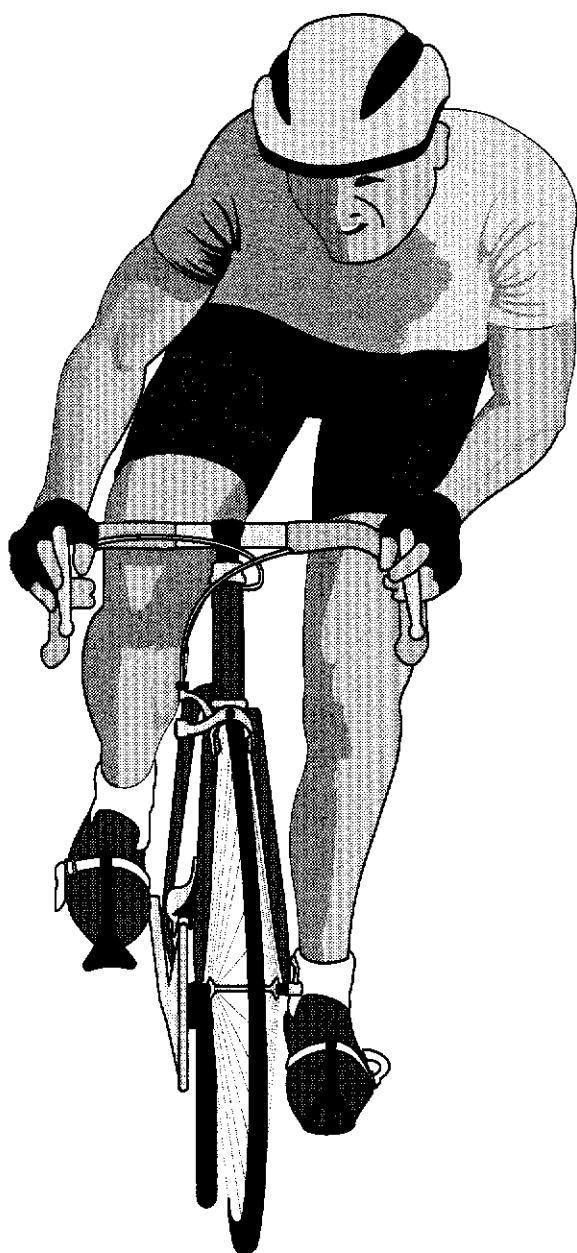


Le Maillot Jaune



MATERIALS IN CONTEXT

FRENCH

THEME

LE MAILLOT JAUNE

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LEVEL

BEGINNING

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Le cyclisme, aussi appelé la petite reine, est très populaire en Europe, comme le football (soccer).

Les courses cyclistes sont généralement de trois types:

- les courses d'un jour (parfois appelées les classiques: Paris-Bruxelles, Milan-San Remo, Liège-Bastogne-Liège, Paris-Tours, ...)
- les courses par étapes de trois à quinze jours ou plus, les plus longues sont appelées tours.
- les championnats nationaux et le championnat du monde.

Le Tour de France est le dernier tour de la saison des courses cyclistes après le Tour de Belgique, le Tour de Suisse, le Tour d'Espagne et le Tour d'Italie, pour ne citer que les principaux. On appelle le Tour de France "**La Grande Boucle**" puisqu'il fait le tour de la France avec souvent des incursions dans les pays voisins. Comme en football américain, le cyclisme a ses vedettes légendaires: Anquetil, Merckx, Hinault, LeMond, Indurain...

Le Tour de France est le **plus prestigieux** des tours (C'est le 3e événement sportif le plus important de la planète après les Jeux Olympiques et la Coupe du Monde de football) et il se passe au moment des vacances d'été. Tout le monde en Europe suit le tour de France car plus de 20 équipes se disputent les premières places. On regarde le Tour de France dans 104 pays à la télévision et plus de mille journalistes accompagnent le Tour, en voiture ou à moto.

La difficulté du Tour de France, c'est qu'il arrive en fin de saison avant le championnat du monde, qu'il comporte 21 étapes, pendant trois semaines, sur un parcours de plus ou moins 4000 km, avec une moyenne de 180 km par jour, en terrain plat ou en montagne: les Alpes et les Pyrénées. Le Tour a ses vedettes et aussi ses martyrs, accidentés ou épuisés par les difficultés. Le tour, précédé d'une caravane publicitaire, est accompagné non seulement de journalistes mais aussi de nombreux gendarmes (près de 14 000 sur le parcours), de directeurs sportifs, de mécaniciens, de médecins, de soigneurs, de ravitailleurs,...

