

A presentation from the French students



Auvergne: a mountain area

Life in our mountains: The Sancy



**The Sancy is the highest mountain in Auvergne and there are 3 ski resorts:
le Mont Dore, SuperBesse and Chastreix.**



When there isn't enough snow on the runs, the snowmaker has to make some. There is a water supply... a station under it send water through pipes to snow canons...the droplets getting out of them turn into snow if it's at least -2°C .



The snow groomers tamp the runs. When the slope is too steep, the machine is stuck to a winch not to fall down while working.



The mechanics
repair the ski
lifts...it's a
dangerous job!



To prepare the ski runs, help and save the skiers: the ski patrolmen

To understand their jobs, they received us in the Mont-Dore ski resort...

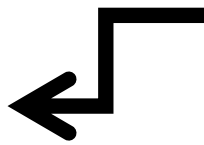




Early in the morning, they settle signs warning from risks of avalanches... the skiers have to stay in the ski area, not to make off-piste skiing.

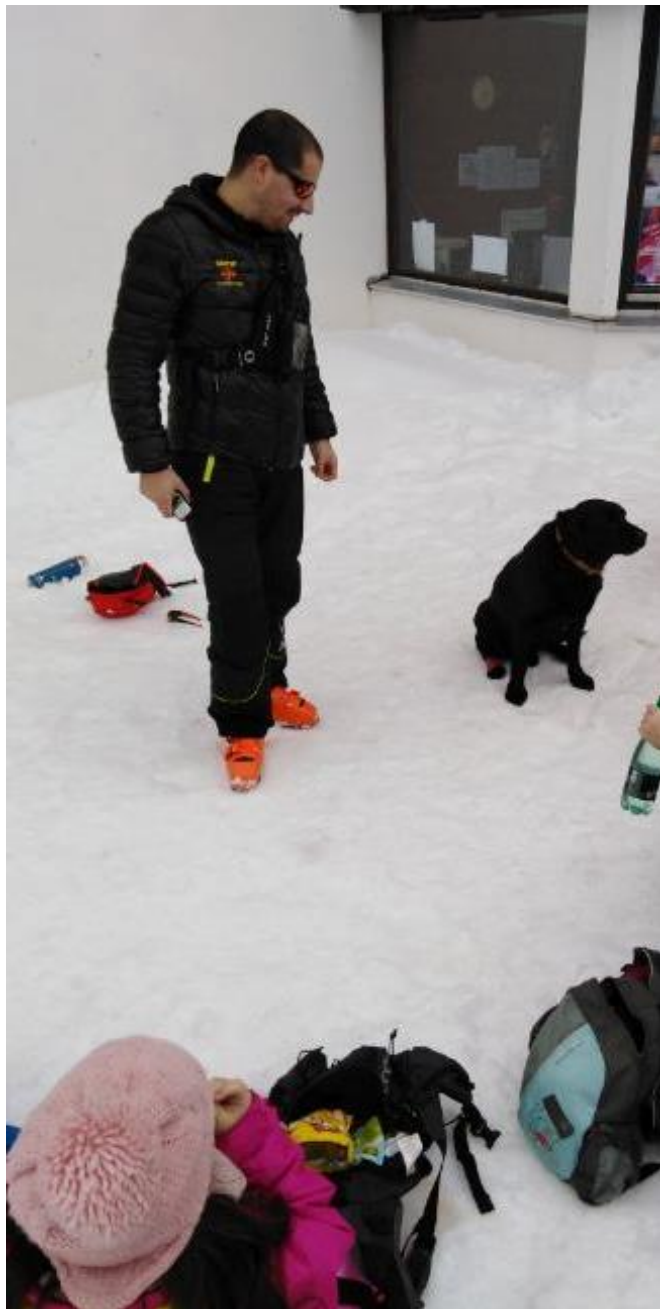


This flag warns of a risk of avalanches.





A skier has just badly fallen down...the ski patrolmen take their snowscooter and the punnet to keep the skier back to the first aid post.

