



## Paris Underground

You may have already earned the Paris Worlds to Explore Patch either by visiting Paris or by fulfilling the requirements through independent research online or in your local library. Now you can earn another patch by exploring the Paris underground. The Michelin Guide, a map of Paris, a Paris metro map and various websites will be very helpful to you as you earn this patch.

Visit or learn about as many sites as you can and then answer the questionnaires. Keep a scrapbook of tickets, photos or sketches of anything you have visited during your research. And if you discover any other underground sites in Paris or the close suburbs, please give that information to your leader so that she can send it to the Paris Patch Coordinator.

**Minimum time to complete the patch if visiting Paris in person: 2-4 days**

**Requirements:** Visit or learn about at least one underground site from each part of the information section and follow the instructions to complete the Metro quizzes at the end. The answer key is at the very end of this document.

Good luck!

## Paris Underground Information Section

### Part I - CRYPTS and CATACOMBS

#### a. Maison d'Ourscamp

44-46 rue François Miron, 75004 Paris, Metro: St Paul

<http://www.paris-historique.org/>

#### b. Archeological Crypt of the parvis of Notre Dame Cathedral

Place de Parvis Notre Dame, Ile de La Cité, 75004 Paris, Metro: Cité

<http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paris/hist/nd-crypt.html>

#### c. The Louvre (medieval Louvre)

Rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris, Metro: Palais Royal-Musée de Louvre

<http://www.louvre.fr/llv/commun/home.jsp?bmLocale=en> (search for medieval Louvre)

#### d. Basilica Saint Denis

93000 Saint Denis, Metro: Basilique de Saint-Denis

[www.monum.fr](http://www.monum.fr) and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_Denis\\_Basilica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Denis_Basilica)

#### e. Panthéon

Place du Panthéon, 75005 Paris, Metro: Maubert-Mutualité et Cardinal-Lemoine RER B:  
Luxembourg

[www.monum.fr](http://www.monum.fr)

<http://www.aviewoncities.com/paris/pantheon.htm>

#### f. Catacombes

1 place Denfert-Rochereau, 75014 Paris, Metro: Denfert-Rochereau, lines 4, 6 and RER B

<http://www.catacombes-de-paris.fr/english.htm>

#### g. Mémorial de la Déportation

Square de l'Île de France, Ile de la Cité, 75004, Paris, Metro: Cité

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial\\_de\\_la\\_Deportation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_de_la_Deportation)

## Paris Underground Information Section

### Part II - TRANSPORTATION

#### a. The Paris underground system of the Metro and the RER

<http://www.ratp.fr/>

<http://www.ratp.info/touristes/index.php?langue=en>

<http://www.paris.org/Metro/>

<http://metrorama.free.fr>

#### b. Maison de la RATP (in the lobby one can see restored metro wagons)

189 rue de Bercy, 75012 Paris, Metro: line 14, Gare de Lyon

#### c. The Canal Saint Martin

##### Canauxrama

13 quai de la Loire, 75019 Paris (consult their website for boarding points)

[http://www.canauxrama.com/e\\_index.html](http://www.canauxrama.com/e_index.html)

##### Paris-Canal

19-21 quai de la Loire, 75019 Paris (consult their website for boarding points)

<http://www.pariscanal.com/The-Seine-and-the-Canal-Saint>

### Part III - FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT AND SHOPPING

#### a. Carrousel du Louvre

Under the Louvre museum, Metro: Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre

<http://goparis.about.com/od/shopping/p/CarrouselLouvre.htm>

#### b. Forum des Halles

Metro: Châtelet-Les Halles, also RER A and B

<http://www.aviewoncities.com/paris/forumdeshalles.htm>

<http://www2.forumdesimages.fr/> (re-opened in December 2008)

#### c. Musée du vin

5-7 square Charles-Dickens, 5 rue des Eaux, 75016 Paris, Metro: Passy

[www.museedevinparis.com](http://www.museedevinparis.com)

## Paris Underground Information Section

### Part IV - WATER

#### a. Hôtel de Cluny

6 place Paul-Painlevé, Metro: Cluny-La Sorbonne

[http://www.musee-moyenage.fr/ang/homes/home\\_id20392\\_u112.htm](http://www.musee-moyenage.fr/ang/homes/home_id20392_u112.htm)

#### b. Fontaine des Innocents

Square des Innocents, 75001 Paris, Metro: Châtelet ou Les Halles, also RER A and B

