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Language
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FRENCH HOLIDAY CALENDAR | FALL 2019

BIENVENUE

This **DOWNLOADABLE** calendar will help you create lessons around important days across the French-speaking world. At HMH[®] we believe that an interest in culture is an essential building block for learning another language.

SEPTEMBRE

SEPTEMBER • 2019

dim	lun	mar	mer	jeu	ven	sam
01	02	03	04	05	06 06-15 Le Festival Western de Saint-Tite	07 07-16 La Fête de la Wallonie
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 20-29 Le Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes	21
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2019

October/October

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2019

Novembre/November

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06

Le Festival Western de Saint-Tite

This festival and rodeo in the tiny village of Saint-Tite is Canada's most well-known western-themed event east of the Calgary Stampede. The festival began as a promotional fair for the leather industry but now includes, among other activities, a rodeo, trail rides, outdoor movies, and dancing.

- Go to the [games section](#) of the official festival website and have beginners play *Mot Mystère*. Make sure "FR," not "EN," is selected in the top row of the webpage. Have intermediate and advanced students play *Les 10 Erreurs*.
- Have intermediate and advanced students read a timeline of the history of the festival [here](#) and then practice using the *passé composé* to describe some of the events they read about.

► **HMHfyi Français**

Use the **HMHfyi Français** site to search for authentic media from [La province de Québec](#) or [Québec](#).

07

La Fête de la Wallonie

Fête de la Wallonie celebrates Wallonia, the primarily French-speaking region of Belgium.

- Have beginner and intermediate students look at the [Les Quartiers](#) section of the festival website and practice saying how to get around the different listed *quartiers*.
- Have advanced students read the **CCW: Devoir de mémoire section** and write a paragraph on both the idea behind this phrase as well as their thoughts on what they read.
- Have intermediate students read the **CCW: Devoir de mémoire section** and make a timeline of the events they read about.

► **HMHfyi Français**

Click [HERE](#) to use the section on *L'Europe francophone* in the **HMHfyi Français** site to search for authentic media from Belgium.

20

Le Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes

This massive puppet festival in the town of Charleville-Mézières in the Champagne-Ardenne region of France is held every two years. Two hundred fifty troupes from around the world perform in a main theater, on fringe stages, and on the streets to over 150,000 people.

- Have beginners visit the festival's page that provides directions to the event [HERE](#) and practice *Je viens en, par, à* by saying how they would come from Paris, Brussels, Lille, or Luxembourg.
- Have intermediate and advanced students create their own French language puppet shows and perform them in class.

► **HMHfyi Français**

Use the **HMHfyi Français** site to search for authentic media from [La France](#).

HMHCO.COM/BIENDIT

OCTOBRE

OCTOBER • 2019

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17

Le Jour de Dessalines

This holiday celebrates the founder of modern Haiti, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, as well as Haitian pride over being one of the first independent nations in the Americas and the first republic to be led by people of African descent.

LESSON IDEAS

- Ask students to research Haitian cuisine, which is known for its unique combination of African and French influences. Have students compile a list of ten uniquely Haitian dishes, such as *riz aux pois rouges*, and then say whether or not they would like to try each one using the structure *Je voudrais essayer _____ parce que j'aime _____*.
- Have intermediate and advanced students research Jean-Jacques Dessalines and write about his life using the *passé composé* and *imparfait*.

► HMHfyi Français

Click [HERE](#) to use the section on *L'Amérique francophone* in the **HMHfyi Français** site to search for authentic media from Haiti.

30

Le Salon du Chocolat, Paris

This festival hosts over 500 participants from 60 countries and provides the largest showcase of chocolates from the five continents. Activities include everything from live demos to a chocolate fashion show.

LESSON IDEAS

- Have beginner, intermediate, and advanced students visit the **Exposants** page from the official website, choose five exhibitors whose booths they would like to visit, and write a reason for each by practicing the structure *Je voudrais visiter _____ parce que _____*.
- Have intermediate and advanced students study the activities on the French version of the **official website**, then come up with their own activity for the festival and describe it in detail.

► HMHfyi Français

Use the **HMHfyi Français** site to search for authentic media from [L'Île de France](#) or [Paris](#).