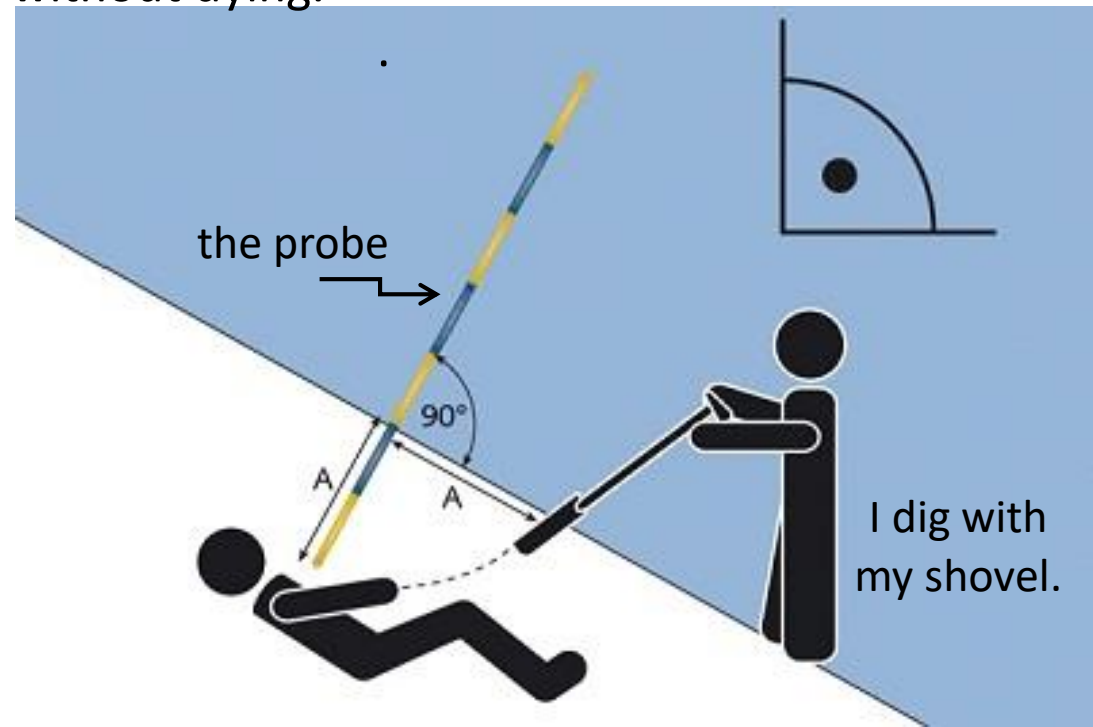


We met Bambou , the mountain rescue dog) ...each day, the dog handler has to train his dog to be more efficient.



In avalanche terrain, essential equipment includes a probe, beacon and *shovel*.

For example, I go for a run in the mountains with a friend of mine who is suddenly covered by an avalanche... I call the help, take my beacon and listen to the sound it makes...I walk and wait for its sound becoming faster...when the bip is very close, I've found my friend...I plant the probe in the snow...when I can feel something hard, my friend is under it...I take the shovel and dig while waiting for the help... We can't stay under snow more than 15/20mn without dying.





In the very high mountain and outside the ski resorts, the help is brought by gendarmerie of high mountain.

The jobs in the mountains



•We can work in the ticket office to sell the ski passes...

•We can work as a 'perchman' to give the poles to the skiers...



We can be a patrolman, a mountain guide, a gendarme, a ski instructor, a mechanic...



We met Sandra, a nice perchman who explained us her job and we encouraged skiers at the skitow.!

There are three ways to rise at the top of ski



The chairlift



The ski tow



The cable railway

We went to the top with the cable railway



On the top, the station was totally frozen: it was wonderful!



Great view from the Sancy (1886meters)







When we went down, we were very lucky because we met the cable railway conductor. That's the big wheel turning when the machine is going up and down.



You can see
that the
cables are
very thick!





Here is the place where the conductor decide when the cable railway is operating up and down.



