

## iCONN Learning Activity

### Culture of Francophone Countries

**Level:** High School

**Task:** French students prepare a paper on one of the following topics: religious holidays, sports, or fashion. Some suggested holidays: Quebec Winter Carnival, Carnival of Nice, la Toussaint (All Saints Day-November 1<sup>st</sup>), Chandeleur (Candle Mass/Candlemas Day-February 2<sup>nd</sup>), Canada Day (July 1), Mardi Gras, Noel (Christmas-December 25), Le Jour de l'an (New Year's Day and Eve), La Nuit de Saint Jean (Saint John's night-June 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>), Armistice 1914-1918 (Armistice Day, WWI-November 11<sup>th</sup>), Armistice Day WWII-May 8<sup>th</sup>, La fete du travail (May Day or Labor Day in France-May 1<sup>st</sup>), La Fete des Rois (Three Kings Day or the Twelfth Night), Paques (Easter), l'Ascension (Ascension Day 40 days after Easter on Thursday), le 14 Juillet (Bastille Day or National French Holiday), Poisson d'avril (April Fool's Day-April 1<sup>st</sup>), Les Pardons en Bretagne (Local Saints Days in Brittany to honor the fishermen and bless the boats), Le Festival de Chats-May 14-Ypres, Belgium, La Bataille des Fleurs (Battle of the Flowers mid June or mid July in Nice).

**Research Question:** How does the study of holidays, sports or fashion help you understand the culture of Francophone countries?

**Content Area(s):** World Languages – French

**State Content Standard(s):**

**World Languages:**

Program Goal: As a result of education in Grades K-12, students will gain knowledge and understandings of other cultures.

Standard 4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the traditions, products and perspectives of the cultures studied.

**iCONN Database(s):**

*General Reference Center Gold:* This database contains full text articles from encyclopedias, reference books, newspaper references, and periodicals.

*Discovering Collection:* This database contains reference articles, primary documents and multimedia sources. The articles are about history, literature, biography, science and social studies. The *Discovering Collection* includes resources on people, geography, history, literature, science and health.

*iCONN Newspapers:* iCONN contains full-text coverage of seven newspapers: [The Boston Globe](#), [The Christian Science Monitor](#), [The Hartford Courant](#), [The Los Angeles Times](#), [The New York Times](#), [The Wall Street Journal](#) and [The Washington Post](#).

**AP Images:** AP Images contains millions of images dating back more than 100 years, The collection is updated every minute of the day and includes entertainment, fashion, news and sports coverage from The Associated Press and a diverse selection of content partners. AP Images offers thousands of graphics including diagrams, maps, charts, logos and more. Spanish and German graphics are also available.

**Start with General Reference Center Gold to find a background article.**

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
3. Open *General Reference Center Gold*
4. Choose *Subject Guide Search*
5. Limit the search to *documents with full text*
6. In the *Subject guide* search box, enter **YOUR HOLIDAY OR TOPIC**
7. Look at the results list  
(The number of words is given so you can judge the length of the article.)
8. Open and read relevant documents
9. Print or email relevant articles

**Alternate Search Strategies:**

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
3. Open the *Discovering Collection* database
4. Choose *Geography* search
5. Under *Nations*, click on *France* from the list
6. Narrow your search by entering a term(s) in the *Find* box, enter your **YOUR HOLIDAY OR TOPIC**
7. Look at the *Type of Article* in the far right such as *Event Overview*, *Era Overview*, or *Biography*
8. Look at the title of the article before you open the article
9. Open, read and print relevant documents
10. Follow the same strategy for the resources listed under any other active (highlight) tabs: (e.g., *Primary Documents* and *Multimedia*)
11. Look at the *Subject Terms*

**See if there is current information in a newspaper or magazine about YOUR TOPIC.**

1. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
  2. Click on *Clear Checkmarks*
  3. Click on the category *Newspapers* to search all newspapers simultaneously
  4. Type **YOUR HOLIDAY OR TOPIC** into the Search box, then click *SEARCH* (or hit ENTER)
  5. Click on the number of results shown next to a newspaper to get to the results screen
  6. Click on the article’s title or *Full text* to view the article
- Note: Click on the *Advanced* tab to make your search more precise. In the advanced search, you can link terms with *AND*, *OR*, *NOT*. You can also limit your search to *full text articles* and to *specific dates*

**See if there are photographs about YOUR TOPIC.**

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
  2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
  3. Open *AP Images* (This database is listed under the Newspapers section, with no checkbox to the left. Simply click on the title of the database to enter it)
  4. In the Search box, enter ***YOUR HOLIDAY OR TOPIC***.
  5. Select a date range from the drop-down menu to the right of your holiday or topic. Click the Search button.
  6. Narrow your results by selecting from the drop down lists called *Events*, *Featured Persons*, *Person*, *Keyword*, or *Photographer*.
- Note: For more instructions use the database’s online Search Tips

**Adaptations for Differentiated Learning:**

Students who are having difficulty are given extra assistance.

**Search Strategy:**

Limit the number of databases searched, starting with *General Reference Center Gold*

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*Revised by iCONN staff, July 2008*