

# Bien dit!<sup>®</sup>

**Language**  
*takes you there*

## BIENVENUE

This **DOWNLOADABLE** calendar will help you create lessons around important days across the French-speaking world. At HMH<sup>®</sup> we believe that an interest in culture is an essential building block for learning another language.

# JANVIER

JANUARY • 2019

	lun	mar	mer	jeu	ven	sam	dim
	01	02	03	04	05	06	Fête des Rois (France)
07	08	09	10	11	12	13	
	Carnaval de Québec						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	Carnaval de Québec						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31	FÉVRIER/FEBRUARY 2019		MARS/MARCH 2019	
	Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain, Paris						

06

## Fête des Rois (France)

Otherwise known as Kings' Day, this day celebrates the three wise men of the nativity. The tradition in France on this day is to eat a *galette des rois*, a pastry cake filled with almond paste. Inside the cake is hidden a bean (*une fève*) or a small plastic figure representing a king and queen, and whoever gets the piece with the bean or toy gets a prize or the honor of wearing the paper crown that is placed on top of the cake when it is served.

LESSON IDEAS

- Find a recipe for *galette des rois* written in French such as this [one](#); divide the class into groups, and have them prepare the cake at home, putting a bean or toy inside it. Have students bring the cakes to class the following day. Before cutting into the cakes, have students write out one wish for the new year, place all the wishes into a hat, and have students choose one from the hat and guess whose it is. If students don't have the opportunity to bake a cake, they can also use poster board or other cardstock to design their own *galette des rois*, including decorations and a French phrase written on top, or they can make one using soft colored dough or clay.

### ► HMHfyi Français

Click [HERE](#) to use the **HMHfyi Français** site to search for authentic media from *La France*.

08-17

## Carnaval de Québec

Québec's Winter Carnival attracts close to a million visitors every year and features horse-drawn sleigh and dogsled rides, ice and snow sculpture contests, and an ice dungeon and palace. The mascot of the event, *Le Bonhomme Carnaval*, is famous around the world.

LESSON IDEAS

- For homework, have students visit the French version of the *Carnaval's* official [website](#). Ask students to review the 2019 program and plan out two days of activities. Have students present their itineraries in small groups.

### ► HMHfyi Français

Check out the **HMHfyi Français** site to search for authentic media from *La province de Québec* or *Québec*.

31-03

## Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain, Paris

This festival is the largest international circus competition in the world. Acrobats, tightrope walkers, clowns, jugglers, and trapeze artists from all over the world come to compete and showcase their talent.

LESSON IDEAS

- Turn your class into the jury panel and show them acts from previous festivals [HERE](#). Ask students to write down their favorite act and explain why they chose that act as their favorite. Collect all the papers, count which acts were chosen most often by the student jury, and write the top three acts on the board. Facilitate a class discussion in French about the top acts chosen by the class.
- The use of animals in the circus has been a topic of great debate. Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain and shows like Cirque du Soleil do not allow acts with animals. Ask students to read this article [HERE](#) outlining opposing views regarding the use of animals in the circus. Have students get into groups and discuss their opinions on the topic.
- Ask students to read this article [HERE](#) about French circus summer camps. Have them research summer camps in their area and compare opportunities offered at home with those in France. Have them talk with a partner and discuss which circus camps in France they would be most interested in attending.

# FÉVRIER

FEBRUARY • 2019

lun	mar	mer	jeu	ven	sam	dim
				01	02	03
				Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain, Paris		
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Youth Day in Cameroon					Fête du Citron (France)	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Fête du Citron (France)				
25	26	27	28			
Fête du Citron (France)						

MARS/MARCH 2019

l	m	m	j	v	s	d
25	26	27	28	1	2	3
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AVRIL/APRIL 2019

l	m	m	j	v	s	d
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11

## Youth Day in Cameroon

This national holiday celebrates Cameroon's young people. There are parades, art exhibits, and sports games. The day is one in which young people are encouraged to reject violence and embrace education, sports, and creative arts activities.

LESSON IDEAS

- The history of Cameroon is quite interesting. Have students read this timeline of key events [HERE](#) and write three sentences that describe what they learned about the country.
- Lead a class discussion about youth activities in your students' hometown that encourage students to reject violence. Have students research activities in Cameroon during Youth Day and discuss with a partner how these activities compare with those in their hometown.

### ► HMHfyi Français

Click [HERE](#) to use the section on *L'Afrique francophone* in the **HMHfyi Français** site to search for authentic media from Cameroon.