The ski school:

If you want to learn skiing, you go to the ski school and have lessons with a ski instructor.



In the morning, we went snowshoeing



You can see le Mont Dore down the mountain





We can make downhill ski.



We can make
frozen waterfalls climbing.

During summer



We can hike in the mountains.



We can make canyoning but we need an instructor to go climbing down the rivers.



We can hike in
the trees.



We can make
hang-gliding.



We can make paragliding to fly over our volcanoes chain.

The animals of the mountains



The chamois
and its
tracks...



The Bighorn
sheep



The marmot
and its
tracks...



The hare and
its tracks...





The otter comes
back in our rivers
because the water
is pure...



The buzzard



The star of cows: the Salers cow

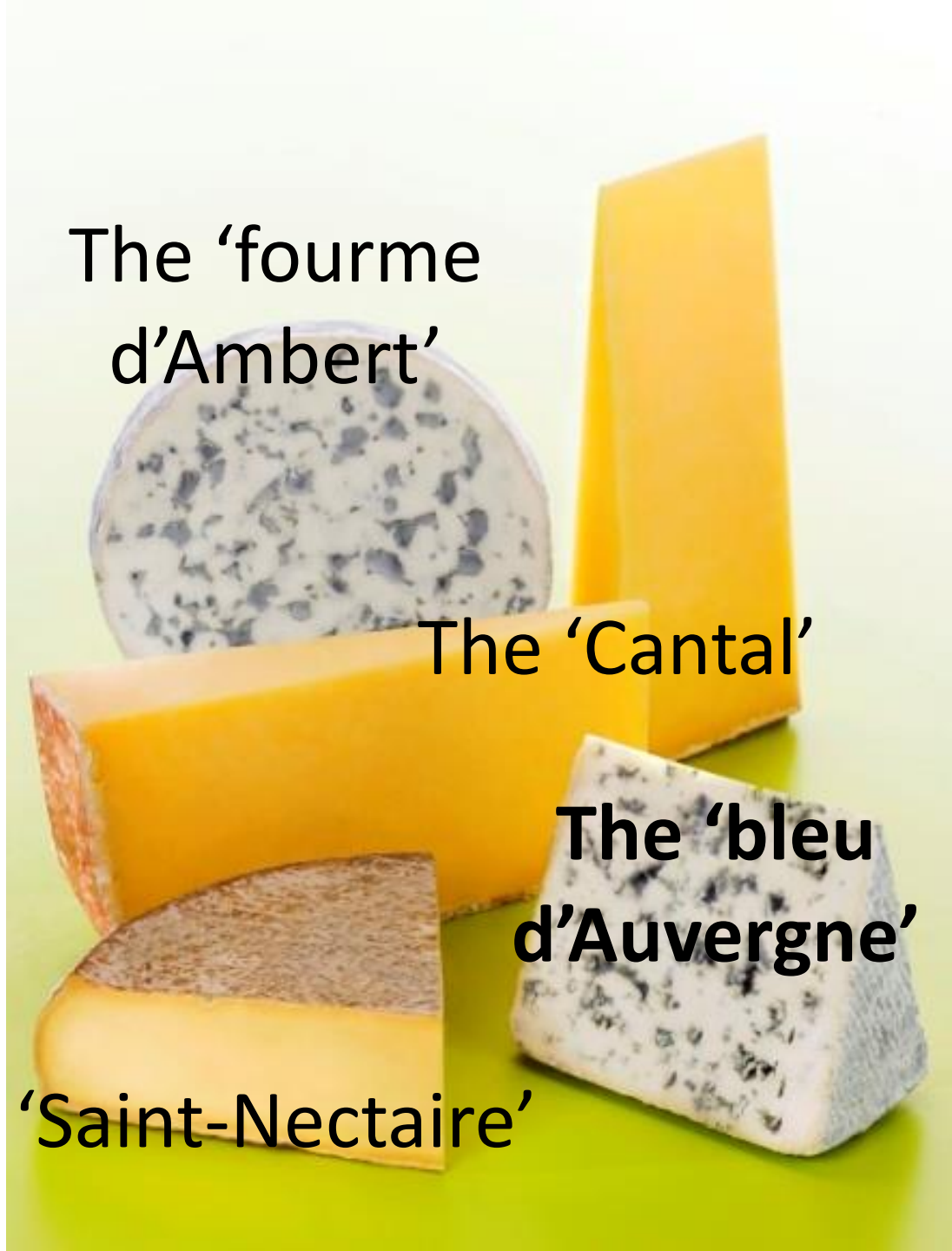
We live in a very famous area of cheese:
the Auvergne...

