FRENCH CULTURE PROJECT: REGIONS IN FRANCE

For this assignment, you will work with a partner to first create a “fact sheet” for a region in France (see the list below). Then you and your partner will present your region to the rest of the class. Each pair will describe a different region. 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 and is presented in typed form 5 pts.

Presentation
1) Clarity—information is organized clearly for classmates to follow 15 pts.
2) Visuals—You should plan to bring clear visual aids for your presentation—maps, photos, slides, posters, etc. See your instructor for help and advice if necessary. 10 pts.

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

You will find a sample fact sheet for la Nièvre. On your fact sheet, you should provide general information under the following headings:

1) GEOGRAPHY: Where is this region located? What other regions, countries, and points of interest (mountains, rivers, oceans) is it near or does it contain? What is its terrain like? What is its climate like? What are its major cities?
2) ECONOMY: What is the basis of this region’s economy (agriculture, industry, tourism, etc.)? How important is this region to the economy of France?
3) HISTORY: What is the historical significance of this region? Did any important historical events occur in this region?
4) CULTURE: What sets this region apart culturally from the other regions of France? Are there special traditions, cuisine, sights which cannot be found anywhere else in France?
5) RESOURCES: Give a full bibliographic reference for at least two basic resources for learning more about this region (NOT including an encyclopedia or Internet addresses)! We encourage you to use the World Wide Web to do some of your research.

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

List of regions in France (if you would like to do research on a region not listed, please consult with your instructor):
1. les Alpes
2. l’Alsace-Lorraine
3. l’Aquitaine
4. l’Auvergne/le Limousin
5. la Bretagne
6. la Camargue
7. le Centre
8. la Champagne/les Ardennes
9. la Corse
10. la Côté d’Azur
11. la Côte d’Or
12. la Normandie
13. les Pays-de-la-Loire
14. le Midi-Pyrénées
15. le Périgord
16. la Picardie/le Nord
17. le Poitou-Charantes
18. la Provence
19. le Languedoc-Roussillon
20. la Savoie

LA NIÈVRE

GEOGRAPHY
La Nièvre is one of the four départements which make up the region of la Bourgogne (Burgundy) in the northeastern quarter of France. La Nièvre is bordered by the regions of le Centre to the West and l’Auvergne to the South. The eastern part of la Nièvre contains a small mountain range called le Morvan, portions of which have been set aside for a national park. In the southwest the rivers la Loire and la Nièvre converge just outside the largest city in the region and the region’s capital, Nevers (approximately 50,000 inhabitants). The majority of la Nièvre is characterized by gently rolling hills and pasture lands with the exception of le Morvan which is a rocky granite wilderness, in places densely forested.

ECONOMY
Due to its gentle topography and its continental climate, la Nièvre boasts ideal farming conditions. Its economy is based principally on agriculture as well as on the raising of livestock, primarily cattle. Other industries have also found a home in la Nièvre including rubber making at Château-Chinon, auto assembly at Fourchambault, logging in le Morvan, and the bottling of mineral water at Pouges-les-Eaux.

HISTORY
Archeologists have found traces of ancient habitations dating back over 2000 years. One can find vestiges of a Gaulish fortress near Nevers, for example. The region came to have great importance in feudal times when a duchy was established in Nevers. Le château ducal in Nevers, built