

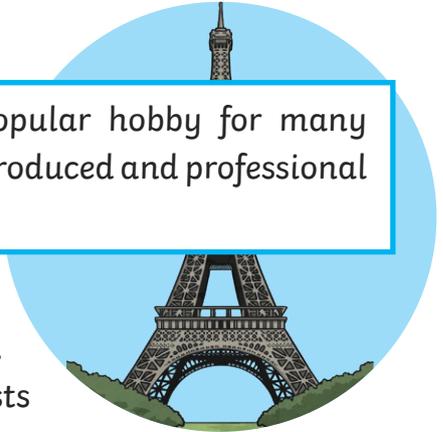
# Tour de France

The Tour de France is the world's most famous, and arguably the hardest, cycling race. It takes place every year and lasts for a total of three weeks, covering almost 3,500km.

## History of the Race

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, cycling became a popular hobby for many people. As time went on, organised bike races were introduced and professional cycling became very popular in France.

On 6<sup>th</sup> July 1903, 60 cyclists set off on a race and covered 2,428km in a circular route over six stages. 18 days after setting off, 21 of the original 60 cyclists made it back to the finish line in Paris. The winner was Maurice Garin and the Tour de France was born. Except for war time, the race has taken place every year since then and has become more challenging with the addition of mountain climbs and longer distances.



## The Modern Tour de France

Each year, the tour begins in a different country. The route changes annually too, though usually finishes on the Champs-Élysées in Paris. In 2019, the race starts in Brussels, Belgium on the 6<sup>th</sup> July and ends in Paris on the 28<sup>th</sup> July after 21 stages totalling a distance of 3,460km. There are 22 teams taking part in the Tour de France, each with eight riders. The reigning champion is Welsh cyclist Geraint Thomas.

## Coloured Jerseys



### Yellow jersey (maillot jaune)

Worn by the race leader at each stage.



### Green jersey (maillot vert)

Worn by the rider with the most points.



### Red polka dot jersey (maillot à pois rouges)

King of the Mountains jersey – worn by the first rider to reach the top of hills and mountains on the route.



### White jersey (maillot blanc)

Fastest overall rider under the age of 26.

# Questions

1. How long does the Tour de France last for? Tick **one**.

- a year
- three weeks
- three days
- three months

2. How long was the first Tour de France route? Tick **one**.

- 2,500km
- 3,460km
- 2,428km
- 2,428m

3. Who won the first Tour de France?

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4. Where is the Tour de France starting in 2019? Tick **one**.

- Paris
- Brussels
- Wales
- Scotland

5. Look at the section called **The Modern Tour de France**.

**Find** and **copy** a word meaning **every year**.

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# Questions

6. Match the coloured jerseys to what they are awarded for.

yellow jersey

green jersey

red polka dot jersey

white jersey

Fastest rider under the age of 26.

King of the Mountains jersey.

Overall leader of the race.

Rider with the most points.

7. How has the Tour de France changed since it started in 1903? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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# Answers

1. How long does the Tour de France last for? Tick **one**.

- a year
- three weeks
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- 2,500km
- 3,460km
- 2,428km
- 2,428m

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**Maurice Garin**

4. Where is the Tour de France starting in 2019? Tick **one**.

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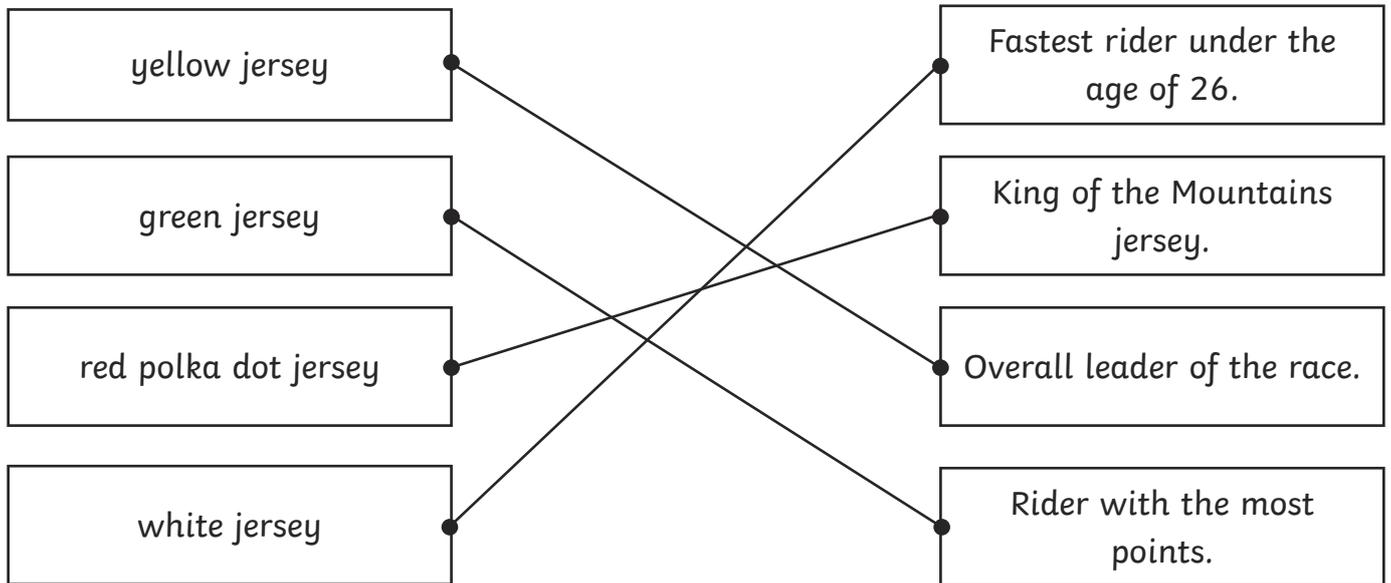
5. Look at the section called **The Modern Tour de France**.

