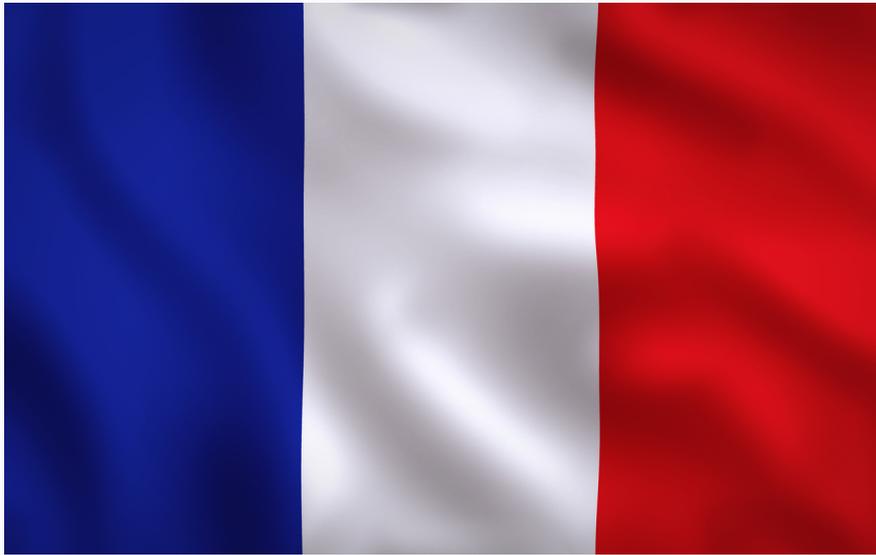# FLAG FACTS

- Under the ancien régime, France had a great number of flags, and many of its military and naval flags were elaborate and subject to artistic variations. The ancien régime, also known as the Old Regime, was the political and social system of the Kingdom of France from the Late Middle Ages until the French Revolution starting in 1789, which abolished the feudal system of the French nobility and hereditary monarchy.

- Known as the "Le drapeau tricolore" (French Tricolor), the present flag of France has three equal vertical bands of blue, white, and red. These three colors are intricately linked to the history of France. While the color white represents the Bourbon monarchy, and the red and blue are the colors of the city of Paris.

- Designed by the famous revolutionary painter Jacques-Louis David, the flag of France was adopted on February 15, 1794, by the French National Convention.

- The French flag as we know today has been uninterruptedly used as the country's national flag since 1794 except for a brief period (1814-1830) when the Bourbon monarchy returned to power after the defeat of Napoleon in Battle of Waterloo in 1815. During this period the white flag was once again used.

- The tricolor was restored by Louis-Philippe, who ascended the throne in 1830 after the overthrow of the Bourbon monarchy in yet another revolution. The left or hoist side of the flag of France has a stripe in blue, the center stripe is white, and the right-side stripe is red.

- The present colors of the French flag were in the opposite order when they were first adopted in 1790, Blue used to be on the right and red used to be on the left. It was in 1794 that the colors were reversed to the order we find in the modern French flag by the then French revolutionary government.

- The blue on France's flag has been reverted to its original shade of navy to honor the French Revolution. The change was initiated by President Emmanuel Macron in 2021, when flags featuring its new navy shade were hoisted up at the presidential palace. The blue shade was originally changed to a lighter blue in 1976 to match the EU flag.