

Tour de France - Guided Reading - VIPERS

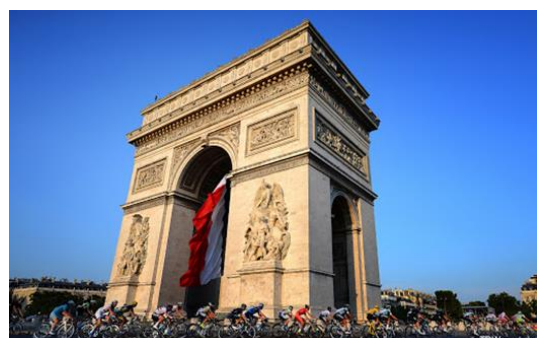
The Tour de France (T d F) is arguably the world's most famous and challenging cycling race. It takes place every year and lasts for three weeks, covering nearly 3500km and is one of cycling's three grand tours. The other two Grand Tours are held in Italy and Spain.

History

The 2021 T d F will be its 108th edition, it being held annually since it first started in 1903, except when it was stopped for the two World Wars. In the inaugural (*first time something important happens*) Tour, it consisted of sixty (60) French cyclists and only twenty-one (21) of them completed the six stages. As the Tour gained popularity, the race was lengthened and its popularity began to extend around the globe. This year's race will start with 184 riders from over 20 different countries and is famously now known as 'the world's biggest annual sporting event.' This is because an estimated 10 to 12 million spectators will watch from the roadside.

The Route and Race Today

Each year, the tour begins in a different place (town or city) and sometimes even in a different country. The route of the race also changes every year, however, since 1975 it has always finished on the Champs-Élysées in Paris. Every day is a new stage of the race and the start of the T d F (Stage 1) is a major event and is known as the Grand Départ.



Can you name this famous monument?

At the end of each day, the rider who crosses the finish line first is the 'Stage Winner' and gets to go up onto the podium where he will receive a bouquet of flowers and a lion teddy! The lion is a mascot of one of the Tour's main sponsors if you're wondering.



In total, there are 21 stages over the 23 days, so the riders only get two rest days over the whole race! After each stage, four (4) coloured prestigious jerseys are presented to certain riders. *But they must earn the right to do so!*

Quatre Jerseys

- Each day, the cyclist with the quickest overall time from the very start of the first day of the race gets to wear the prestigious Yellow Jersey, or the '*maillot jaune*' in French.
- On each stage, points are given to riders who finish near the front. The rider who finishes near the front the most gets to wear the green jersey. In French this is known as the '*maillot vert*'. The Green Jersey is sometimes known as the sprinters jersey. However, points can be taken off a rider if they do something wrong, like dangerous cycling or littering.
- The best climber, or the 'King of the Mountains', wears the polka-dot jersey. It is white with red dots, and is known as '*maillot à pois rouges*' in French. The King of the Mountains is the rider who has the most points from the mountain stages, and the steeper and longer the mountain, the more points a rider can win.
- The fourth jersey available is given to the best young rider (under 26 years old) overall, and in French is known as '*le maillot blanc*'.

Fascinating Facts

- Stage 15 involves more than 2,400m of elevation (that means going uphill!). This is the equivalent of cycling up to Hartshead Pike from our school 19 times in a row non-stop!
- In excess of 260 camera men and women follow the Tour for 121 different TV channels and the race is broadcast, either live or in highlights packages, to 186 countries.
- The race will travel through 660 cities and towns.
- The longest stage of the race this year is 237km.
- This year's total distance cycled will be 3,535km
- The nickname for the Tour de France is 'La Grande Boucle' which means 'the big loop' in French
- The average cyclist will burn around 124 000 calories (the equivalent of 252 double cheeseburgers) over the course of the whole race and will sweat enough to flush a toilet 39 times.

Maths Challenge - Can you convert from kilometres to miles? Use the following equation to give you an approximate value. Distance in km $\div 8 \times 5$