<http://www.aviewoncities.com/paris/fontainedesinnocents.htm>

#### c. La Maison du Fontainier (open for monthly visits)

42, ave. de l'Observatoire, 75014, 01 48 87 74 31, RER B: Port Royal

<http://www.paris-historique.org/maison.php> (French)

#### d. Artesian Well

Square Lamartine, 193 avenue Victor-Hugo, 75016 Paris, Metro: Rue de la Pompe

#### e. Wallace Fountains

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wallace\\_fountains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wallace_fountains)

#### f. Reservoirs of water for modern Paris

For a virtual tour, go to these websites:

[http://www.paris-promenades.com/en/site\\_text/II-ii.htm](http://www.paris-promenades.com/en/site_text/II-ii.htm)

<http://catacombes.web.free.fr/Videos/ReservoirMontsouris.wmv>

#### g. Pavillon de L'Eau (educational exhibits for families)

77, avenue de Versailles, 75016 Paris, Metro: Mirabeau or RER C Javel

[www.pavillondeleau.fr](http://www.pavillondeleau.fr)

#### h. Eau de Paris (website to visit)

9, rue Victor Schoelcher, 75675 Paris 14

[www.eaudeparis.fr](http://www.eaudeparis.fr)

#### i. Musée des égouts (sewer museum)

Entrance opposite 93 Quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris, Metro : Alma-Marceau or RER C Pont d'Alma

<http://europeforvisitors.com/paris/articles/paris-sewers-museum.htm>

## Paris Underground Information Section – Part V

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### a. Bibliothèque François Mitterrand

Quai François-Mauriac, 75706 Paris Cedex 13, Metro: Bibliothèque François Mitterrand, line 14  
[www.bnf.fr](http://www.bnf.fr)

#### b. Parc du Buttes Chaumont

Metro: Buttes Chaumont or Botzaris

[http://www.v1.paris.fr/en/Visiting/gardens/parc\\_buttes\\_chaumont.asp](http://www.v1.paris.fr/en/Visiting/gardens/parc_buttes_chaumont.asp)

#### c. Piscine des Halles

Suzanne Berlioux Sports Center, 10 place de la Rotonde, Level -3, Forum des Halles

Metro: Châtelet-Les Halles, also RER A and B

<http://www.carilis.fr/centre/centre-sportif-suzanne-berlioux>

## Paris Underground Information Section – Part VI

### JUST FOR FUN

Try to watch some of the following films or listen to the suggested songs.

#### Suggested films:

- Le Fabuleux Destin d'Amélie Poulain : Canal St Martin and several Metro stations
- The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Disney : catacombes /la cour des miracles
- Phantom of the Opera : underground lake under the Opera
- Les Misérables : les égouts (sewers)
- Zazie dans le métro : the metro
- Les Gaspards (The Down in the Hole Gang) : underground Paris & catacombs
- Hôtel du Nord : canal St Martin

#### Songs :

- Les Miz, the musical
- Notre Dame de Paris, the musical
- Serge Gainsbourg : Le poinçonneur des Lilas (métro)
- Charles Trenet : Y'a d'la joie (Paris)
- Edith Piaf : Le Métro de Paris



## Paris Underground Quiz – Part I

I. Fill in the line numbers of the following Metro stations. [www.ratp.fr](http://www.ratp.fr)

Metro line name	Metro number
Vaneau	
Rome	
Cité	
Pyrénées	
Plaisance	
Riquet	
Danube	
Dupleix	
Saint Georges	
Wagram	
Eglise de Pantin	
Commerce	
Voltaire	
Cour Saint-Emilion	
Bérault	
Pelleport	