16-03

## Fête du Citron® (France)

This unique festival takes place in the southern city of Menton and celebrates the upcoming spring. The festival's centerpieces are a series of sculptures made of lemons and oranges around a theme specific to the year. The 2019 theme is *Des Mondes Fantastiques*. Other events at the festival include parades with the sculptures, the nighttime garden of lights, and other parades taking place at night.

LESSON IDEAS

- Have students visit the French version of the official festival website [HERE](#) and locate the program for 2019. Have students get together with a partner and discuss which events they would attend and why. Have them find four new French vocabulary words from the program and use them during their partner discussion.
- Find photos of the festival online by searching *la fête du citron*. Have students get into small groups to plan their own sculptures and write brief descriptions of them. Ask each group to present their ideas to the class. Then have students vote on the best idea and make plans to build it together as a class. Once the sculpture has been built, take a photo of it and give a printed copy to each student. Then have individual students write captions underneath the photo. Display them in your classroom and/or post them to a social media site.

### ► HMHfyi Français

Click [HERE](#) to use the **HMHfyi Français** site to search for authentic media from *La France*.

# MARS

MARCH • 2019

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03

## Sarlat Fest'Oie

Sarlat is a beautiful medieval town in southwestern France well-known for foie gras. Every year, at the beginning of March, the town celebrates the goose with a festival that includes farmers, workshops and cooking demonstrations, musics, and of course, all the foie gras you can eat.

LESSON IDEAS

- Ask students to explore Sarlat's website for tourism [HERE](#) as a homework assignment. The next day in class, ask students to get out a blank sheet of paper. Give them two minutes to make a list of words that describe Sarlat. Have each student read their list of words. If other students have the same word, everyone must cross that word off their list. After all the students have read their list, find out who had the most words remaining (that were not crossed off) and assign a prize or extra credit for the winner.
- Have students research *foie gras* recipes [HERE](#). Ask students to get into groups and pick their favorite recipe. Make sure each group chooses a different recipe. Then have students present in front of the class and explain what ingredients are needed and how to cook the dish.
- Lead a class discussion about unique foods that are eaten in the United States, such as Rocky Mountain Oysters. Ask students to get into groups and talk, about food festivals in their area that highlight traditional cuisine.

16-24

## Semaine de la langue française

This week is an international celebration of the French language sponsored by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development. It takes place in pre-designated partner cities across the French-speaking world and activities include writing workshops, poetry slams, contests, readings, and shows.

LESSON IDEAS

- Create an in-class poetry slam. In pairs, have students write poems in either French or English, and then recite them to the class. In the tradition of poetry slams, audience members are encouraged to shout what they think of each poem, but only in French. For inspiration, have students look for examples online.

► **HMHfyi Français**

Click [HERE](#) to use the **HMHfyi Français** site to search for authentic media from all over the French-speaking world.

# AVRIL

APRIL • 2019

lun	mar	mer	jeu	ven	sam	dim
01 1 <sup>er</sup> avril	02	03	04	05	06 Berck-sur-Mer Kite Festival (France)	07
08 Berck-sur-Mer Kite Festival (France)	09	10	11	12	13	14
15 Rara (Haïti)	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30				MAI/MAY 2019 l m m j v s d 29 30 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2	JUIN/JUNE 2019 l m m j v s d 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

01

1<sup>er</sup> avril

April Fools' Day is celebrated in many countries, and France is no exception. The most common prank in France is to stick a paper fish on an unsuspecting person. When the fish is discovered, the prankster yells, "poisson d'avril".

LESSON IDEAS

- Ask students to make a paper fish in class. Have them stick it on a family member's back at home without them noticing. When the fish is discovered, tell students to call out, "poisson d'avril" and then educate their family about the French custom. The next day in class, have students get into groups and discuss how their assignment went.
- French bakeries and pastries offer goodies in the shape of fish to celebrate this holiday. Have students look up their favorite French dessert on a site like this one, prepare it in the shape of a fish, and bring it to class. See [HERE](#).

06-14

Berck-sur-Mer Kite Festival (France)

In this annual festival elaborate kites are flown over the beach in this seaside town.

LESSON IDEAS

- Have students visit the French version of the [website](#) and research the history of the event and view videos of past events. Ask students to choose a partner and discuss their favorite kite from the videos. Then have students discuss events in their area that are similar to this kite festival.
- The site contains posters for past events. Ask students to get into groups, review the posters, and come up with their own design for 2019. Have each group present their poster to the class.

► **HMHfyi Français**

Click [HERE](#) to use the **HMHfyi Français** site to search for authentic media from [La France](#).

15-21

Rara (Haïti)

Rara is a celebration that begins during Lent and culminates Easter week. It is the Haïtian equivalent of *Carnaval* and features parades and displays of dance created specifically for Rara. Rara is also a type of music from Haïti that features a trumpet-like instrument called a vaksen.

