BASTILLE DAY

Bastille Day is a national holiday in France that is celebrated each year on July 14. The holiday commemorates an important event in the history of France: the storming of the Bastille. The Bastille was a prison in Paris (the capital of France). The king and queen locked up people inside the prison who did not agree with their decisions. Many French people did not like the king and queen; they did not seem to care about the poor, who had very little to eat. On the morning of July 14, 1789, a large group of people charged into the prison and demanded that the seven prisoners inside be released. This event was the beginning of the French Revolution, which eventually led to a new, fairer government in France.

The Bastille Day Parade is a very important part of the nation's celebration. In Paris, the capital of France, people line the streets to watch the military parade which is held along the main shopping avenue. Many people choose to dress in the nation's colours of red, white and blue. The French flag, called the Tricolour, is displayed in every possible place as a symbol of the nation's values of freedom and equality for all.

Bastille Day is a public holiday, which means that families and friends can spend the day celebrating together. Food is an important part of French culture and is therefore a special part of the day's celebrations. As the holiday falls in the middle of summer, people will often take advantage of the warmer weather and enjoy casual meals outdoors. Some of the foods eaten include quiche (a tart made with egg and pastry), salads, cheeses, pâtés and, of course, a delicious French dessert!

In the evening, fireworks displays are common all over the country. The most impressive display takes places in Paris, where fireworks are launched high into the sky from the top of the Eiffel Tower.

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