## Paris Underground Quiz – Part II

### Match the Metro stations with the clues on the right

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1) Abbesses                  | a) Vaccine against rabies                        |
| 2) Arts et Métiers           | b) Statues by Auguste Rodin                      |
| 3) Assemblée Nationale       | c) The history of Paris                          |
| 4) Bastille                  | d) The “father” of the Métro                     |
| 5) Cadet                     | e) Eurostar                                      |
| 6) Charles De Gaulle- Etoile | f) Potato plants                                 |
| 7) Châtelet- Les Halles      | g) Belgian monuments                             |
| 8) Cité                      | h) French Declaration of Human Rights            |
| 9) Cluny-la Sorbonne         | i) Wrote Les Misérables                          |
| 10) Concorde                 | j) Big ceramic reproductions of old French coins |
| 11) Franklin D. Roosevelt    | k) Copies of famous works of art                 |
| 12) Gare du Nord             | l) Phantom                                       |
| 13) Hôtel de Ville           | m) White tiles with green tile friezes           |
| 14) Invalides                | n) Events of the 20th century, decade by decade  |
| 15) Les Gobelins             | o) 50th anniversary of the 5th French republic   |
| 16) Liège                    | p) French Revolution                             |
| 17) Louvre-Rivoli            | q) The only station on an island                 |
| 18) Montparnasse-Bienvenüe   | r) The deepest station in Paris                  |
| 19) Opéra                    | s) World’s largest underground station           |
| 20) Parmentier               | t) U.S. president                                |
| 21) Pasteur                  | u) Mosaics: birds and 50 signatures on ceiling   |
| 22) Pont Neuf                | v) 12 streets come together here                 |
| 23) Sèvres-Babylone          | w) Jules Vernes submarine                        |
| 24) Tuileries                | x) Red, white and blue mosaic of La Fayette      |
| 25) Varenne                  | y) Tapestry manufacture                          |
| 26) Victor Hugo              | z) Napoleon’s tomb                               |



## **Paris Underground Quiz – Part III**

**Answer at least 15 questions. Try to answer more if you have time!**

- 1) Why were the quarries dug under Paris?
- 2) Are there bunkers under Paris?
- 3) Do they grow mushrooms (champignons de Paris) in the quarries?
- 4) What is the name of the underground river that empties into the Seine?
- 5) Is there really a lake under the Opéra de Paris?
- 6) The metro cars used to be red and green; what did the colors stand for?
- 7) When was the first metro put into operation?
- 8) What is the metro's full name?
- 9) Who designed the original « art nouveau » entrances?
- 10) In what cities can you find the « art nouveau » entrances now?
- 11) A unique entrance made of metal, glass and ceramic was built in the year 2000; on what line can you find it and what is its name?
- 12) What is the yearly/monthly pass called?
- 13) From which metro line can you see the Eiffel Tower?
- 14) How many languages can the yellow rabbit on metro doors speak?
- 15) How many metro lines are there in all?
- 16) What is a "station fantôme"? Give an example.





## **Paris Underground Quiz – Part III continued**

- 17) Which metro line is the most recent? What is its nickname? What is its particularity?
- 18) How are the sewer galleries cleaned?
- 19) How did the people use to visit the sewers?
- 20) When were the catacombs established? Why?
- 21) How are the bones arranged?
- 22) How deep underground are the Catacombs?
- 23) How long is the Canal St Martin? How many locks and swing bridges are there on it?
- 24) Who ordered the construction of the Canal St Martin?
- 25) What was first discovered in the archeological crypt under the "parvis" of Notre Dame Cathedral?
- 26) What are the dimensions of the archeological crypt of Notre Dame?
- 27) What is a "cataphile"?
- 28) Where are most of the Kings and Queens of France buried?
- 29) Where are many heroes of the French republic buried?
- 30) Where can you find a cellar with gothic arches and a well?
- 31) Where can you find the remains of a castle with a moat and drawbridge?
- 32) Who built the castle? Why?



## **Paris Underground Quiz – Part III continued**

- 33) Where can you learn about the method the Romans used to heat their houses?
- 34) What was the original site of Les Halles used for?
- 35) What does Eole stand for? Explain what Eole is.
- 36) Where can you find a monument with 200,000 lighted crystal points? What do they represent?
- 37) Where can you find the ruins of Roman baths?
- 38) What does the Fontaine des Innocents represent?
- 39) Name the 5 reservoirs of drinking water for Paris.
- 40) Name a water reservoir of Paris used in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 41) What are some other uses of Paris's old quarries?
- 42) Where can you find underground reading rooms with an underground forest?
- 43) Explain how the Parc de Buttes Chaumont was built.
- 44) Explain what a bell hole is ("cloche de fontis"); why can it be dangerous?
- 45) Explain the origin of the Wallace fountains.
- 46) List any underground sites in Paris that you know about and that are not mentioned in this quiz.