NOVEMBRE

NOVEMBER • 2019

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10	11 La Victoire	12	13	14	15	16
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01

La Toussaint

The French honor deceased relatives and all the saints on *La Toussaint*, All Saints' Day, the name being a contraction of "*Tous les Saints*." Special church services are held, and flowers are placed on family graves.

LESSON IDEAS

- The word *Toussaint* is an example of a *portmanteau*. For homework ask beginners to find out both the meaning and root of *portmanteau*. Then challenge them to go further and find the roots of the following words: *vidéaste*, *alicament*, *l'éternellité*, *alcoolade*, *produit célibattante*, *courriel*.
- Have intermediate and advanced students write a paragraph about a deceased person in their family or a historical figure who is meaningful to them.

▶ HMHfyi Français

Use the **HMHfyi Français** site to search for authentic media from [La France](#).

01

La Fête des Masques

Côte d'Ivoire's annual *Fête des Masques* is held in November in the town of Man. It honors spirits from the forest personified by villagers wearing colorful costumes and masks. Many of the masks are family heirlooms.

LESSON IDEAS

- Ask students to research the history of masks in African cultures. Have them work in groups to discuss their research and what they learned about various cultural perspectives on topics such as religion, death, war, and entertainment.

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Click [HERE](#) to use the section on *L'Afrique francophone* in the **HMHfyi Français** site to search for authentic media from *Côte d'Ivoire*.

11

La Victoire (Armistice Day)

This public holiday commemorates the Armistice signed on November 11, 1918. There are official ceremonies and military parades across France and Britain and observances in countries around the world.

LESSON IDEAS

- In 2011 it was revealed that, toward the end of World War I, military leaders built a "double" of Paris a few miles to the west of the actual city to trick German bombers. An article on this can be found [here](#).
- Have intermediate students discuss which places from their hometowns they would use in a replica. Then have them describe, using directional vocabulary, where in relation to their town, the replica would be.
- Have beginner students use words for basic locations in a city, such as *le bâtiment*, *le parc*, and *la centre*, to describe their own hometowns.
- Have advanced students write a paragraph on whether or not they think this was good military strategy and why.

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Use the **HMHfyi Français** site to search for authentic media from [L'Europe francophone](#).

DÉCEMBRE

DECEMBER • 2019

dim	lun	mar	mer	jeu	ven	sam
01	02	03	04	05	06 La Fête de la Saint-Nicolas	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Noël	26	27	28
29	30	31			<div>2020</div> <div>Janvier/January</div> <div><div>d l m m j v s</div><div>1 2 3 4</div><div>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</div><div>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</div><div>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</div><div>26 27 28 29 30 31</div></div>	<div>2020</div> <div>Février/February</div> <div><div>d l m m j v s</div><div>1</div><div>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</div><div>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</div><div>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</div><div>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</div></div>

06

La Fête de la Saint-Nicolas

There are several countries in Europe that celebrate the feast of Saint Nicholas on December 6, and in Nancy, France, the feast day has evolved into a full-blown festival. The town is elaborately decorated for Christmas during the entire month of December, complete with a parade, outdoor market and exhibition, and performances.

LESSON IDEAS

- There are many colorful photographs of this festival online. Have beginner and intermediate students describe what they see in the photographs and write about what they would do on a visit to Nancy, France, during the St. Nicholas festival.
- Have students research *les fêtes des prénoms* and the practices associated with them. Tell them to find the date that corresponds to their own name or a form of it on a French calendar and those of their friends and family. You might want to share a *calendrier des fêtes* and practice numbers by calling out names and having students give the corresponding date or vice-versa.

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Use the new **HMHfyi Français** site to search for authentic media from [L'Europe francophone](#).

25

Noël

LESSON IDEAS

- Ask students to look up, learn, and perform *un chant de Noël français* like *Vive le vent*.
- Have students research Christmas markets throughout France [HERE](#) and discuss similarities and differences between the different markets. Ask students how these celebrations compare with celebrations in their hometown.
- Ask students to research the differences between celebrations on the Feast of St. Nicholas on December 6, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and the Feast of the Kings on January 6. Have students compare these festivities to the way Christmas is celebrated in the United States.
- Santa Claus is known as *Père Noël* in France. Have students do online research on how *Père Noël* differs from the American traditions of Santa Claus and describe it in French.

► **HMHfyi Français**

Take a look at seasonal holiday celebrations [here](#).

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For more information please visit
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