

Student Protests in France (October 12, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? A major protest movement by high school students—joined by university students—who are blockading their schools and demonstrating in the streets to demand better learning conditions. 🙌

Who? French high school students—young people aged 15 to 18—who are speaking out against overcrowded classrooms, teacher shortages, and school buildings in poor condition. 😞

Where? In France: starting in the Paris suburbs, then spreading to hundreds of schools across the country, notably in Paris, Lille, Lyon, and Besançon.

When? Since mid-September 2026, with several major days of demonstrations in October.

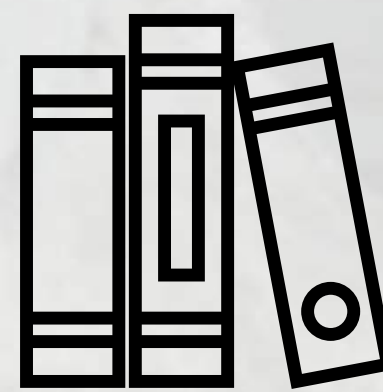
Why is it important? Because hundreds of thousands of young people have united their voices to be heard, forcing the government to respond. 🗣️

🎯 **For this activity, your goal is to learn a bit more about this high school student movement.** 📝



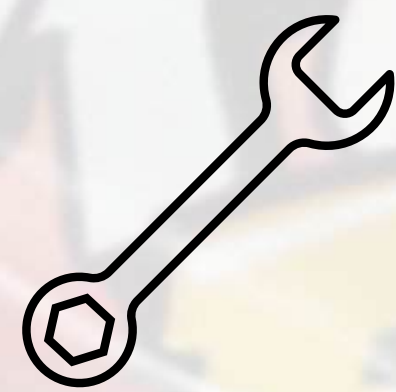
OBJECTIVES

- Understand the reasons behind the high school student movement sweeping France since September 2026
- Learn what a blockade is and how the movement spread
- Understand why the number of protesters varies depending on the source
- Locate Paris, Lille, Lyon, Besançon, and Marseille on a map of France
- Measure a straight-line distance with Google Earth
- Write a short, punchy slogan to stand up for a cause



SUBJECTS

- **English**
 - Understanding an informational text
 - Vocabulary of protest
 - Writing a slogan
- **Geography**
 - Major cities of France
 - Reading a map
 - Measuring distances
- **Social Studies / Citizenship**
 - The right to protest
 - Civic participation
 - Democratic life



COMPETENCIES

- Read and understand an informational text
- Read and interpret a map
- Use an online mapping tool
- Think critically about numbers
- Express an opinion creatively



DURATION

- Approximately 45 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students whether they have ever seen a protest, in person or on TV
- Ask them if they know what a lycée is
- Ask them what they would do to be heard if something bothered them at school
- Locate France on a world map

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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STEP 1 — “Enough Is Enough!” Viewing a news report and reading an informational text about the student movement, then answering four multiple-choice questions.

Q1 — 15 to 18 years old.

Q2 — A blockade.

Q3 — Vacations that are too long.

Q4 — Because everyone counts in their own way. (On October 6: more than 250,000 protesters according to the government, 450,000 according to the organizers.)

STEP 2 — The Stage for the Protests. Locating five cities on a blank map using Google Earth, then measuring a distance with the Ruler tool.

Q5 — Paris.

Q6 — Lille.

Q7 — Besançon.

Q8 — Lyon.

Q9 — Marseille.

Q10 — About 660 km in a straight line. (Accept 640 to 680 km, depending on the points chosen.)

STEP 3 — Protesting with Words. Choosing a situation to improve at a school and an image, then writing a slogan for a protest sign.

Q11 — Answers will vary. E.g., “Ten minutes is way too short, give us more time to play!”



WRAPPING UP

- Hold a group discussion about what the students learned
- Discuss what surprised them most (the number of schools blocked, the gap between the government’s figures and the organizers’)
- Compare the class’s slogans: which one is most effective, and why?
- Ask: are there other ways to be heard besides a protest? (petition, letter, student council)

FURTHER EXPLORATION

 Martha Freeman. *If You’re Going to a March*. Union Square Kids.

