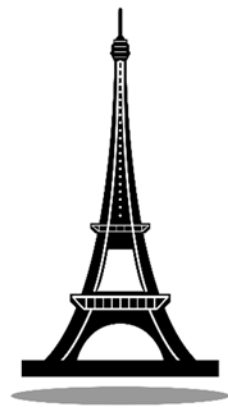Name _____

Celebrating French Freedom and Unity

Bastille Day is a special holiday celebrated in France on July 14th each year. It is a day that holds great significance in French history and is marked by festivities, fireworks, and a sense of national pride. Let's explore the history and celebrations of Bastille Day!

The history of Bastille Day can be traced back to July 14, 1789, when a significant event took place in France called the Storming of the Bastille. The Bastille was a fortress and prison in Paris that represented the oppressive rule of the monarchy. The people of France were unhappy with the monarchy's rule and sought freedom, equality, and justice.

On that fateful day, a group of citizens gathered outside the Bastille and demanded the release of political prisoners and the surrender of the fortress. After hours of intense conflict, the Bastille was breached, and the prisoners were freed. The event symbolized the start of the French Revolution, a period of immense social and political change in France.

Since then, July 14th has been celebrated as Bastille Day, commemorating the French Revolution and the ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity. It is a day that represents the struggle for freedom and the unity of the French people.

The celebrations of Bastille Day are grand and vibrant throughout France. The day starts with a military parade in Paris, where French armed forces showcase their skills and honor the country's history. People line the streets, waving flags and cheering as the military marches by.

Following the parade, communities across France come alive with festivities. Streets are filled with music, dance performances, and joyful gatherings. Fireworks light up the night sky, painting colorful patterns and creating a spectacular show for all to enjoy.

People also indulge in delicious French food, such as pastries, crepes, and cheese. Picnics and outdoor gatherings are common, where families and friends come together to celebrate and savor the flavors of French cuisine.

Bastille Day is not only a celebration of the past but also a reminder of the values that the French hold dear. It is a day to reflect on the importance of freedom, equality, and solidarity among people. It serves as a symbol of national unity and pride, bringing together individuals from all walks of life to celebrate their shared heritage.

Through Bastille Day, the French people remember their history, honor their ancestors, and celebrate the progress they have made as a nation. It is a day that represents the resilience and spirit of the French people, reminding them of the power of unity and the pursuit of liberty.

So, on Bastille Day, let's celebrate the French spirit and the ideals of freedom and unity. Let's honor the history and values that have shaped the nation and rejoice in the diverse culture and heritage of France.

Name _____

Celebrating French Freedom and Unity

Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. What is Bastille Day?

2. What event took place on July 14, 1789, that is commemorated on Bastille Day?

3. What did the Bastille represent in French history?

4. How is Bastille Day celebrated in France?

5. What values does Bastille Day represent?