## Paris Underground Quiz – Part I **ANSWER KEY**

Fill in the line numbers of the following Metro stations. [www.ratp.fr](http://www.ratp.fr)

Metro line name	Metro number
Vaneau	10
Rome	2
Cité	4
Pyrénées	11
Plaisance	13
Riquet	7
Danube	7 bis
Dupleix	6
Saint Georges	12
Wagram	3
Eglise de Pantin	5
Commerce	8
Voltaire	9
Cour Saint-Emilion	14
Bérault	1
Pelleport	3 bis

## Paris Underground Quiz – Part II **ANSWER KEY**

Match the Metro stations with the clues on the right

1r 2w 3o 4p 5x 6v 7s 8q 9u 10h 11t 12e 13c 14z

15y 16g 17k 18d 19l 20f 21a 22j 23m 24n 25b 26i



## Paris Underground Quiz – Part III **ANSWER KEY**

- 1) To obtain limestone and gypsum to be used in construction
- 2) Yes, the Germans installed bunkers in an old quarry during World War II and the "Résistants" hid under the Place Denfert-Rochereau.
- 3) Not anymore but 100 years ago, they produced 25 tons of mushrooms per day. Today mushrooms are cultivated outside of Paris.
- 4) La Bièvre
- 5) It is not really a lake but a concrete basin that holds water because the Opera was built on marshy terrain.
- 6) Red: first class, Green: second class
- 7) The first metro starting running in 1900.
- 8) Métropolitain
- 9) Hector Guimard
- 10) There are still many such entrances left in Paris. There is an original one in Montreal and copies in Mexico City, Chicago, Lisbon, and Moscow.
- 11) The entrance is called the "Kiosque des Noctambules". It is on line 7, station Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre, near the Comédie Française.
- 12) Pass Navigo
- 13) On line 6, between Bir Hakeim and Passy
- 14) The yellow rabbit speaks 5 languages: French, English, German, Spanish and Italian.
- 15) There are 16 lines: 14 main lines and 2 extra lines (3bis and 7bis).
- 16) A "station fantôme" is a metro station which was built but never opened to the public for either historical or commercial reasons. Porte Molitor/Murat is one of them; it was supposed to open near the Parc des Princes stadium.
- 17) Line 14 is the most recent; it opened in 1998. It is also called Météor. It is completely automatic and has no driver.



**18) By rolling a large wooden ball to force the water down the siphons under the Seine. The workers also use sluice carts and sluice boats to flush the water through the sewers.**

**19) By boat. Since 1972, people can visit only certain parts of the sewers by foot on special walkways. For health reasons the boats are no longer used for the public.**

**20) The Catacombs were established at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century when the cemetery of the Holy Innocents, one of the largest cemeteries in Paris was closed for public health reasons. The bones from this cemetery and many others were moved to the abandoned Tombe-Issoire quarry.**

**21) The long bones and skulls are arranged in neat rows to form walls. Behind these walls the other bones are piled in a jumble. The catacombs hold the remains of an estimated 6 million Parisiens.**

**22) The Catacombs are 50 meters deep.**

**23) The Canal St Martin is 4.5 km long. It has 9 locks and 2 swing bridges.**

**24) Napoleon ordered the construction of the Canal St Martin; it opened in 1825.**

**25) Gallo-Roman vestiges, medieval cellars and foundations of streets and buildings were discovered in the crypt under the parvis of Notre Dame.**

**26) The crypt of Notre Dame is 117 meters long by 28 meters wide.**

**27) "Cataphile" is a French word to designate someone who likes to explore the quarries that are closed to the public in areas forbidden by the police (because they are very dangerous).**

**28) In the crypt of the Basilica of Saint Denis**

**29) In the crypt of the Panthéon**

**30) In the Maison d'Ourscamp**

**31) Under the Cour Carrée of the Louvre museum**



- 32) Philippe Auguste built it to protect Paris from the English.
- 33) In the archeological crypt under the Parvis of Notre Dame
- 34) It was the original food market for Paris.
- 35) Est-Ouest-Liaison-Express. It is the part of the RER line E between Gare Saint-Lazare and Gare du Nord which was opened in 1999. It was one of the France's largest underground construction sites.
- 36) In the "Mémorial de la Déportation". The crystal points represent the 200,000 people deported from France to the Nazi camps
- 37) Hôtel de Cluny
- 38) It stands on the site of the old cemetery of the Holy Innocents.
- 39) Ménilmontant, l'Haÿ-les-Roses, Montsouris, St Cloud and Les Lilas.
- 40) Maison du fontainier
- 41) Some of Paris's quarries were also used to age cheeses or for wine cellars.
- 42) Bibliothèque François Mitterrand
- 43) It was built over abandoned gypsum quarries. This accounts for its steep hills and grottos.
- 44) A bell hole is an area where the ceiling of a quarry starts to fall down. If it is not reinforced it can cave in and cause the houses built over it to collapse.
- 45) In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Sir Richard Wallace financed the building of the fountains to allow poor people free access to drinking water.
- 46)

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