LESSON IDEAS

- Have students do research on modern Haïtian history and write about at least three of the facts they learned.
- The following video clip is from a documentary about a Rara band in Brooklyn. Watch the clip with students and have them draw correlations between what they see in the clip and what they have learned about Haïti. See [HERE](#).

► **HMHfyi Français**

Click [HERE](#) to use the section on L'Amérique francophone in the **HMHfyi Français** site to search for authentic media from Haïti.

# MAI

MAY • 2019

lun	mar	mer	jeu	ven	sam	dim	
		01	02	03	04	05	
			UNICréa (Suisse)				
06	07	08 Fête de la victoire (France)	09	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
French Open (Roland-Garros)							
27	28	29	30	31			
		French Open (Roland-Garros)					

JUIN/JUNE 2019

l	m	m	j	v	s	d
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JUILLET/JULY 2019

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

02-05

LESSON IDEAS

### UNICréa (Suisse)

This festival of the visual arts in Switzerland is held twice annually in November and May. The 27<sup>th</sup> festival will take place this May.

- Have students research the festival [HERE](#). Ask them to compare this festival of talent with art festivals in their hometown. Ask them to discuss similarities and differences with a partner.
- Each year, the festival is held in a Swiss *château*. Ask students to learn about the history of the *château* where the 27<sup>th</sup> festival will be held. Have them write about what they learned.
- Have students read this [article](#) on the differences between French spoken in France and Switzerland and discuss in class.

#### ▶ HMHfyi Français

Click [HERE](#) to use the section on *L'Europe francophone* in the **HMHfyi Français** site to search for authentic media from Switzerland.

08

LESSON IDEAS

### Fête de la victoire (France)

This day commemorates the day when Charles de Gaulle announced the end of World War II in France on May 8, 1945. It is also a holiday that celebrates the end of World War II and the Nazi occupation of France.

- There are some thought-provoking French films about the Nazi occupation of France. Show one in class and, as they watch, have students write answers to general comprehension questions written on the board. Some movie suggestions include [Le Dernier Métro](#) and [Bon Voyage](#). Be sure to preview content for objectionable material before showing films in class.

20-09

LESSON IDEAS

### French Open (Roland-Garros)

The French Open is an international tennis tournament (one among four Grand Slam tournaments) held in Paris, France at the Roland-Garros Stadium.

- Ask students to research the four Grand Slam tournaments (Australian Open, US Open, Wimbledon, and the French Open) and learn which type of court is used (hard surface, clay, or grass). Ask students to read more about the advantages of clay courts by visiting the official Roland-Garros site [HERE](#). Ask students to find out if there are any clay courts in their area. If possible, ask students to visit a nearby court and try it out. Have them present to the class and explain the differences they noted while playing on clay.
- Have students read about Roland Garros in English [HERE](#). Then ask students to watch the video about him in French [HERE](#). Ask students to write about what learned.
- Encourage students to follow the tournament on social media, using the search term Roland-Garros. Have them research the 2018 male and female champions as well as the top players for 2019. Ask students to get into groups and discuss the players, their rankings, and who they think will win.

# JUIN

JUNE • 2019

lun	mar	mer	jeu	ven	sam	dim
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03	04	05	06	07	08	09
			French Open (Roland-Garros) D-Day			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Fête de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste or La fête nationale du Québec

06

## D-Day

The Battle of Normandy began during WWII on June 6, 1944 on the coast of France's Normandy region. This great battle resulted in the liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany by allied forces.

LESSON IDEAS

- Ask students to research the battles on the beaches of Normandy [HERE](#) and watch the videos in French. Have students write about what they learned.
- Have students research their family history and find out what their ancestors were doing during WWII. Have them prepare a presentation for the class and bring photos or other memorabilia to share.
- Download the program for the D-Day Festival in Normandy [HERE](#). Have students get into groups and plan out which events they would attend if they were to visit Normandy during the festival.

24

## Fête de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste or La fête nationale du Québec

This is a feast day for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist as well as a celebration of French Canadian culture. The tradition of celebrating on this day dates back to the first French colonists in Québec.

LESSON IDEAS

- Have students visit the festival's site and study the history of La fête nationale du Québec [HERE](#). Students can also further their knowledge of Québec by taking a short quiz [HERE](#).

### ► HMHfyi Français

Check out the [HMHfyi Français](#) site to search for authentic media from [La province de Québec](#) or [Québec](#).

FRENCH **HOLIDAY** CALENDAR | **SPRING 2019**

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