



# MFL Sunderland Primary French Podcasts

intercultural  
understanding  
The Tour de  
France

## Welcome to the MFL Sunderland Primary French podcast. Intercultural Understanding – The Tour de France

In this lesson you'll find out the history of the Tour de France and learn some interesting facts.

### The Tour de France

*On the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1903, 60 cyclists set out from Montgeron in the south of Paris on what was to become the first Tour de France. The race was the idea of Géo Lefèvre, a journalist at L'Auto magazine. His editor, Henri Desgrange, was looking for a way to boost sales of his magazine and so let him go ahead with the race.*

*That first race consisted of six very long stages. One of them, Paris to Nantes, was 471 kilometres. The six stages linked the six main towns in France – Paris, Lyon, Marseille, Toulouse, Bordeaux and Nantes. Only 21 of the 60 cyclists finished the first race.*

*The Tour de France captured the interest and excitement of the French people, and now takes place every July. The race is split into day-long segments called stages. The course changes each year, but the race always finishes on the Champs-Élysées in Paris.*

*The riders' individual times are recorded for each stage and then they are totalled at the end of the final stage to determine the overall winner. The rider with the lowest time in a stage gets to wear the yellow jersey. There is also the green jersey, which is awarded to the leader of the sprint competition, and the polka-dot jersey, which is given to the "King of the Mountains" or the best climber. The best young rider is given the white jersey.*

### Some facts and figures

*Here are some facts and figures about the Tour:*

- *The longest Tour, of 5745 km, took place in 1926.*
- *All the départements of France have been visited by the Tour, which has also visited all France's bordering countries as well as England and Ireland.*
- *More than 10,000 riders have started the Tour and over 6,000 have finished it.*
- *Lance Armstrong from the USA has won seven times, which is more than anyone else.*
- *Eddy Merckx of Belgium has won the most stage victories.*
- *The oldest winner of the Tour was 36 years old.*
- *The youngest winner was 20 years old.*
- *French riders have notched up more wins than any other country, with 36 wins.*

You might like to learn some of the vocabulary in French:

Le Tour de France      *the Tour de France*

une compétition cycliste      *a bicycle race*

le journal      *newspaper*

l'Auto      *l'Auto*

le vélo      *bicycle*

les coureurs      *racers*

le maillot jaune      *the yellow jersey*

**That's the end of this podcast. If you think you need a bit more practice, go back to the beginning and listen again.**

**Au revoir !**