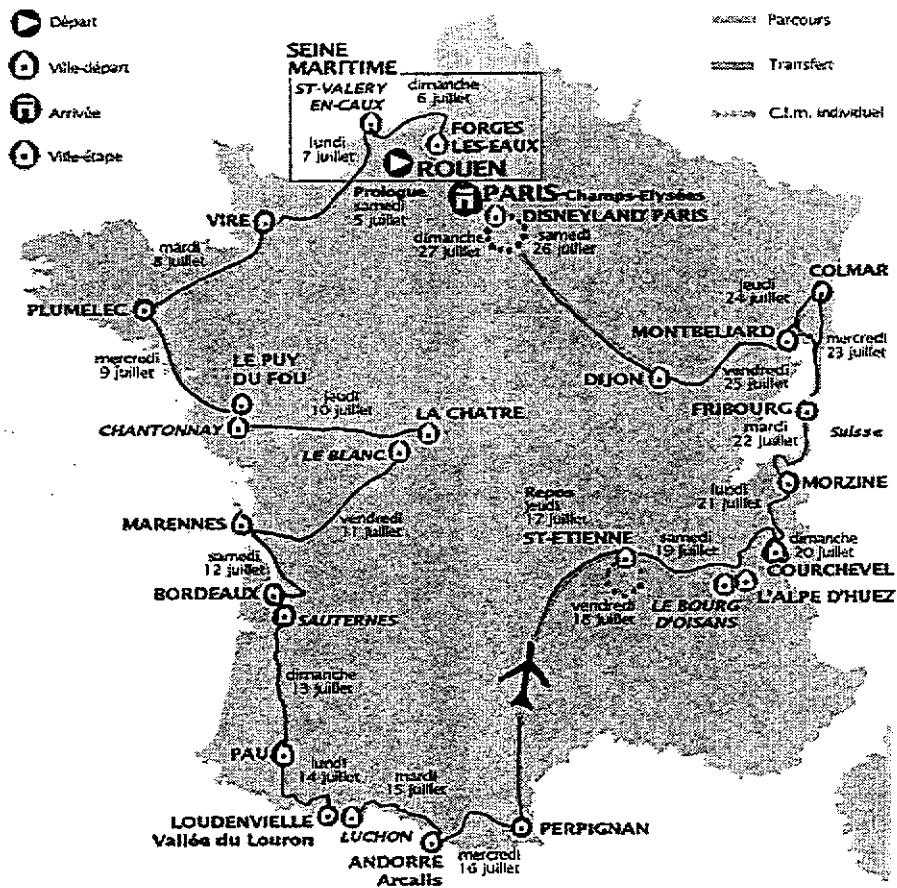


Le Tour de France



MATERIALS IN CONTEXT

FRENCH

THEME

LE TOUR DE FRANCE

WRITING TEAM

Josefina Jiménez-Campbell, Plaquemines Parish

Wanda Huhner Ford, Jefferson Parish

Philippe Radelet, Ascension Parish

LEVEL

EXPANDING

TOPIC	Le Tour de France	
	Background Information	1
SITUATION	summary sheet	4
INDIVIDUAL SITUATION 1	profile	7
INDIVIDUAL SITUATION 2	profile	11
INDIVIDUAL SITUATION 3	profile	17
INDIVIDUAL SITUATION 4	profile	22
INDIVIDUAL SITUATION 5	profile	28
INDIVIDUAL SITUATION 6	profile	32
INDIVIDUAL SITUATION 7	profile	36
INDIVIDUAL SITUATION 8	profile	40
INDIVIDUAL SITUATION 9	profile	48
INDIVIDUAL SITUATION 10	profile	52

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 3^e 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.

A 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. A 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 Tour de France

Charles Landry is a reporter for a newspaper in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Because he speaks French quite well, the newspaper has sent him to France to cover the world famous bicycle race known as "Le Tour de France." The 1997 race begins in Rouen and finishes as always on the Champs Elysées. During the three weeks in between these two locations, the cyclists, called "runners" in France, actually race for 21 days around most of France. Charles Landry's objective is not only to cover the race itself, but also to find out about some of the small towns through which the Tour passes.

SITUATION 1

Mr. Charles Landry is traveling on a plane in route to France. He asks the flight attendant several questions concerning the flight's arrival time in Paris because he has to catch a train at a certain time in order to go to Rouen, the starting point for the Tour de France. He must also check into his hotel in Rouen by a certain time.

task

Listen to the taped conversation between Charles Landry and the flight attendant, then complete the worksheet writing down the different departure and arrival times.

