

Fun facts about the Eiffel Tower

- ❑ It was designed by Gustave Eiffel, a French engineer who specialized in metallic buildings.
- ❑ It was built as the entrance arch for the World's Fair of 1889. People from all of the world used to visit the World's Fair, which would be held in a different country each time.
- ❑ Its nickname is "la dame de fer" which is French for "the iron lady."
- ❑ Part of the architectural purpose of the Eiffel Tower was to show that iron could be as strong as stone while being much lighter. Iron had just become a popular building material at that time and architects and engineers wanted to demonstrate its usefulness.
- ❑ It also celebrated the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution.
- ❑ 132 workers and 50 engineers took 2 years, 2 months and 5 days to build it. They used carts drawn by horses and steam locomotives to carry materials.
- ❑ The Eiffel Tower was built as a temporary 20-year structure and was almost demolished after 20 years. Instead it was saved to be used as a telecommunications tower. Now it has become one of the most famous buildings in the world.
- ❑ Nearly 7 million people from all over the world visit the Eiffel Tower each year.
- ❑ It is 1,063 feet tall, about the same height as an 81-story building, and almost as tall as Chicago's John Hancock building.
- ❑ The tower has 18,000 metal parts held together with 2,500,000 rivets.
- ❑ You have to walk up 1,665 stairs if you want to walk up the three levels to the top.
- ❑ There are 5 elevators in the Eiffel Tower.
- ❑ The tower has 2 restaurants, a champagne bar and several snack bars.
- ❑ At certain times of year, you can ice skate in the Eiffel Tower.