**Find** and **copy** a word meaning **every year**.

**annually**

# Answers

6. Match the coloured jerseys to what they are awarded for.



7. How has the Tour de France changed since it started in 1903? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupil's own response, such as: The Tour de France has become much more difficult since it first began. It is now a longer distance and has mountain climb stages as part of the race.**

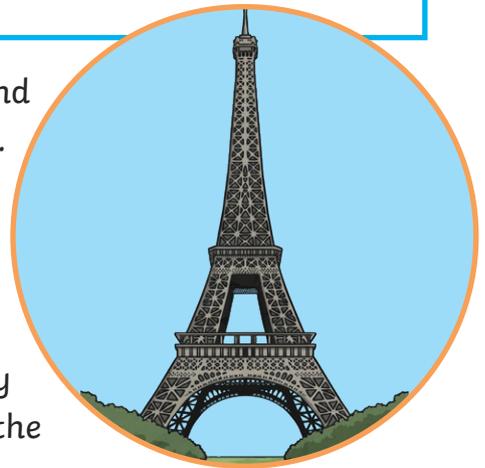
# Tour de France

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## History of the Race

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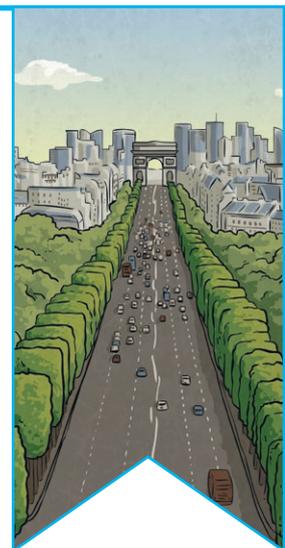
On 6<sup>th</sup> July 1903, 60 cyclists set off on a race and covered 2,428km in a circular route over six stages. 18 days after setting off, 21 of the original 60 cyclists made it back to the finish line in Paris. The winner was Maurice Garin and the Tour de France was born. Except for during the First and Second World Wars, the race has taken place annually since then and has become more challenging with the addition of mountain climbs and longer distances.



## The Modern Tour de France

Each year, the tour begins in a different country. The route changes annually too, though usually finishes on the Champs-Élysées in Paris.

In 2019, the race start (known as 'The Grand Départ') is in Brussels, Belgium on the 6<sup>th</sup> July and ends in Paris on the 28<sup>th</sup> July after 21 stages totalling a distance of 3,460km. There are 22 teams taking part in the Tour de France, each with eight riders. The reigning champion is Welsh cyclist Geraint Thomas.



## Coloured Jerseys



The **yellow jersey (maillot jaune)** is awarded to the overall leader of the race.

The **green jersey (maillot vert)** is awarded to the rider with the most points.

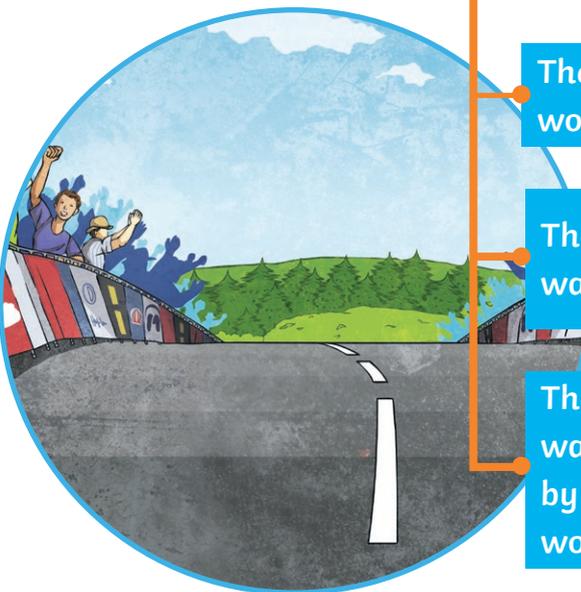


The **red polka dot jersey (maillot à pois rouges)** is the 'King of the Mountains' jersey. It is awarded to the rider that reaches the summit of hill and mountain climbs first.