SITUATION 2

Mr. Charles Landry, who is still in route to France, wishes to know the weather forecast in France for the first days of his assignment there. The flight attendant, having access to this information, provides him with a copy of the official weather forecast of the Tour de France. Thanks to that information, Charles will know what to wear.

task

Read the weather forecast and complete a worksheet identifying weather conditions for days of the week. Decide what clothing Mr. Landry should wear based on the weather conditions and convert Celsius degrees to Fahrenheit.

SITUATION 3

Mr. Charles Landry and other journalists have arrived at their hotel in Rouen, the city where the Tour de France is going to begin. The journalists are checking into their rooms.

task

Using situation cards, play the roles of the desk clerk and various journalists (clients) who are checking into a hotel.

SITUATION 4

Mr. Charles Landry is giving his first report on the Tour de France. He is being broadcast by a Cajun radio station in Louisiana. He is explaining to radio listeners the route and distance of the Tour de France.

task

Listening to a tape that explains the bike route and the distances of the Tour de France, complete a map showing the route of the Tour de France and label the distances in kilometers. Then compute the total distance, converting the metric total into American measurement terms.

SITUATION 5

Mr. Charles Landry has Mademoiselle Dupont, a specialist on biking and the Tour de France, explain to spectators various terms associated with the sport. Mademoiselle Dupont is organizing her notes for her presentation.

task

Read Mademoiselle Dupont's list of words that she feels are necessary to understand the Tour de France, then complete the visual aid chart for Mademoiselle Dupont's presentation.

SITUATION 6

Mr. Charles Landry has asked a guest speaker, Monsieur Blanchard, a native of France, to share with his viewers cultural information on the various cities through which the Tour de France will pass. Monsieur Blanchard has his team of writers prepare the information for him.

task

Play the role of the team of writers, working in groups to research and present cultural information on the various cities through which the Tour de France passes.

SITUATION 7

For some of the participants, this particular stage of the Tour de France has been an exceptionally difficult stage due to the rough terrain and the poor weather conditions. However, some of the participants have triumphantly achieved despite the stage's difficulty. Mr. Charles Landry is interviewing several of the participants who have a range of mixed emotions about their performance on the "étape".

task

Listen to the taped conversation of Mr. Charles Landry interviewing various participants and identify the participant, matching him with the emotion or feeling he expresses about his performance on the "étape". Also identify the reason for the participant's emotions.

SITUATION 8

The day's stage has finished and Mr. Charles Landry is reporting on the finishing places and times of the favored cyclists. Charles has asked his data specialist Madame LeCompte to prepare a data sheet for his report. Unfortunately, the computer program scrambled the rank order of the participants. Madame LeCompte asks her assistants to put the ranking back in the right order. Then she asks her assistants to calculate an overall standing (classement général) by adding the minutes that each participant is behind the winner's time to that of the previous day.

task

Task 1: Using July 20's time data sheet, play the role of Madame LeCompte's assistants and put the ranking back in the right order.

Task 2: Using July 20 and July 19 's time data sheet, add each participant's times found on both sheets and calculate an overall standing (classement général).

SITUATION 9

Mr. Charles Landry is interviewing Akoumou Azombo, a Camerounian who aspires to win the Tour de France in the future. Mr. Landry is asking Akoumou questions about his future plans. Monsieur Moisson, also assigned to cover the Tour de France, is a newspaper reporter who is jotting down notes as he listens to the interview.

task

Play the role of Monsieur Moisson, writing down notes from the taped interview between Mr. Charles Landry and Akoumou Azombo. Then using the notes, write a news article.

SITUATION 10

Mr. Landry is now back in the United States. He thinks very often of his experience of the Tour de France. When he gets melancholy, he listens to a song about the Tour de France. He purchased the CD of the song at the Virgin-Megastore in Paris, on the Champs-Elysées. He likes that song so much that he even decided to write down the lyrics. But he has a problem. Although he speaks French very well, there are some words that he cannot distinguish.

task

Listen to a taped version of the song and fill in the blanks.

SITUATION

Mr. Charles Landry is traveling on a plane in route to France. He asks the flight attendant several questions concerning the flight's arrival time in Paris because he has to catch a train at a certain time in order to go to Rouen, the starting point for the Tour de France. He must also check into his hotel in Rouen by a certain time.



task

Listen to the taped conversation between Charles Landry and the flight attendant, then complete the worksheet writing down the different departure and arrival times.



standards

Communication (Interpretive Mode)
Cultures (Practices)



benchmarks

CM-1-E1 demonstrating an understanding of spoken language, as expressed by speakers of the target language
CL-1-D6 applying units of measurement from the target cultures, such as the 24-hour clock



materials

- cassette tape
- student worksheet