

THE EIFFEL TOWER



The Eiffel Tower is a global monument. It is the tallest building in Paris, France, and it was the tallest building in the world until 1930. It is one of the most well-known buildings in the world, and it is the most visited paid monument.

The Eiffel Tower was built for the 1889 World's Fair in Paris. This fair was going to celebrate the *centennial*, or 100th anniversary, of the French Revolution. The Eiffel Tower served as the entrance to the fair. It is named after its designer, Gustave Eiffel.

It took three hundred workers and two years to build the Eiffel Tower. They used over eighteen thousand pieces of iron, and two and a half million rivets. The Eiffel Tower weighs over seven thousand tons. It is three hundred meters tall (324 meters including the spire), which would be about 80 levels in a regular building.

The Eiffel Tower is split into three levels. The first level can be reached by stairs (328 steps) or an elevator. The second level can also be reached by stairs (340 steps) or elevator. The third level can be reached only by elevator.

When the Eiffel Tower was built, there was a lot of controversy. Many people did not like the design. Some people thought it was too tall to be sturdy. In fact, the designers were used to working with bridges and knew how to make their structure stable. Some people protested it because they thought it was very ugly. Now it is generally considered to be one of the most elegant structures in the world.

The Eiffel Tower was built as a temporary structure that was only meant to stand for twenty years. However, after it had been standing for twenty years, it was still in good shape. It was also performing a function—as a radio antenna. Instead of tearing down the “temporary” building, the City of Paris decided to keep it. Over a century after its construction, the Eiffel Tower still stands, and serves as a landmark and symbol of France.

Name _____ Date _____

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT *THE EIFFEL TOWER*

1. Where is the Eiffel Tower located?
 - a. New York
 - b. Paris
 - c. Barcelona
 - d. Eiffel City

2. Why was the Eiffel Tower built?
 - a. It was meant to be a symbol of France.
 - b. It created controversy.
 - c. It was part of the World's Fair in France.
 - d. It was a temporary structure.

3. How did the Eiffel Tower get its name?
 - a. It is named after the designer
 - b. Eiffel is the French word for Structure
 - c. "Eiffel" is French slang for "awful"
 - d. none of the above

4. How many levels does the Eiffel Tower have?
 - a. eighty
 - b. two
 - c. three
 - d. The article doesn't say.

5. What material is the Eiffel Tower made of?
 - a. granite
 - b. iron
 - c. a combination of a and b
 - d. none of the above

6. How old is the Eiffel Tower?
 - a. It is now two hundred years old.
 - b. The French Revolution was in 1879.
 - c. It is over one hundred years old.
 - d. It is just over twenty years old.



ANSWERS TO *THE EIFFEL TOWER*

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. c
5. b
6. c