Game booklet

France-Germany Exhibition

This exhibition gives you the chance to find out all about relations between France and Germany during the second half of the 19th century.

To start your visit, go to the walkway, then join the beginning of the exhibition.

In 1866, an important battle took place during the war between the Kingdom of Prussia and the Austrian Empire, and their allies. One month after the Prussian victory, Otto von Bismarck created the North German Confederation made up of twenty-two German states under the leadership of the King of Prussia, William I.

Watch out for the uhlan!

Stand close enough to the cavalryman to observe every detail. His medal commemorates the famous victory of Prussia and its allies.

1- Decipher his name below.

ä = ❋ ; e = ✺ ; f = ❄ ; g = ✳ ; i = ✴ ; k = ⬤ ; n = ✭ ;
ö = ❑ ; r = ▮ ; t = ▼ ; z = ◆

⬤ ❑ ✭ ✴ ✳ ✳ ▮ ❋ ▼ ◆

– – – – – – – – – –

Crowned eagle holding a cannon in its claws

Laurel wreath symbolising victory

Lance 2.78 metres long

© Paris, musée de l'Armée, Dist. RMN-GP © Pascal Segrette

The Prussian prime minister, Otto von Bismarck, wanted to create a unified German state that would be a major European power like the United Kingdom, France, Austria-Hungary and Russia. His goal was to weaken France at a time when Napoleon III was dealing with political and social crises. Napoleon III's army had also just suffered a military setback during the Mexican expedition (1862-1867). Bismarck created tensions that forced the French Emperor to declare war on Prussia in 1870.

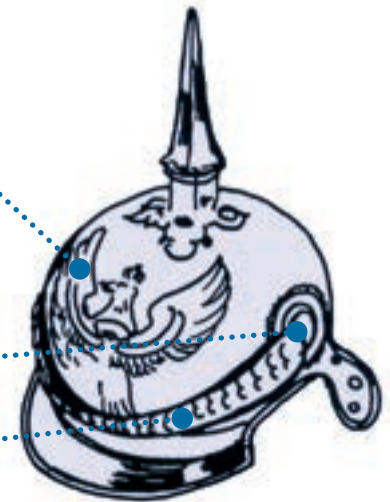**Go to the spiked helmets.**

Impressive *Pickelhaube**

Prussian infantrymen – foot soldiers – began wearing spiked helmets in 1842. The new helmet was made of boiled leather covered in a black lacquer and fitted with a metal spike to deflect the blow of a sword. Most German troops during the 1870-1871 Franco-German war wore helmets like this.

* *Pickel* means a pick, referring to the spike, and *Haube* means hood, referring to the helmet.

Identification tag with the state, regiment and rank

The cockade colours also identified states, regiments and ranks

Chin strap for keeping the helmet in place

2- **Compare the helmets on display behind the window with the following details and cross out the helmet that is not a spiked helmet.**

