

France

Bordered to the west by the Atlantic ocean, France is home to 67 million people across its mainland and many territories. A global centre for art, science, and philosophy, France has led the way in global development.



Language

French is a Romance language based on Vulgar Latin from the Roman Empire. The language has influenced other languages, including English, and French-based creole languages, notably Haitian Creole. An official language in 29 countries, French has helped allow the world to become closer together and unite.



History

After years of Roman rule, the French empire grew and the renaissance period saw fast growth in the country. However, at the beginning of the 19th Century, the government began trying to eradicate minority groups and making France into a homogenous entity, though more liberal governments after this made reparations.



Tradition

51% of French-people are Christians, 40% atheists, 6% Muslim and 2% Jewish. It's estimated that 40% of current French citizens are descended from immigrants, making it a diversely populated country in the beating heart of Europe.



Art and Cuisine

Monet, Seurat, Gauguin, and many other famous artists were French. Furthermore, van Gogh, Kandinsky, and others all settled in Paris for its artistic diversity. French cuisine plays a big part in French culture, renowned as being some of the finest cuisine in the world.



Geography

France's geography is similar to the United Kingdom's, with flat plains complemented by rugged mountains perfect for snow sports. However, France has many overseas territories, including La Reunion, Saint Pierre, Guadeloupe, and more.

Conclusion

When tackling an issue, isn't ten perspectives better than one? Through contact and exposure to new people with new ideas, we can diminish the effects of discrimination and prejudices that exist as a result of fear of the unknown.

Our Relationships

France, the United Kingdom, and Spain, all work closely together in the European Union to eliminate world issues like poverty, climate change, and health crises. This has only been possible as a result of acceptance and willingness to adapt and learn about other people's cultures and ideas. After all, if we only listen to people the same as us, how can we make progress as a species?

Bringing Us Closer Together

Though the relationship between our three countries is strong and close, issues still remain, especially around prejudicial attitudes and discrimination to minority groups. It's relatively easy to control discrimination, though prejudice is personal and opinionated, and you cannot deny someone the right to disagree with another group. The issue is not disagreeing with another group; rather, it's disagreeing with another group based solely on their membership in that group.

How can we have diversity and equality?

Imagine this. Diversity invites you to the party, inclusion invites you to the dance. Equality redistributes space so that everyone has the same area to dance. It's not about making everyone equal, but rather about giving everyone equal opportunities.

SMILE IN THE SAME LANGUAGE

UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE, AND SPAIN



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Introduction to diversity

Diversity represents the inclusion of different people in a group, whether that be differences in ethnicity, culture, sexuality, or religious beliefs. It empowers people to strengthen themselves and the people around them, and to celebrate differences instead of just tolerating them.

Why is diversity important?

Our culture shapes us and is a way of living. To learn from one another, we must understand each other and see things from the perspectives of people from different backgrounds.

Spain

Located on the Iberian peninsula, the Kingdom of Spain is home to 47 million people from thousands of different cultural backgrounds. The name, España, is derived from the Roman name Hispania.



Language

Spanish is mostly derived from Latin, with some of the oldest Latin texts being from the 9th century. In contrast to many other European languages, 8% of Spanish vocabulary is derived from Arabic, picked up when Spain was known as Muslim Iberia.



History

Most of the Iberian peninsula has been populated since pre-historic times, with the earliest evidence of habitation dating back 800,000 years. Around 4000 BC, the Iberians settled. The Spanish Kingdom reached its peak in the late 1500s.



Tradition

67% of Spaniards are Roman Catholic, 27% Atheists, and 3% are other religious minorities. The country's religious diversity is small, but recent immigration is changing this. Spanish cuisine and clothes can be very traditional and these are often eaten and worn on special occasions like Semana Santa.



Festivals

Fiestas are an important part of Spanish culture, which include religious and non-religious observances. Each municipality can declare up to 14 public holidays a year. Spain even has a national day, 'Fiesta Nacional de España' on the 12th October every year.



Geography

Spain is very mountainous in the central regions, with Madrid resting at 667m above sea level. The Balearic islands to the south east are a popular tourist destination for foreigners. Spain has two territories in Northern Africa which are not very well known - Ceuta, and Melilla. Islam is a lot more common in these cities with Eid being a public holiday there.

United Kingdom

Just off the north western coast of European mainland, the United Kingdom houses four nations - England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, with the latter bordering the Republic of Ireland.



Language

English is a West Germanic language. 'England' is derived from the 'Angles', a Germanic tribe that migrated to Great Britain. Primarily influenced by Frisian and Saxon, English is also derived from Latin and French.



History

Post Roman era, the United Kingdom has always had one of the largest empires in the world, though not without controversy. Much of this success was the direct result of a huge slave trade of Africans, with the slaves being used or sold off.



Tradition

60% of Brits are Christian, with 26% being atheist, 4% Muslim, and 1% Hindu. Religious minorities have drifted closer geographically overtime, with large Muslim communities in Manchester and London, for example. British cuisine is 'inspired' by other cuisines, with the tikka massala dish being an example.



Monarchy

The UK is one of a few remaining monarchies in the world. The royal family is an important part of British culture, with recent royal weddings gaining a fair share of media attention. To Brits, the monarchy is a living symbol of allegiance to our nation.



Geography

The UK is home to some of the most diverse geography in the world. From the flooded Fens to rolling hills of Yorkshire, to the perfect surf waves in Cornwall. Generally, the further north you go, the more mountains you'll come across, but head west into Wales and you'll find yourself immersed into the awe-inspiring Snowdonia National Park.