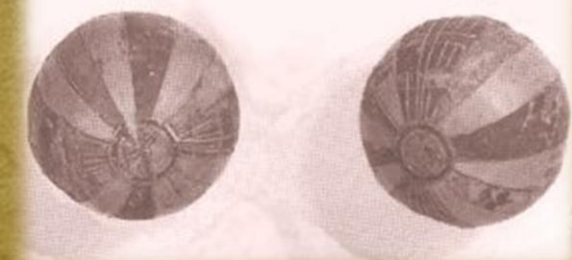
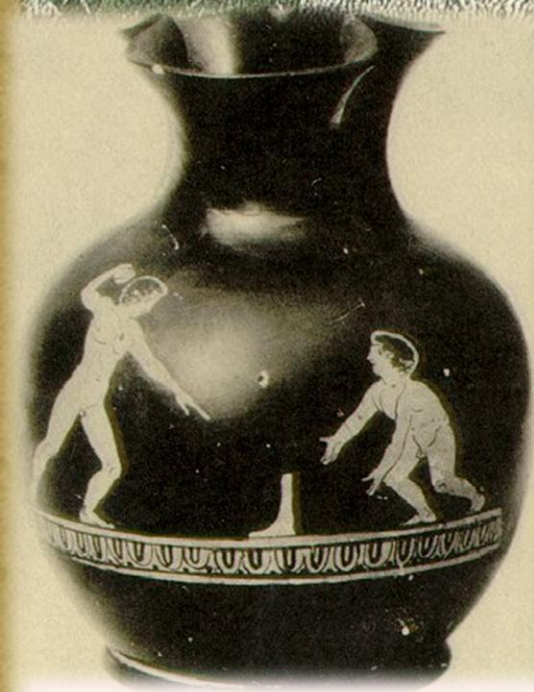
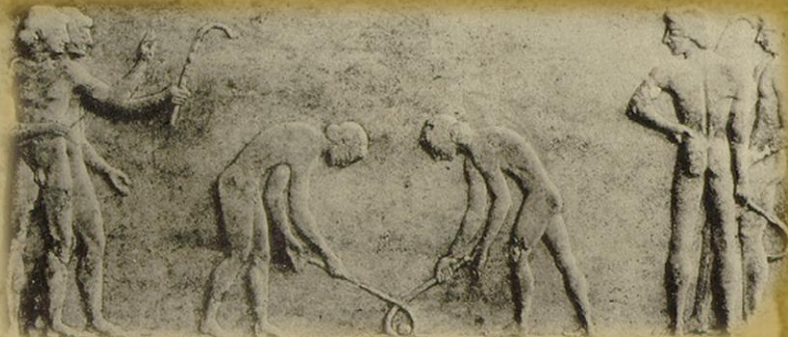


A group of cyclists in various colored jerseys (green, blue, red, white) are riding their bicycles through a vast field of bright yellow sunflowers. The sunflowers are in the foreground, slightly out of focus, and extend into the background where the cyclists are riding. The scene is bright and sunny.

The History of French Sports

Andy Walsh



Roman Games

- These were very important in Roman Culture and many modern sports can trace their foundations to these games.
- It is believed that the Romans played games that had similar styles to various modern sports like Soccer, Cricket, Baseball, Field Hockey, and Rugby.
- The Romans used these games and competitions as a form of exercise and entertainment and from what has been discovered it was an important aspect of their culture.

French Sports Facts

- **The Gallic Rooster is a national symbol in France that dates back to the Middle Ages. It has since been adopted as a national mascot, particularly for sporting events like French Rugby and Soccer.**
- **The French National Sport is Soccer and the most watched sports are Soccer, Rugby, Basketball, Cycling, Sailing, and Tennis.**
- **The Modern Olympics were created in France in 1946.**
- **The French have a Government Ministry oversee French Sports and this is led by, Roselyn Bachelot-Narquin, the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports.**







Tour de France



- After years of progress the first very successful bicycles commercially were created in the 1860's by Frenchmen (Pierre Lallement, Ernest and Pierre Michaux)
- The Tour is an annual bike race that covers approximately 3,500 Kilometers (2,200 miles) throughout France.
- The race lasts 3 weeks and is broken into day long segments that are called Stages.
- The First Tour took place in 1903 and was founded by a newspaper company looking for an idea to boost sales.
- The first race only had 60-80. Each stage winner received \$3,000 francs and the overall winner received \$12,000 francs. The winner received six times what most workers earned in a year.



