



LA TOUR EIFFEL
• JEUNE PUBLIC •

Minus

THE INCREDIBLE DESTINY of Gustave Eiffel





Welcome to the Eiffel Tower

You are standing on one of the best known and most visited monuments in the world. How much do you know about its history? First of all, do you know how it got its name?

Keep reading to learn all about the exciting life of Gustave Eiffel, a man who changed history!



this booklet
BELONGS TO

.....

My age

.....

My nationality

.....

Date of my
visit to the
Eiffel Tower

.....



Ready to
travel back in
time to meet

Gustave
Eiffel?

I can't wait
to learn
about
his life.



I'm most
excited about
reaching
the top!



OK, as long as
you tell me
about the
Tower too!



When I was a boy

My father was a soldier and my mother was an impressive businesswoman. As you can imagine, they were both very busy! Most of the time, my grandmother was the one who looked after me.



After earning my high school diploma, I left for Paris to study engineering. I joined l'École Centrale, one of the best schools. Little did I know that this career path would make me famous one day!

Did you know that my birth name was not Eiffel?
My father's name was Alexandre Boenickhausen.
My family changed their name to Eiffel in 1879.
They took the name from the hilly Rhineland region
where they had lived in Germany!

and you

if you had to use the name of a mountain
or river from your region as your last name,
what would you choose?

.....



*Camille
Everest*

*Victor
Seine*

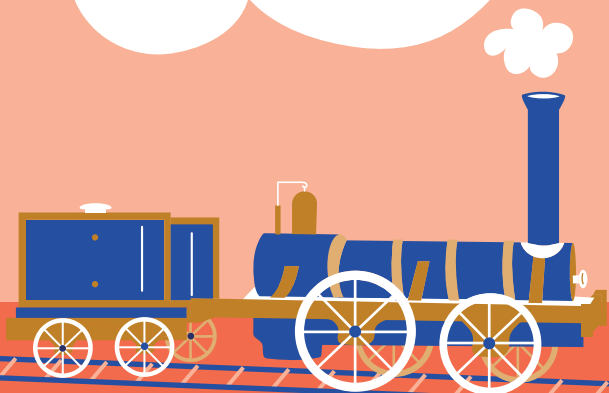
*Lili
Mississippi*



An unbelievable *era*

I was born in 1832, a few years after the arrival of the first steam engines in France.

It may not seem like much now, but this invention changed the world. Industry and machines soon came to play a key role and revolutionized the way people lived...



So many inventions!

Can you put these events from my time
in the order from oldest to newest?



A

1st steam locomotive:
now we can
transport coal and
iron anywhere!



B

Discovery of
electricity:
light bulbs and
light are ours!



C

Invention of the
four-stroke engine.
Here come the first
automobiles!

D



Invention of the telephone:
now we can communicate
with loved ones on the
other side of the world!

A perceptive entrepreneur

My career started at a bridge and metal framework construction company. It was a very 19th-century story!

At the age of 26, I directed the construction of a 1640-foot-long railway bridge in Bordeaux. This required a huge construction site with hundreds of workers. I even saved one of my men from drowning there. I always made a priority of taking care of my teams.



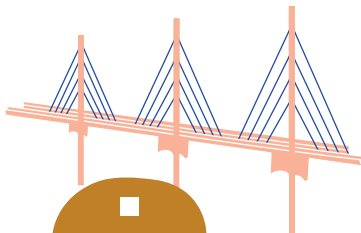
With my mastery of ironwork and sharp business sense (thanks to my mom!), I quickly made a name for myself in the profession. I started my own company when I was 32:

Eiffel et Cie

With my company, I built more than 500 structures in over 30 countries. Which of these is the odd one out?



The structure
for the Statue
of Liberty



The Millau
Viaduct



Budapest
railway station
in Hungary



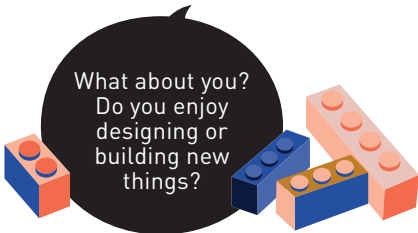
The Maria
Pia viaduct
in Porto



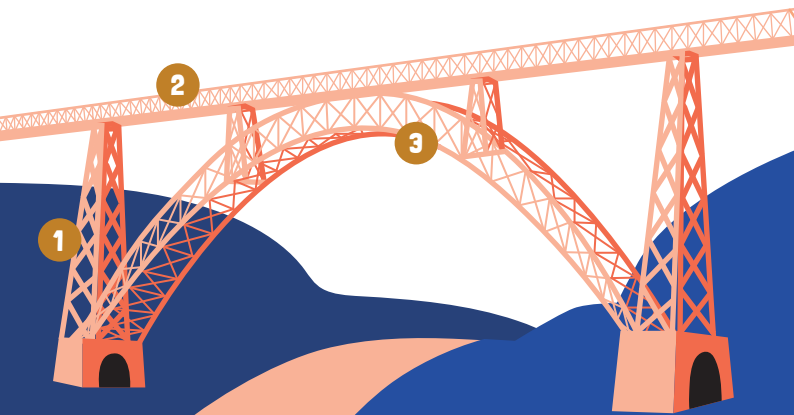
Brilliant ideas

It's true that I was successful in my business.
Eiffel et Cie was entrusted with numerous
orders thanks to my ingenuity
and that of my teams!

We invented techniques to improve bridge
transport and assembly (metal piles, U-decks,
cantilever). Most importantly, we created a
system for delivering bridges in kit form
that we then sold all over the world!