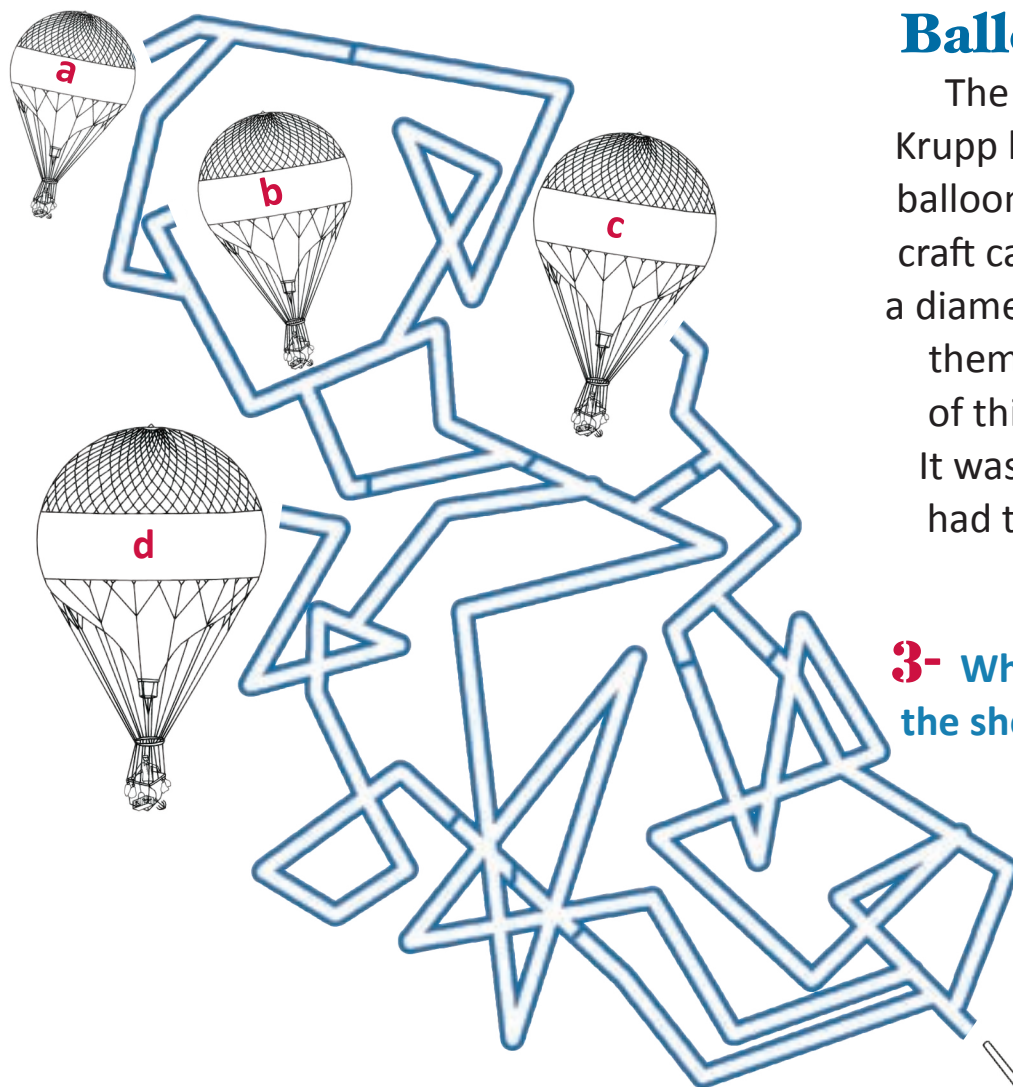**a- Grand Duchy of Baden**   **b- Kingdom of Prussia**   **c- Duchy of Brunswick**

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When the war broke out, the southern German states allied with the North German Confederation to fight against France. On 2 September 1870, Napoleon III recognised that he was defeated and surrendered after the Battle of Sedan, but the war continued. German troops headed for Paris and surrounded the city: this was the beginning of the siege of Paris.

By air and water

Look at the basket of the Volta balloon built during the siege of Paris. It is one of the 70 balloons used to carry letters quickly. The balloons flew above the city's fortifications and the German troops who besieged the city from 20 September 1870 to 28 January 1871.
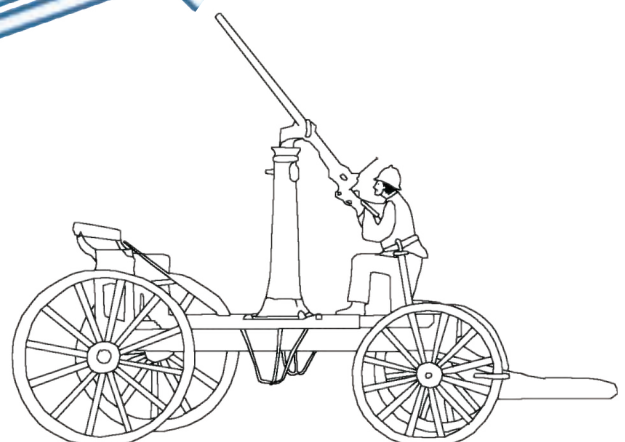
Balloon vs. cannon

The German manufacturer Krupp built the first ever anti-balloon weapon. The anti-air-craft cannon firing shells with a diameter of 39 mm is one of them. Only twenty cannons of this type were produced. It was not very effective and had trouble hitting balloons flying at altitude.

3- **Which balloon was hit by the shell fired by the cannon below?**

As you know, a projectile fired by cannon usually follows a slightly curved trajectory. In those days, a projectile could not track its target's movements like some missiles today can.

Dangerous crossing

Find this photo in the exhibition. The bridge was certainly destroyed by the French to delay the German invasion during the conflict, then also repaired by the French. The bombardment of the bridge prevented trains from crossing and so slowed down supplies of men, horses and equipment. You can see that the bridge is still being repaired, but that the work has progressed enough for a train to pose for the photographer.

4- Circle the 7 differences on the copy above.

Saint-Côme Bridge over the Loire. View of the broken arches on the right bank by photographer Gabriel Blaise

After the fall of the Second Empire, the new French Republic, which took the name of 'Government of National Defence,' reorganised the armed forces.

Go to the second exhibition room.

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The Franco-German armistice* was agreed on 28 January 1871 between the Government of National Defence and the German Imperial Government. It put an end to the fighting in the Franco-German war. In Versailles, where the Prussian General Staff had its headquarters and the German Empire was proclaimed, the armistice was signed by Bismarck for Germany and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jules Favre, for France. Then on 26 February, Bismarck and Adolphe Thiers, chief of the French Executive, signed a preliminary peace settlement that brought the war to an end.