Le Tour se dispute en équipes multinationales de neuf coureurs qui portent les couleurs de leurs sponsors commerciaux et comportent une vedette, parfois une ou deux sous-vedettes. Les autres coureurs aident les vedettes en toute circonstance.

Mais le Tour c'est aussi un **monument du patrimoine national**, c'est-à-dire un événement qui rassemble les Français, renforce l'unité nationale. Le Tour se promène dans la **France profonde** où on découvre les plus beaux paysages et le public le plus chaleureux.

Récemment, le Tour s'est commercialisé et mondialisé et on en parle maintenant comme du **plus grand cirque du monde**, avec ses caravanes publicitaires mais aussi ses fêtes tout le long du parcours. Le Tour est donc aussi une affaire commerciale financée par:

- 60% sponsors et publicité,
- 25% droits de TV,
- 5% participation des villes,
- 10% aides des régions.

À l'arrivée de chaque étape, c'est la grande fête. De jolies filles remettent des bouquets de fleurs aux gagnants et leur font la bise. C'est aussi à ce moment que l'on remet les maillots (shirts).

- **maillot jaune:** pour le coureur qui a le meilleur classement général, c'est-à-dire, qui a pris le moins de temps pour courir les étapes depuis le premier départ. À la fin de la dernière étape, le maillot jaune est le vainqueur du Tour. Au classement général vous verrez, par exemple:

1	Jean Dupont (F)	Perrier	56 heures, 23 minutes, 7 secondes
2	John Smith (GB)	Lipton	+ 3 minutes, 52 secondes
3	etc,...		
- **maillot vert:** pour le coureur le plus régulier dans les meilleures places à l'arrivée. C'est un classement aux points.
- **maillot à pois rouges:** pour le meilleur grimpeur.
- **maillot bleu:** pour le meilleur jeune coureur.

Il faut noter que le gagnant de chaque étape ne reçoit pas de maillot spécial. Les autres coureurs ont leur maillot publicitaire ou leur maillot national (les champions de chaque pays, aux couleurs de leur drapeau) ou encore le maillot de champion du monde (blanc et les rayures de couleur).

Enfin, quand la caravane du tour passe ou que le reportage TV commence, l'Europe s'arrête presque de travailler. Et comme en football, après l'étape, les coureurs et les commentateurs expliquent pourquoi tel et tel a gagné et que tel et tel a perdu.

Selected Internet Sites:

Général:

http://dir.yahoo.com/recreation/sports/cycling/races/Tour_de_France/

Histoire:

http://dir.yahoo.com/recreation/sports/cycling/races/Tour_de_France/history/

Site officiel:

<http://www.letour.fr>

CNN:

<http://www.cnn.com/cycling/1998/tourdefrance/>

ESPN:

<http://espn.sportzone.com/cycling/france98/index.html>

Jeu internet:

<http://stp.ling.uv.se/nerikt/tdf/>

SITUATION

summary sheet

OVERALL SITUATION

Le Maillot Jaune

Pau, a city in southwestern France, is the sister city of Hammond, a medium-size city in southeastern Louisiana located north of New Orleans, across from Lake Ponchartrain. Students at René Descartes, an elementary school in Pau, have been communicating via e-mail with students at Belleview Elementary School in Hammond. Margaret Bradley, a student at Belleview, just happens to have an uncle, Dr. Jean-Claude Simon, who lives in Pau. When the students at René Descartes found out about this relationship, they asked Dr. Simon if he might help the school host a group of students from Belleview Elementary in Hammond. He agreed and so the city of Pau and René Descartes Elementary School have invited a group of students from Belleview Elementary School in Hammond to visit during the month of July and attend the Tour de France, a three-week bicycle race held each year in July and which ranks as the third highest attended sporting event in the world after the Olympics and the World Cup.

