General Information

1. Capital: Paris
2. Official language: le français
3. Official name (in French): la république française
4. National Anthem: La Marseillaise
5. Flag: le tricolore (tri-color) 3 vertical sections of bleu, rouge, and blanc (blue, white & red)
    (what does this mean in English? liberty, equality, brotherhood)
7. Official symbol: le coq (or Marianne)

Government

1. Form of government: parliamentary democracy – currently the 5th Republic.
2. Head of state: Président (elected by people for a five year term).
4. Executive: Prime Minister and President each have separate powers.
5. Legislature: parliament of two houses
   a. National Assembly (577 members) – more powerful than Senate - five year term.
   b. Senate (331 members) - six year term.
6. Judiciary: highest court is the Court of Cassation
7. Political Subdivisions: 22 regions / 96 departments.

People

1. Population: *64, 000,000 (approximately) (in 2010)*
2. Major ethnic groups:
   80% French / 20% immigrants
   a. 5 immigrant groups: Italians, Portuguese, Spaniards, Poles, Immigrants from former French colonies including North Africa, West Africa, the Caribbean and Southeast Asia
3. Major Religions: 85% Roman Catholic / 8% Muslim, / 2% Protestant / 1% Jewish /
   1% Buddhist / 4% Unaffiliated
Economy

1. Money: Basic unit is the Euro. French paper currency often features famous artists and writers.

2. Chief Agricultural Products: wine, milk, butter, cheese, barley, wheat.


4. Percent of Energy from Nuclear Power 80%.

5. World Ranking in Tourism 1.

Land & Climate

1. Bordering Countries:
   a. l’Espagne (Spain)
   b. l’Italie (Italy)
   c. la Suisse (Switzerland)
   d. l’Allemagne (Germany)
   e. la Belgique (Belgium)
   f. le Luxembourg (Luxembourg)
   g. Monaco (Monaco)
   h. l’Andorre (Andorra)

2. Bordering bodies of water include:
   a. La mer Méditerranée
   b. L’océan Atlantique
   c. La Manche (English Channel)

3. France is often referred to as l’hexagone because of its shape.

4. France is often compared to the U.S. State of Texas because of its similarity in land area. Actually, France is larger than this state covering 211,208 square miles.

Major Mountain Ranges

1. Les Pyrénées separate France from Spain. The small country of Andorra is contained entirely in this mountain range.

2. Les Alpes separate France from Italy & Switzerland and contain France’s tallest mountain, Mont Blanc, a popular ski destination that is 4,808 meters tall.

3. Les Vosges separate France from Germany.

4. Le Jura separates France from Switzerland along the northwestern border of Switzerland.

5. Le Massif Central is located in South Central France and is the remains of volcanoes.
Major Rivers

1. *La Seine* begins near Dijon and flows through *Paris* to Normandy and empties into the English Channel; the most important river in terms of commercial transportation and the most easily navigable of France’s major rivers.
2. *La Loire* is France’s longest river and is most famous for the *châteaux* (castles) found along its banks. It is not as navigable as the Seine because of all of its twists and turns.
3. *Le Rhône* begins in Switzerland and merges with the *Saone* River at *Lyon*. It then flows south to the Mediterranean Sea near Marseille. It is France’s largest source of hydroelectric power with 18 different hydroelectric complexes along its banks.
4. *La Garonne* rises in the *Pyrénées* and travels through the city of *Bordeaux* on its way to the Atlantic Ocean.
5. *Le Rhin* forms part of the border between France and *Germany*.

Transportation

1. The TGV or *train à grande vitesse* travels at speeds up to 300 km / h.
2. The French subway system is called *le Métro*.
3. Travelling between London and Paris takes Three hours and the train spends 35 minutes in a tunnel under the *English Channel*.

Language

1. French students begin studying a 2nd language at age 9 and a 3rd language at age 13. The most commonly studied foreign language is English. Spanish and German are the next most studied foreign languages.

Recreation

1. The most popular team sport in France is Soccer while some of the most popular individual sports are cycling, tennis, fishing, hiking, skiing and sailing.
2. Most French businesses and shops are closed during the month of August while most French people take vacation.
3. France’s national holiday is called Bastille Day and celebrates the Storming of the Bastille Prison at the beginning of the French Revolution.
Label the above map with the following features: Color it neatly using different colors for the neighboring countries. Your grade will be based on your neatness! All label names should be in French!!!

Countries: Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, England, Andorra, Monaco
Cities: Paris, Lyon, Marseille, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Nice
Bodies of Water & Rivers: The Mediterranean Sea, The English Channel, The Atlantic Ocean, la Seine, la Rhône, le Rhin, la Garonne, la Loire
Mountain Ranges: les Pyrenées, les Alpes, le Massif Central, le Jura, les Vosges
Island: La Corse