of the map). What is the name of the third stop?
4. If you got on line 1 at *Pont de Neuilly* and you wanted to transfer to red line 5, at what station would you get off the train?

We saw earlier that *Cité* is the closest *métro* station to Notre-Dame. *Cité* is located on line 4. Look for line 4. It is colored in pink on the map. The two names of the line are *Porte de Clignancourt* and *Porte d'Orléans*. Look at the very bottom of the map in the center for line 4 *Porte d'Orléans*. Trace the line until you come to *Cité*.

Did you find it? Do you remember the island on which Notre-Dame is located? If not, turn back to page 1 of your handout to find the answer.

Let's pretend that you are staying at the hotel *Sèvres-Azur*. The *métro* station closest to the hotel *Sèvres-Azur* is *Sèvres-Babylone*. Two lines of the *métro* go to this station. One of them is line 10. What is the other line? Write your answer here:



Your task now is to map out the route you will take on the *métro* to get to each of the places on our virtual tour. Even though you probably wouldn't go back to your hotel after visiting each place on the tour, we will start at the *métro* station *Sèvres-Babylone* each time just so you will get lots of practice using the *métro*.

Let's map out one route together as an example. We are at the *métro* stop *Sèvres-Babylone* on line 10 and we want to go to Notre-Dame. As we found out before, the closest *métro* station to Notre-Dame is *Cité*, which is on line 4. We will have to transfer lines. Follow the five steps below on your map of the *métro*.

1. Get on the *métro* at *Sèvres-Babylone*, line 10, *Direction Gare d'Austerlitz*.
2. Get off the train at the stop *Odéon*.
3. Transfer to line 4, *Direction Porte de Clignancourt*.
4. Get off the train at the stop *Cité*.
4. Exit the *métro* and look for Notre-Dame.

That was fairly simple, wasn't it? Let's try another route. We are at the *métro* station *Sèvres-Babylone* on line 12, and we want to go to the *Musée du Louvre*. The closest station to the *Musée du Louvre* is *Palais Royal/Musée du Louvre*, on line 1. First, follow line 1 until you find the station *Palais Royal/Musée du Louvre* just so you know where you're going. Then, starting at the station *Sèvres-Babylone*, follow the route on your *métro* map and fill in the missing words below.

1. Get on the *métro* at *Sèvres-Babylone*, line 12, *Direction* _____.
2. Get off train at _____.
3. Transfer to line 1, *Direction* _____.
4. Get off the train at the stop *Palais Royal/Musée du Louvre*.
5. Exit the *métro* and look for the *Musée du Louvre*.

Before continuing, check your answers. Use the arrow key to go back to where you first clicked on the word “map.” On the top left side of the screen you’ll see “Route finder.” Let’s do a direct search. Type *Sèvres-Babylone* (no accents) in the departure station box. Type *Palais Royal* in the arrival station box. Then click on the search button. Check the directions that come up on the screen with the answers you just wrote.

There’s another easy way to find *métro* directions on the subway navigator site. Use the arrow key to go back to the route finder. Under “Search via list of stations” click on “start selection.” You’ll see a list of *métro* stations. On the left side are departures (blue) and on the right side are arrivals (red). Scroll down until you come to *Sèvres-Babylone*. (The list isn’t quite in alphabetical order. *Sèvres-Babylone* is the 3rd name before the stations that begin with the letter “t.”)

Click on the white circle next to *Sèvres-Babylone*. Then find *Palais Royal/Musée du Louvre* and click on the white circle in the red column across from *Palais Royal/Musée du Louvre*. In a second or two the directions will come up on the screen.

Click twice on the back arrow to get to the route finder again. (If you can’t get there with the back arrow, go back to [<http://www.subwaynavigator.com>] and click on Paris.)

Use the *métro* map to complete the next three routes. Write out the steps for each route below.

To get to the *Musée National d’Art Moderne–Centre Georges Pompidou*:

1. Get on the *métro* at *Sèvres-Babylone*, line _____, *Direction*, _____.
2. Get off the train at the stop _____.
3. Transfer to line _____, *Direction* _____.
4. Get off the train at the station _____.
3. Exit the *métro* and look for the *Musée National d’Art Moderne*.

To get to the *Musée d’Orsay*:

1. Get on the *métro* at *Sèvres-Babylone*, line _____, *Direction*, _____.
2. Get off the train at station _____.
3. Exit the *métro* and look for the *Musée d’Orsay*.

To get to the *Basilique du Sacré-Cœur*:

1. Get on the *métro* at *Sèvres-Babylone*, line _____, *Direction*, _____.
2. Get off the train at _____.
3. Transfer to line _____, *Direction* _____.
4. Get off the train at station _____.
5. Exit the *métro* and look for the *Basilique du Sacré-Cœur*.

Go back and check your answers with the route finder. You can use either a direct search or a search via list of stations.

Now that you’re an expert getting around Paris on the *métro*, write out directions to get to the rest of the museums and monuments on our virtual tour: 1. *Panthéon*, 2. *Hôtel des Invalides*, 3. *Tour Eiffel*, and 4. *Arc de Triomphe*. Start at the station *Sèvres-Babylone* each time. On a separate sheet of paper, write the directions in numbered steps as you did above.

Extension

You may be interested in knowing more about the museums and monuments on the virtual tour. Go back to [<http://www.paris.org>] and click on the interactive map. On the list of museums above the map or the list of monuments below the map, click on the name of the museum or monument you wish to learn more about. You will find some interesting information about the history and some practical information for tourists. Prepare to share the information you learn in class.

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Note: See the related article entitled, “Surfing the Seine: Paris on the Web,” by Townsend Bowling and Jayne Abrate in the *French Review*, Vol. 73, No. 6 (May 2000) as well as the accompanying interactive page on the AATF Web site at [<http://aatf.utsa.edu>].