

Leo XIV in France (September 25, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? A four-day trip to France by Pope Leo XIV. Notably, he prayed at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, celebrated a massive mass at the Place de la Concorde, and visited the shrine at Lourdes. 🏰

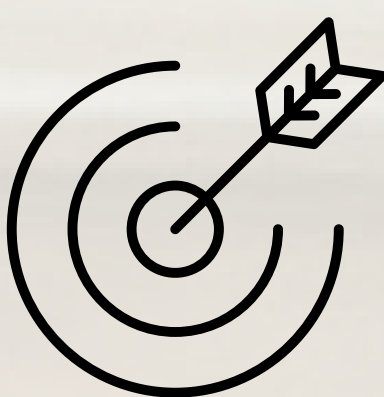
Who? Pope Leo XIV, the head of the Catholic Church. President Emmanuel Macron welcomed him, and tens of thousands of the faithful came to see him—including around 80,000 young people at the Stade de France. ✝️

Where? In France, with three stops: Paris (the capital), Lourdes (in the Pyrenees), and Metz (in the east of the country).

When? From Friday, September 25, to Monday, September 28, 2026.

Why is it important? Because it is the first official visit by a pope to France since 2008, and Leo XIV came to speak about peace and unity in Europe.

🎯 **For this activity, your goal is to learn a little more about Leo XIV's trip to France.**



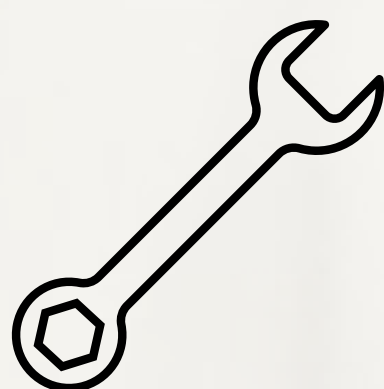
OBJECTIVES

- Discover the welcome given to Leo XIV during his visit to Paris
- Identify key information in a news report
- Discover the story of Lourdes and Bernadette Soubirous
- Measuring the distances of the Pope's journey with Google Earth's ruler
- Calculate the total distance, average per stage and kerosene consumption of the trip



SUBJECTS

- **Social Studies**
 - Locating places on a map of Europe
 - History of Lourdes and Bernadette Soubirous
 - Religions and pilgrimage sites
- **Mathematics**
 - Addition of large numbers
 - Calculating an average
 - Multiplication and proportionality
- **English**
 - Listening comprehension (report)
 - Reading and text comprehension
 - Restating a definition



COMPETENCIES

- Research and interpret information (text, video)
- Read and interpret a map
- Use a digital tool (Google Earth)
- Perform calculations with large numbers
- Restate an idea in one's own words



DURATION

- Approximately 45 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students if they know who the current Pope is.
- Ask them to locate Paris, Lourdes, and Metz on a map of France.
- Discuss: why does a religious leader travel to other countries?
- Show a photo of the Champs-Élysées and gather their reactions.
- Ask if they have ever taken a long flight and how many kilometers they think they traveled.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

TEACHING GUIDE

STEP 1 — On the Champs-Élysées. Watching of a news report about Pope Leo XIV's visit to Paris and answers to five multiple-choice questions.

Q1 — Around 700,000 to 800,000 people.

Q2 — Place de la Concorde.

Q3 — In French.

Q4 — For their enthusiasm.

Q5 — Saint-Joseph-des-Carmes Church.

STEP 2 — A Stop in Lourdes. Reading of a text about the history of Lourdes and answers to four comprehension questions.

Q6 — 14 years old.

Q7 — Eighteen times.

Q8 — Variable answer (e.g., a journey to a place considered sacred, to pray, reflect, or give thanks).

Q9 — Approximately 3 million.

STEP 3 — A Fying Pope! Measure of the trip distances using the Google Earth ruler, followed by distance and fuel consumption calculations.

Rome–Paris — approx. 1,105 km

Paris–Lourdes — approx. 667 km

Lourdes–Metz — approx. 823 km

Metz–Rome — approx. 941 km

Q10 — Approximately 3,536 km.

Q11 — Approximately 884 km.

Q12 — Approximately 14,144 liters (3,536 × 4).

(Distances may vary slightly depending on students' measurements. Accept a total between 3,450 and 3,650 km, and answers to Q11 and Q12 that are consistent with Q10.)



WRAPPING UP

- Conduct a group review of what the students have learned
- Discuss what surprised them (the crowds in Paris, the history of Lourdes, the amount of jet fuel)
- Ask: why does a small town like Lourdes attract so many visitors?
- Compare the measurements obtained by the students and explain why they differ slightly
- Discuss the environmental impact of air travel



FURTHER EXPLORATION

 *Who is Pope Leo XIV? for Kids | All About Robert Francis Prevost.* Twinkl USA
<https://youtu.be/1Yu8zF1x57A?si=B2W0i0mIVWIA46FH>