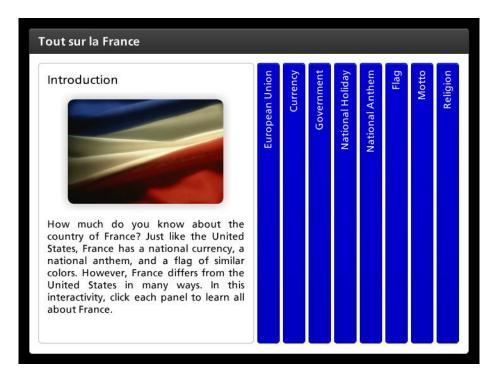
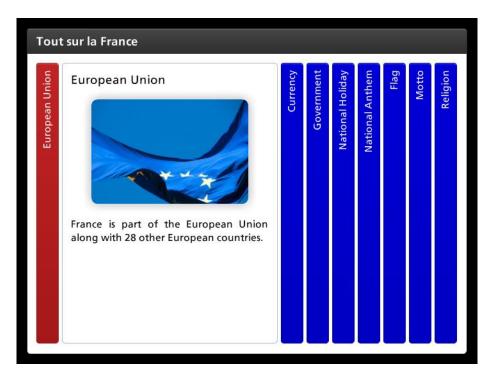
Introduction



How much do you know about the country of France? Just like the United States, France has a national currency, a national anthem, and a flag of similar colors. However, France differs from the United States in many ways. In this interactivity, click each panel to learn all about France.



European Union



France is part of the European Union along with 28 other European countries.



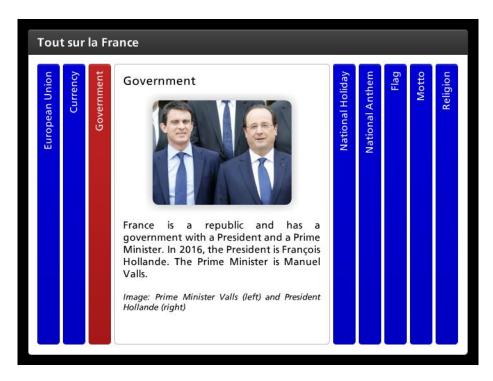
Currency



France uses the *euro* for currency. Previous to the *euro*, France used the *franc*. With the *euro*, bills increase in size with the increase in value. The smallest *euro* bill is a 5€ bill. Unlike the United States, 1€ and 2€ are coins, not bills. Any currency less than a *euro* are *centimes*. There are 100 *centimes* in a *euro*.



Government

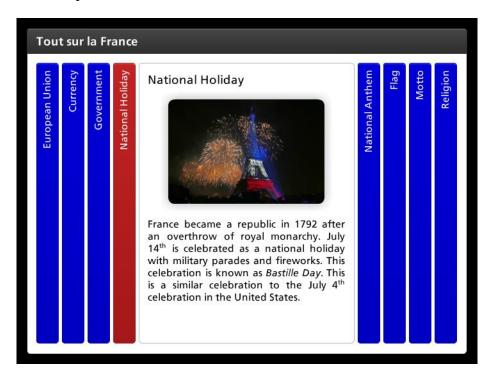


France is a republic and has a government with a President and a Prime Minister. In 2016, the President is François Hollande. The Prime Minister is Manuel Valls.

Image: Prime Minister Valls (left) and President Hollande (right)



National Holiday



France became a republic in 1792 after an overthrow of royal monarchy. July 14th is celebrated as a national holiday with military parades and fireworks. This celebration is known as *Bastille Day*. This is a similar celebration to the July 4th celebration in the United States.



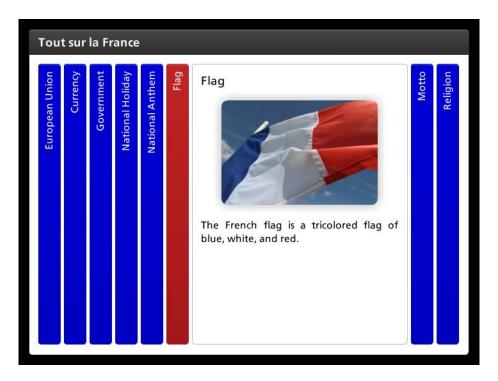
National Anthem



The French national anthem is *La Marseillaise*. Click the play button to hear *La Marseillaise*. Sound familiar?



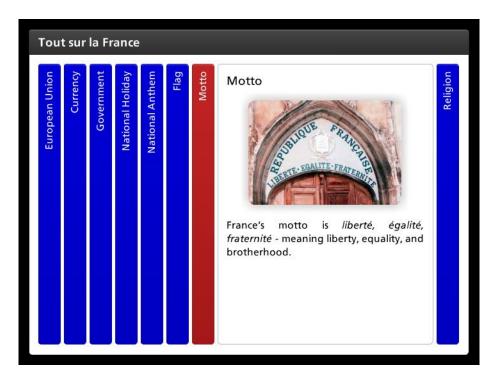
Flag



The French flag is a tricolored flag of blue, white, and red.



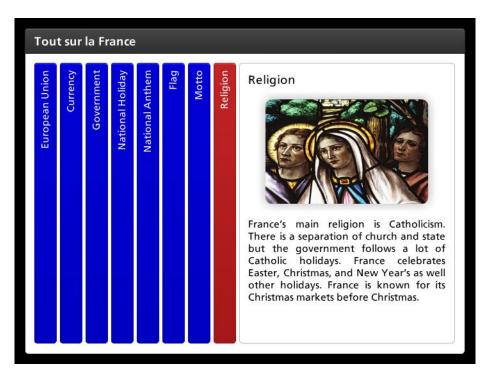
Motto



France's motto is *liberté, égalité, fraternité* - meaning liberty, equality, and brotherhood.



Religion



France's main religion is Catholicism. There is a separation of church and state but the government follows a lot of Catholic holidays. France celebrates Easter, Christmas, and New Year's as well other holidays. France is known for its Christmas markets before Christmas.