The **white jersey (maillot blanc)** is awarded to the fastest overall rider under the age of 26.



## Did You Know...?



The Tour de France is broadcast all over the world and watched in over 150 countries.

The youngest ever winner was Henri Cornet. He was only 19 years old when he won in 1904.

The first British cyclist to win the Tour de France was Bradley Wiggins in 2012. This was followed by a second British winner, Chris Froome, who won in 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

# Questions

1. How often does the Tour de France happen? Tick **one**.

- every week
- every month
- every year
- every two years

2. When did the first Tour de France race start?

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3. Géo Lefèvre is often described as the 'father' of the Tour de France. Why do you think this is? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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4. How many teams are taking part in the Tour de France in 2019? Tick **one**.

- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24

5. Use the text to help you fill in the missing words.

Except for during the \_\_\_\_\_ and Second World Wars, the race has taken

place \_\_\_\_\_ since then and has become more \_\_\_\_\_

with the addition of mountain and \_\_\_\_\_ longer distances.

# Questions

6. Tick each statement to show whether it is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
The yellow jersey is awarded to the rider with the most points.		
The youngest ever winner of the Tour de France is Chris Froome.		
The first British man to win the Tour de France was Bradley Wiggins.		
Geraint Thomas is from Wales.		

7. What is the polka dot jersey awarded for? Tick **one**.

- The fastest speed
- The leader of the race
- The youngest rider
- The first to reach the summit in the mountain climb

8. How has the Tour de France changed since it started in 1903? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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# Answers

1. How often does the Tour de France happen? Tick **one**.

- every week
- every month
- every year**
- every two years

2. When did the first Tour de France race start?

**6<sup>th</sup> July 1903**

3. Géo Lefèvre is often described as the 'father' of the Tour de France. Why do you think this is? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupil's own response, such as: I think Géo Lefèvre is referred to as the 'father' of the Tour de France as it was his idea to organise a race to go around France and it was after this first race that the Tour de France was born.**

4. How many teams are taking part in the Tour de France in 2019? Tick **one**.

- 21
- 22**
- 23
- 24

5. Use the text to help you fill in the missing words.

Except for during the **First** and Second World Wars, the race has taken place **annually** since then and has become more **challenging** with the addition of mountain **climbs** and longer distances.

# Answers

6. Tick each statement to show whether it is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
The yellow jersey is awarded to the rider with the most points.		✓
The youngest ever winner of the Tour de France is Chris Froome.		✓
The first British man to win the Tour de France was Bradley Wiggins.	✓	
Geraint Thomas is from Wales.	✓	

7. What is the polka dot jersey awarded for? Tick **one**.

- The fastest speed
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8. How has the Tour de France changed since it started in 1903? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupil's own response, such as: The Tour de France has become much more difficult since it first began. It is now a longer distance and now has mountain climb stages as part of the race.**

# Tour de France

The Tour de France is the world's most famous (and arguably the hardest) cycling race. It is an annual event and lasts for a total of three weeks, covering approximately 3,500km over a variety of terrain, such as mountains, hills and roads.



## History of the Race

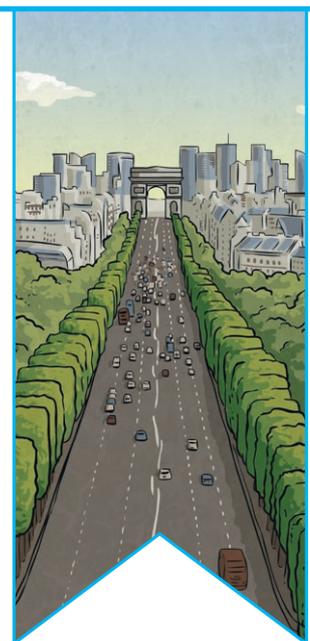
During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, cycling became a popular hobby for many people. As time went on, organised bike races were introduced and professional cycling became very popular in France. Sports newspapers, such as 'Le Vélo' began reporting on cycling stories which helped to promote races. One French journalist, Géo Lefèvre, had an idea of organising a large bike race that went through the whole of France.

