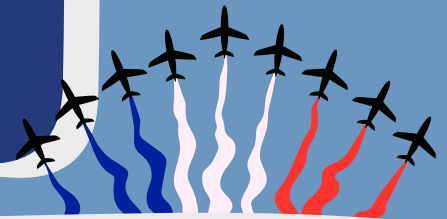# BASTILLE DAY

WHAT IS BASTILLE DAY?

The people of France come together on 14th July to commemorate the start of the French Revolution and the end of the Ancien Régime. In 1789, the people of Paris stormed the Bastille, a state prison and fortress, successfully taking it from the control of Louis XVI and giving it to the people.
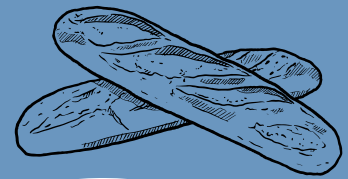
fête nationale

(Fête Nationale = National Holiday)

HOW BASTILLE DAY IS CELEBRATED:

The oldest and largest military parade in Europe processes along the Champs-Elysées from the Arc de Triomphe to the Place de la Concorde. Hundreds of thousands of people gather at the Champ de Mars park and spend the day picnicking with baguettes and wine at the base of the Eiffel Tower. When darkness falls, fireworks light up the sky.

Vive la France

(Long live France)

BAL DE POMPIERS:

Evening of the 13th of July, fire stations around Paris open to the public for the 'fireman's ball', which includes dancing, live music and demonstrations.

People all across France celebrate with family barbecues, picnics in the park, and community games of pétanque.

CLASSIC FOODS:

Tarte aux fruits
Filled baguettes
Soupe à l'oignon
Soupe de lentilles
Salade lyonnaise
Boeuf Bourguignon