

FRENCH CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES FOR CARMEN SANDIEGO EPISODES

SEASON 1, EPISODE 1, Parts 1 and 2: "Becoming Carmen Sandiego"

Carmen Sandiego™ reminisces about her early days with VILE Academy, where she enrolled as a young girl to learn the ways of a superthief. In the episode, she visits Poitiers and Paris, France, as well as Casablanca, Morocco.

Discover Poitiers! / Découvre Poitiers!

In Part 1 of "Becoming Carmen Sandiego", Carmen is in Poitiers, France. First, have students tell what city in France Carmen is in. Then have them use French-speaking sites to find information about the city. They should find out the following information: its location in the country, the region it is part of, its current population, three things to do there, two churches, two museums, and two other landmarks. In class, ask the following questions and have volunteers take turns answering them:

1. **Où est Poitiers?** (*dans l'ouest de la France*)
2. **Dans quelle région de France se trouve Poitiers?** (*en Nouvelle-Aquitaine*)
3. **Quelle est sa population actuelle?** (*89.000 habitants environ*)
4. **Qu'est-ce qu'on peut faire à Poitiers?** (*Possible answers: On peut visiter beaucoup d'églises médiévales, le musée Sainte-Croix, le parc floral de la Roseraie, le Futuroscope et la Vallée des singes. On peut voir les vestiges gallo-romains au parc de Blossac et marcher dans les rues pittoresques de la ville.*)
5. **Quelles églises se trouvent à Poitiers?** (*Possible answers: les églises Notre-Dame-la-Grande, Saint-Hilaire-le-Grand, Sainte-Radegonde, Saint-Porchaire, Saint-Jean-de-Montierneuf, Saint-Germain, Saint-Sylvain, la cathédrale Saint-Pierre*)
6. **Quels musées?** (*Possible answers: les musées Sainte-Croix, Rupert de Chièvres, l'hypogée des Dunes, le baptistère Saint-Jean, la Collection d'histoire naturelle*)
7. **Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres sites intéressants à Poitiers?** (*Possible answers: le parc floral de la Roseraie, le Futuroscope, la Vallée des singes, le parc de Blossac, le Palais de justice*)





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What Church Is It? / C'est quelle église?

Early on in Part 1 of "Becoming Carmen Sandiego", Agent Argent says, "Poitiers is rich with medieval history. Perhaps she is targeting a priceless antique or a cultural artifact from one of its many churches."

Have students research medieval churches in Poitiers, France. Encourage them to search French-speaking sites. You might suggest the keywords **églises médiévales de Poitiers** to start their search.

1. Have students list as many medieval churches as possible.
2. Ask students to choose one church and note important details about it, including its style, when it was built, and where it is located in the city. Have them include details that distinguish this church from others.
3. Have students use their notes to write a brief presentation in French.
4. Have several volunteers present the church of their choice to the class.
5. Ask them which Poitiers site Carmen mentions in Part 1. (*la cathédrale Saint-Pierre*)





Which Museum in Poitiers? / Quel musée de Poitiers?

In Part 1 of "Becoming Carmen Sandiego", Carmen is in Poitiers, France. Her goal is to steal the "Eye of Vishnu," an enormous diamond supposedly found in one of the city's museums. Have students research various museums in Poitiers to find out which one would most likely host what Carmen is after. Have students report their results in French and explain why they think the diamond could be found at the museum they picked.



To learn more about Carmen Sandiego, visit hmhco.com/carmen.

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