

Zizou Is Back (July 31, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? The appointment of Zinédine Zidane as the new manager of the French national football team, Les Bleus. ⚽

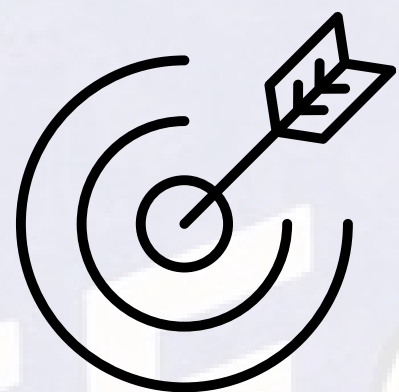
Who? Zinédine Zidane, former legendary French football player and manager, World Cup winner in 1998.

Where? In France, where the French Football Federation (FFF) made the official announcement on July 28, 2026.

When? July 28, 2026. Zidane will officially take up his duties on August 1 and will lead his first team in September.

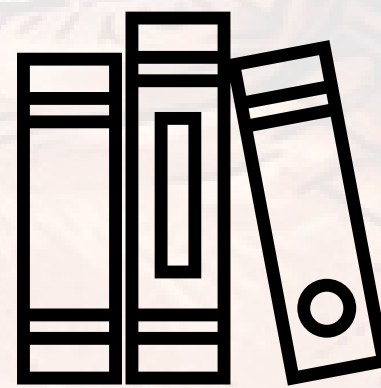
Why is it important? Because Zidane is one of the greatest players in football history, and his appointment as manager of Les Bleus marks the beginning of a new era for the French national team.

For this activity, your goal will be to learn more about Zinedine Zidane and his appointment.



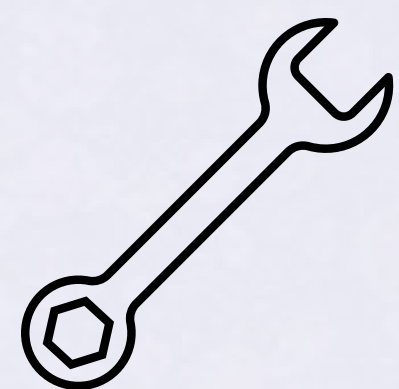
OBJECTIVES

- Discover the appointment of Zinédine Zidane as manager of the French national team
- Understand what a press release is and extract information from it
- Relive three iconic moments from Zidane's playing career
- Describe a sporting event in one or two sentences
- Use Google Earth to measure distances as the crow flies
- Calculate the total distance of a route across Europe



SUBJECTS

- **English**
 - Reading Comprehension
 - Listening and Understanding a Video
 - Writing (Description, Short Answers)
- **Mathematics**
 - Measuring Distances
 - Adding Large Numbers
 - Estimation and Verification
- **Social Studies/Culture**
 - Countries and Cities of Europe
 - European Geography
 - Major International Sporting Events



COMPETENCIES

- Researching and interpreting information
- Reading and understanding an informational text (press release)
- Observing and describing a video sequence
- Using a digital tool (Google Earth)
- Performing simple calculations (adding distances)
- Producing a structured response



DURATION

- Approximately 45 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students if they know Zinédine Zidane and what they know about him.
- Ask them if they know who manages a national football team and what the role of a national team coach is.
- Show them a picture of Zidane and gather their reactions: do they know him as a player, as a coach, or both?
- Ask them if they have heard about his recent appointment as head coach of the French national team.

Zizou Is Back (July 31, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — A Press Release from the FFF. Reading of the official FFF press release announcing Zidane's appointment, then answer four comprehension questions.

Q1 — The FFF and its president, Philippe Diallo.

Q2 — To Didier Deschamps, who has been in charge for 14 years.

Q3 — There is nothing greater than the French national team.

Q4 — The 2026-2027 UEFA Nations League.

STEP 2 — The Artist of the Beautiful Game. Watching of three video clips of key moments from Zidane's career, followed by a written description of each action.

Q5 — Zidane volleys the ball with his left foot while running at full speed, before it even touches the ground. The ball flies into the top corner of the net.

Q6 — From a corner kick, Zidane runs up and powerfully heads the ball. The ball goes into the goal before the goalkeeper can react.

Q7 — From his penalty kick, Zidane gently strikes the ball, lifting it into the center of the goal, just under the crossbar. The goalkeeper dives to the side and can do nothing.

STEP 3 — A Busy Schedule. Using of Google Earth to measure the straight-line distance between the cities on the French national team's European tour in autumn 2026, then calculation of the total distance.

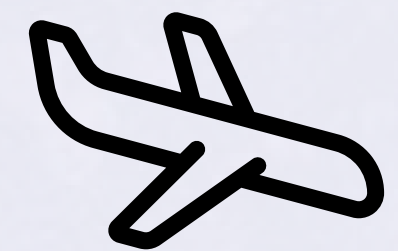
1. From Paris to Istanbul — 2,256 kilometers

2. From Istanbul to Brussels — 2,182 kilometers

3. From Paris to Milan — 640 kilometers

4. From Milan to Bordeaux — 769 kilometers

TOTAL DISTANCE — 5,845 kilometers



WRAPPING UP

- Conduct a group discussion to reflect on what the students have learned.
- Discuss what impressed them most: a moment of Zidane playing, the press release, or the distances covered by the team?
- Ask: why, in their opinion, does the appointment of a national team coach cause such a stir in a country?
- Make connections with other great sporting figures they know.



FURTHER EXPLORATION

 Matt Oldfield & Tom Oldfield. *Zidane: From the Playground to the Pitch (Ultimate Football Heroes)*. Dino Books