Metal piles, U-deck bridges...
Do these words strange words mean anything to you?
Try to connect these funny words to the right numbers
to find out what I'm talking about.

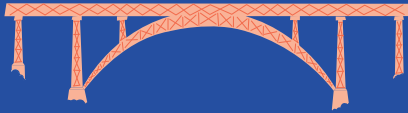


Garabit viaduct

A
piles

B
deck

C
cantilever



A tower inspired by bridges!

All of these innovations were instrumental in the creation of the Eiffel Tower! It's 1886 and France is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution (does the date 1789 ring a bell?). The organizers of the Paris World Fair want to build a 984-foot tower. They launch a big competition to demonstrate France's power.

To be honest, my engineers Émile Nougier and Maurice Koechlin were the ones who designed it, with the assistance of architect Stephen Sauvestre. But as soon as I became convinced that was the right project, I poured all my energy and fortune into making it happen, despite all the obstacles...

Which monuments
would you need to stack
on top of each other to
make a 984-foot tower?
Do the math and
redraw them here!



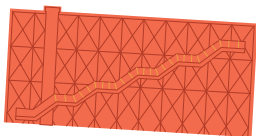
Notre-Dame
Cathedral (295 feet)



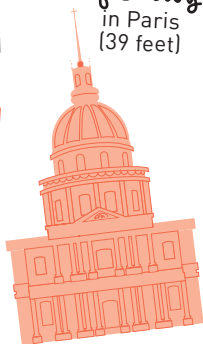
The Obelisk
(75 feet)



The Statue of Liberty
in Paris
(39 feet)



Pompidou
Center
(138 feet)



Dôme des Invalides
(351 feet)

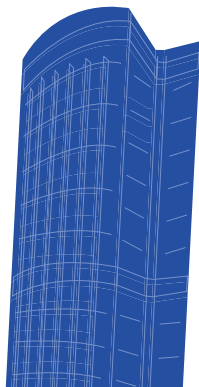


Arc
de Triomphe
(160 feet)



The Louvre
Pyramid
(72 feet)

Tour
Montparnasse
(689 feet)



My dear Claire

This is Claire, my eldest daughter.
You will find a wax sculpture of her
in my office on the third floor.

What would I have done without her
after the untimely death of my wife?

When she was only 14, she took overcaring
for her four brothers and sisters.

We were very close. She gave me a lot of advice
and even became my “right-hand woman”.

She was there to support me when all
of Parisian society criticized my Tower.

Even the artists and authors of the time criticized
me, including Verlaine and Maupassant!

How about
you? Did you ever
support a project
at school that
no-one believed in?



Here are some of the mean things people said about the Tower at the time. Have fun coming up with some more. Just keep them funny!

a tragic
street lamp

a giant, unsightly
skeleton

unfinished
iron mast

a funnel-shaped
wire fence

.....

.....

.....

.....



Crazy about science

After the Tower was completed, I decided to end my business activities to devote my time to science, which had always fascinated me.

My tower was supposed to be dismantled after 20 years. Can you believe it? To prevent that from happening, I made it into a laboratory for scientific experiments. It collected data on the weather (something I was passionate about) and helped study air resistance (very useful for aeronautics)...The research projects flourished.

I even offered to let the army use my Tower for their studies on wireless transmission. Have you ever heard of wireless telegraphy? This was a wonderful opportunity for army researchers! The highest antenna in the world allowed them to establish communications reaching distances of 3.7 miles!

When the First World War broke out in 1914, my Tower would become a strategic asset for the country. The Tower was saved!

In your opinion, which advances did the Eiffel Tower contribute to?

1

Improve weather forecasts

2

Light the way for boats arriving in Paris

3

The development of aviation by studying wind strength (aerodynamics)

4

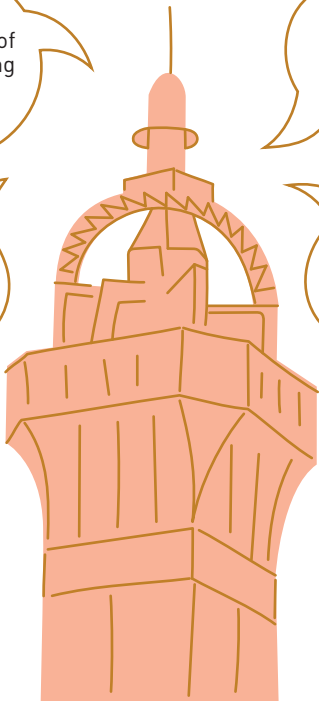
Broadcast radio and TV programs

5

Launch the first rocket to the Moon

6

Send messages across the country



Design your tower

Here are three tower design proposals that were rejected. What about you? What kind of tower would you have designed if you had entered the competition?



tower designed by



.....



The tallest tower in the world

Now that you have learned all about my life story, are you ready to climb the floors of my Tower?

Just imagine, I used to climb the 1,665 steps to my office almost every day. Pretty impressive for an old man, don't you think?

Did you know that the Eiffel Tower held the record as the tallest building in the world until the Chrysler Building was built in New York in 1930?

Without knowing it, I may have started the race to build the tallest tower in the world...



Do you know what is the tallest building in the world today?





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Who was Gustave Eiffel?
An engineering genius?
An enthusiastic entrepreneur?
A science lover?

Grab a pencil and
get ready to
discover the life of
an extraordinary man.

To find out more about the Tower,
go to www.eiffel.paris



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