Tour de France

- The Tour is famous for its intense climbs into the Pyrenees Mountains as well as the millions of fans that line the stage routes from town to town.
- The Tour has inspired popular songs such as Queen's "Bicycle Race", as well as films in Europe.
- The Tour was also used as propaganda in School books (Le Tour de la France par deux enfants) calling for a strong French national unity.
- Lance Armstrong has won the most Tour de Frances' when he successfully won 7 in a row (1999-2005)
- Unfortunately, the Tour in the past few decades has been consistently overshadowed by the questions of Steroid doping by riders. This became an even greater issue after the 2006 Tour when 17 riders were implicated in a doping scandal and the overall winner of the Tour, Floyd Landis, tested positive for testosterone steroids.

TOUR DE LA FRANCE PAR DEUX ENFANTS

I. — Le départ d'André et de Julien.

Rien ne soutient mieux notre courage que la pensée d'un devoir à remplir.

Par un épais brouillard du mois de septembre deux enfants, deux frères, sortaient de la ville de Phalsbourg en Lorraine. Ils venaient de franchir la grande porte fortifiée qu'on appelle *porte de France*.

Chacun d'eux était chargé d'un petit paquet de voyageur, soigneusement attaché et retenu sur l'épaule par un bâton. Tous les deux marchaient rapidement, sans bruit; ils avaient l'air inquiet. Malgré l'obscurité déjà grande, ils cherchèrent plus d'obscurité encore et s'en allèrent cheminant à l'écart le long des



Porte fortifiée. — Les portes des villes fortifiées sont munies de ponts-levis jetés sur les fossés qui entourent les remparts; quand on lève les ponts et qu'on ferme les portes, nul ennemi ne peut entrer dans la ville. — Phalsbourg a été fortifié par Vauban et demandée par les Allemands. Traversée par la route de Paris à Strasbourg, elle n'a que deux portes: la porte de France à l'ouest et la porte d'Allemagne à l'est, qui sont des modèles d'architecture militaire.



Tour de France

- The Race has many different riders wearing different jerseys. Most signify what team a rider is a part of but there are some designated jerseys.
- Yellow: The *maillot jaune* (yellow jersey) is worn by the general classification leader. In the first Tour the winner wore a green armband.
- Green: The *maillot vert* (green jersey) is awarded for sprint points. At the end of each stage, points are earned by the riders who finish first, second, etc. The points are also scaled based off of the difficulty of the stage.
- Polk-Dot: The King of the Mountains wears a white jersey with red dots (*maillot à pois rouges*). The competition gives points to the first to top designated hills and mountains.
- White: Since 1975, there has been a competition for young riders. From 1975 to 1989 and from 2000 to present, the leader has worn a white jersey (*maillot blanc* in French)







French Football

- The most watched sport and most popular sport in France is Football
- The French Football Federation oversees the development of soccer in France.
- The French were one of four teams to participate in the inaugural World Cup in 1930.
- They hosted the 1998 FIFA World Cup and beat Brazil 3-0 in the Finals.
- In 2006 France lost in the Finals of the FIFA World Cup to Italy.
- The French National Team fields the top French Players from the many European Leagues.
- Along with Argentina, they are the only nation that has won the FIFA World Cup, the FIFA Confederations Cup, and the Olympic Tournament.



National Football Uniforms



- The French are known for their use of the tricolor system (blue, red, and white.)
- The team's three colors originate from the national flag of France, known as the *drapeau tricolore*.
- The national team has brandished the colors since their first official international match against Belgium in 1904.
- Traditionally, the team wears blue shirts, white shorts, and red socks at home, and when away they wear an all-white combination or wear red shirts, blue shorts, and blue socks with the former being the current trend.
- Between the years 1909–1914, they wore a white shirt with blue stripes, white shorts, and red socks.