On 6<sup>th</sup> July 1903, 60 cyclists set off from the centre of Paris on a race and covered 2,428km in a circular route over six stages. 18 days after setting off, 21 of the original 60 cyclists made it back to the finish line in Paris. The winner was Maurice Garin and the Tour de France was born. Except for during the First and Second World Wars, the race has taken place annually since then and has become more challenging with the addition of mountain climbs and longer distances, attracting elite professional cyclists from around the world.

## The Modern Tour de France

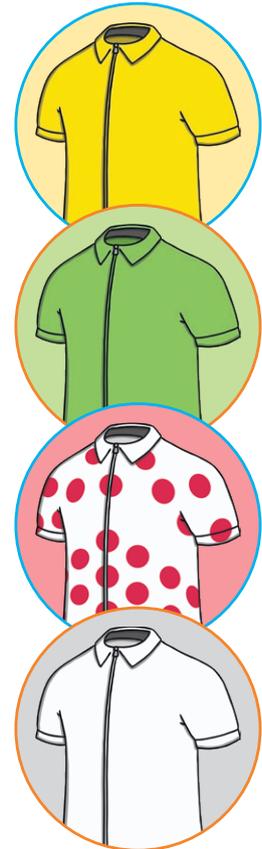
Each year, the tour begins in a different country. The route changes annually too, though usually finishes on the Champs-Élysées in Paris.

In 2019, the race start (known as 'The Grand Départ') is in Brussels, Belgium on the 6<sup>th</sup> July and ends in Paris on the 28<sup>th</sup> July after 21 stages totalling a distance of 3,460km. There are 22 teams taking part in the Tour de France, each with eight riders. Even though the Tour de France only has one overall winner, the race is a team sport. The riders in each team work together to assist each other by taking it in turns to lead and blocking the wind from a rider behind them to help them set a faster pace.



## Coloured Jerseys

During the race, a number of different coloured jerseys are awarded for different achievements. The most famous of these is the yellow jersey (maillot jaune), which is awarded to the overall leader of the race. There is also a green jersey (maillot vert) which is awarded to the rider with the most points. A red polka dot jersey (maillot à pois rouges) is the 'King of the Mountains' jersey. It is awarded to the rider that reaches the summit of hill and mountain climbs first. Finally, the white jersey (maillot blanc) is awarded to the fastest overall rider under the age of 26.



## Did You Know...?

- The reigning champion is Welsh cyclist Geraint Thomas.

- The Tour de France is broadcast all over the world and watched in over 150 countries.

- The youngest ever winner was Henri Cornet. He was only 19 years old when he won in 1904.

- The first British cyclist to win the Tour de France was Bradley Wiggins in 2012. This was followed by a second British winner, Chris Froome, who won in 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

# Questions

1. What types of landscape are part of the Tour de France? Tick **two**.

- mountains
- deserts
- beaches
- hills

2. What is 'Le Vélo'? Tick **one**.

- a bicycle
- a mountain
- a newspaper
- a race

3. How many cyclists crossed the finish line of the first Tour de France?

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4. Why do you think there are eight cyclists in each team? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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5. What is the green jersey awarded for?

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6. Who won the Tour de France in 2018?

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# Questions

7. How has the Tour de France changed since it started in 1903? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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8. At the start of the text, it says that the Tour de France is 'arguably the hardest' cycling race. Why do you think this is? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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# Answers

1. What types of landscape are part of the Tour de France? Tick **two**.

- mountains**
- deserts
- beaches
- hills**

2. What is 'Le Vélo'? Tick **one**.

- a bicycle
- a mountain
- a newspaper**
- a race

3. How many cyclists crossed the finish line of the first Tour de France?

**21 cyclists finished the first Tour de France.**

4. Why do you think there are eight cyclists in each team? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupil's own response, such as: I think there are eight cyclists in a team so they can support each other during the race. They take turns in leading so the other members of the team can save energy. They can also ride in front of other members to reduce the wind they ride in so they can go faster.**

5. What is the green jersey awarded for?

**The green jersey is awarded to the rider with the most points.**

6. Who won the Tour de France in 2018?

**The 2018 Tour de France was won by Geraint Thomas.**

7. How has the Tour de France changed since it started in 1903? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupil's own response, such as: The Tour de France has become much more difficult since it first began. It is now a longer distance and now has mountain climb stages as part of the race.**

8. At the start of the text, it says that the Tour de France is 'arguably the hardest' cycling race. Why do you think this is? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupil's own response, such as: I think the text says that the Tour de France is 'arguably the hardest' cycle race as it is known to be incredibly difficult and the best professional cyclists in the world compete in it. I think it's 'arguable' as there are other races that take place around the world that are also difficult and so could be argued that others are also just as difficult, if not more so.**