SITUATION 1

Almost all arrangements for the trip have been made. The students from Belleview are leaving in less than one week and many of them want to know what they should pack for the trip. Margaret has agreed to call her uncle Jean-Claude to get some information. She has also agreed to tape her telephone conversation so that her classmates can listen to it and get the same information.

task

Listen to the conversation between Margaret and her uncle Jean-Claude and place a check mark in the box marked "Oui" if Jean-Claude says that the article of clothing is needed and one in the box marked "Non" if he says it is not needed. If the article of clothing is not mentioned, check the box marked "Pas mentionné".

SITUATION 2

In preparation for the trip to the Tour de France, the teacher wants her students to be familiar with the essential parts of the bicycle.

task

On your worksheet, draw a line from the word to the item it depicts on the visual of the coureur.

SITUATION 3

The French teacher at Belleview Elementary School fully realizes the motivational value of this trip. In order to maintain an overall group spirit during the trip, she has written special lyrics to the tune of "When the Saints Go Marching In." They will serve as the group's theme song and be used throughout the trip.

task

Listen to a recording of the group's theme song appropriately entitled "Le Tour de France" and learn the words and how to sing it while you perform the various actions of cycling.

SITUATION 4

The students from Belleview Elementary School arrive in Pau as scheduled. After they have had a chance to settle down, Margaret's uncle, Dr. Simon, gives the class a short geography lesson using the official map of the Tour de France as a reference.

task

Listen to the tape of Dr. Simon as he names and locates the principal geographical features of France. Trace the route on your individual maps and also label the cities and mountain ranges.

SITUATION 5

Time passes quickly; it's already July the 13th and the students are wondering what to wear for the arrival of the Tour de France in Pau on July 14, Bastille Day. Their teacher tries to help by finding the weather forecast in the local newspaper.

task

Look at the copy of the weather forecast that your teacher has projected on the overhead. Listen to your teacher read aloud the temperature and the weather forecast for July 14 and fill in the chart of which clothing to wear.

SITUATION 6

It's July 14, Bastille Day!! The tour guide, Michèle, knows little about the USA, and even less about Independence Day in the United States. Margaret suggests to her that the two of them compare the independence holidays in both countries. Margaret suggests that they record their conversation so that her classmates can also become aware of the differences and similarities between the two.

task

Listen to the tape of Michèle and Margaret discussing the differences between July the 4th in the United States and July 14 in France. Listen a second time and complete the grid in which you identify the country where a particular event or practice takes place.

SITUATION 7

For the past several years, Dr. Simon has taken care of the coureurs who participate in the Tours de France. Since this year (1997), the Tour was stopping in Pau, it was easier for him to do his job. He also promised the visiting students from the United States that he would make a tape of his discussions with the coureurs who need his services.

task

Listen to the taped conversation between Dr. Simon and several of the coureurs who have been injured. Indicate where each coureur hurts by writing his number on the appropriate body part.

SITUATION 8

Since riders participating in the Tour de France come from many different countries, it is not unusual to see many different national flags displayed here and there. Michèle, the tour guide, notices that the class is unfamiliar with many national flags. She therefore develops an activity to help the students learn more about various national flags.

task

Color the flags on worksheet **8a** as per the written directions. Then cut out the individual flags, and using information found in a dictionary, encyclopedia, or on the web, paste them in the proper location on worksheet **8b**.

SITUATION 9

It's the last night in Paris and the students want to remember all the monuments so they devise a game to help them remember the monuments of Paris. They also pay tribute to the most famous street in Paris, the Champs Elysées, where the tour ends by singing the song, "Aux Champs Elysées."

task

Listen to the tape of the song Aux Champs Elysées several times then sing it with the rest of your classmates.

SITUATION

Almost all arrangements for the trip have been made. The students from Belleview are leaving in less than one week and many of them want to know what they should pack for the trip. Margaret has agreed to call her uncle Jean-Claude to get some information. She has also agreed to tape her telephone conversation so that her classmates can listen to it and get the same information.



task

Listen to the conversation between Margaret and her uncle Jean-Claude and place a check mark in the box marked **“Oui”** if Jean-Claude says that the article of clothing is needed and one in the box marked **“Non”** if he says it is not needed. If the article of clothing is not mentioned, check the box marked **“Pas mentionné”**.



standards

Communication (Interpretive Mode)



benchmarks

GM-1-B3 Demonstrating comprehension of brief spoken messages on familiar topics



materials

- cassette tape
- student worksheet