FFR

Rugby



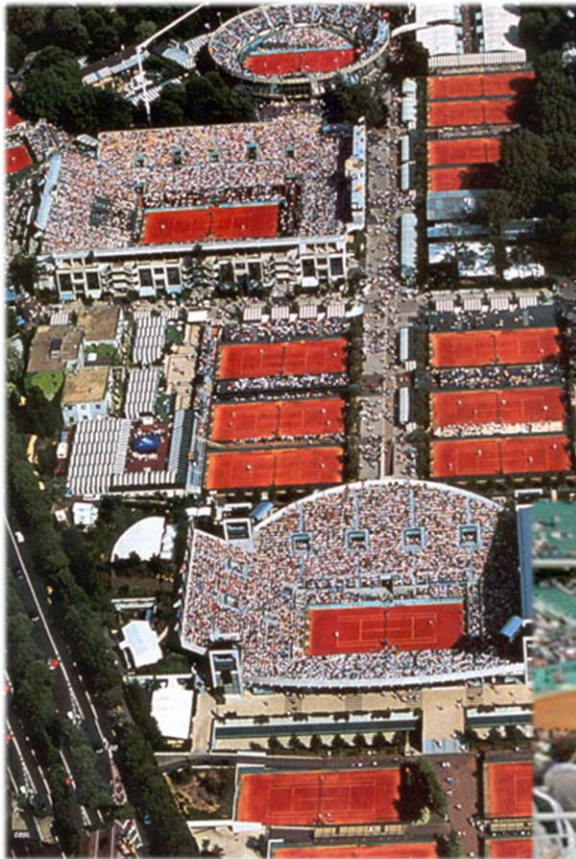
- French Rugby is the second most watched sport in the nation and is very popular in the South West region of the country.
- It is the dominating sport in South France and there are two leagues in France. The domestic league, the Top 14, consists of only elite French Clubs. Also, the National Team competes annually in the Six Nations Championship and every four years in the Rugby World Cup.
- French international matches are played at several venues across the country; the Stade de France is used for their games during the Six Nations.
- They also have a great home record at the Stade vélodrome in Marseille where they have only lost twice (Argentina- 2004 & New Zealand- 2009).



Rugby Uniforms



- France typically plays in blue shirts with white shorts and red socks, and their alternative uniform is composed of a white shirt and navy blue shorts and socks.
- Similar to the National Football team they are referred to as *les tricolores* or *les bleus*.
- The French emblem is a golden rooster imposed upon a red shield.





French Open



- A French national tournament began in 1891, that was open only to tennis players who were members of French clubs. It was known as the *Championnat de France International de Tennis*. The first women's tournament was held in 1897. This 'French club members only' tournament was played until 1924.
- In 1968, the French Championships became the first Grand Slam tournament to go open, allowing both amateurs and professionals to compete.
- Clay courts slow down the ball and produce a high bounce when compared to grass courts or hard courts. For this reason, clay courts take away some of the advantages of big serves and serve-and-volleyers, which makes it hard for serve based players to dominate on the surface.



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French Open



- The French Open has the widest worldwide broadcasting and audience of all regular events in tennis.
- The slow playing surface and the five-set men's singles matches without a tiebreak in the final set has made the French Open to be considered the most physically demanding tennis tournament in the world.
- The French Open Singles Champion (Men and Women) received 1,060,000 € in 2009 and the Finalist received 530,000 €.
- The 2009 Men's Singles Champion was Roger Federer
- The 2009 Women's Singles Champion was Svetlana Kuznetsova
- The French Open Trophy is known as the Coupe des Mousquetaires or the Muskateer's Cup'
- Currently, French Officials are trying to decide whether to move the French Open to another venue like Versailles or to upgrade the facilities at Roland Garros



French Basketball/Olympic Bid

- Basketballs popularity has skyrocketed in France over the last few decades.
- The governing body of basketball in France was founded in 1932 is the Fédération Française de Basket-Ball.
- There are professional leagues in France for both Men and Women. The Men's league has two divisions the A League and B League.
- The French National team has had multiple ups and downs in International play. In the Olympics they have won silver twice (1948,2000).
- Recently, France lost the bid to host the 2012 Summer Olympic Games to London. This was very tragic in the nation because it is believed by many that there will not be another Olympics in Europe for many years.

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