The 'fourme
d'Ambert'

The 'Cantal'

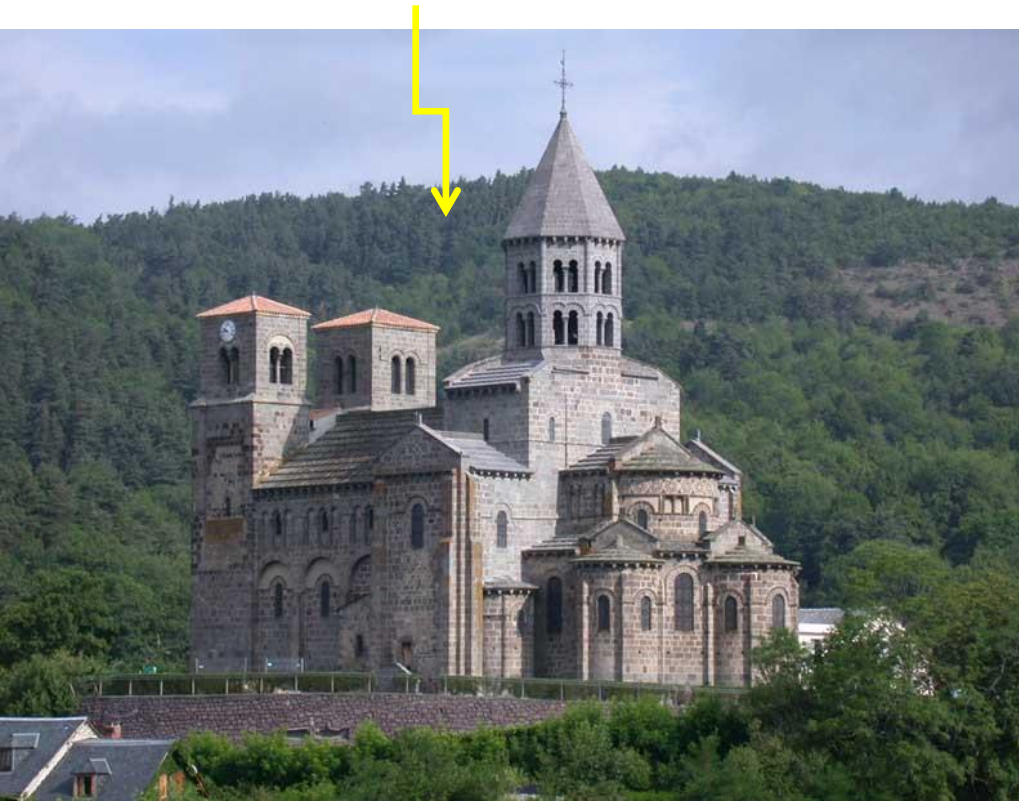
The 'bleu
d'Auvergne'

The 'Saint-Nectaire'



How to make the « Saint-Nectaire » « holy nectary »:

Saint-Nectaire is the name of a small town in this area.





The farmer has to milk cows twice a day, seven times a week...

the milk flows down to cooling tanks.



The pre activated starter culture is added to milk in a fermentation vat, followed by fermentation.



The curds are cut with a wireframe...



...then transferred to a cloth, placed in adjustable moulds and squeezed to extract the whey.





It is stored in the caves and scrubbed with salt water regularly, which gives it a unique orange-grey colour.

The Auvergne...

a region that's good to live!