> ***** **Armistice :** agreement signed by several governments to put a stop to hostilities between armies during times of war

Making fun of the war

The cartoon below is making fun of two members of the French government, Adolphe Thiers and Jules Favre.

5- **Link each caption below to the drawing.**

LES PRUSSIENS DE VERSAILLES

Bombardez, mes

Bon-hommes rira bien qui rira le dernier.

Charles Louis de Frondat Musée d'art et d'histoire – Saint-Denis © Irène Andréani

Jules Favre, holding a brush used to clean the inside of the cannon, is leaning on it like on a sceptre.

He wears a white band round his neck and a long black gown that refers to his training as a lawyer.

Both Frenchmen are wearing Prussian helmets with spikes that are too long.

The cartoon is not realistic, because it is very dangerous to lean on a cannon or stand behind it when it is being fired.

Adolphe Thiers is shown as a small man wearing glasses, with a big belly on top of skinny legs. He has a large revolver in his belt, making him look like a cowboy.

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After the peace treaty was signed in 1871, Alsace and Lorraine, two French regions lying on the border with Germany, were annexed; in other words, they became part of Germany. The people of Alsace and Lorraine took Germany nationality, unless they asked to keep their French nationality.

Making fun of the enemy

Use the detail opposite to find a humorous nutcracker made by a Frenchman to poke fun at the enemy.

6- **Circle the figure below who is being caricatured on the nutcracker.**

© Gravelotte, musée départemental de la Guerre de 1870 et de l'Annexion Studio Doncourt

a- William I

b- Napoleon III

c- Bismarck

Carry on with your visit and stand in front of the painting by Maximilien Luce.

Some Parisians did not accept that the fighting was over. They rebelled against the French government and proclaimed the Paris Commune: this was the beginning of a civil war, when French people fought each other.

The Bloody Week: 21 to 28 May 1871

The Bloody Week marked the end of the Paris Commune. Painter Maximilien Luce created this work in about 1904, in memory of the week, when a large number of rebels were killed.

The figure of the dead woman stands for all the civilian victims of the fighting. Her clenched fists show her fragility.
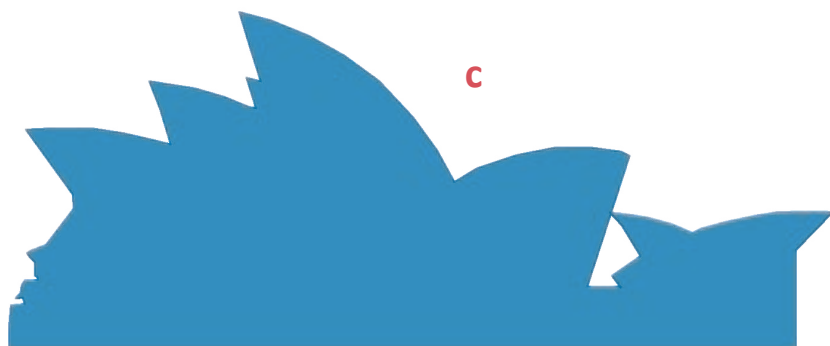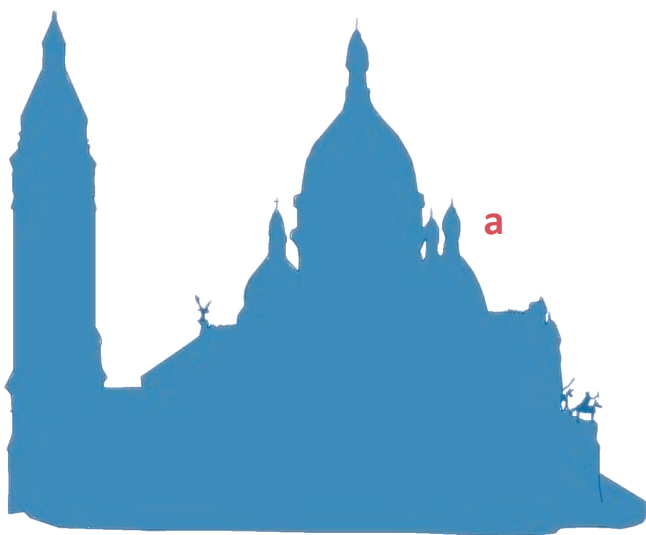
© RMN-Grand Palais (musée d'Orsay) / Hervé Lewandowski

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The soldiers in blue uniforms with red stripes are the Federates: soldiers fighting for the Commune.

The artist shows us a street in Paris where the shops are shut because of the events taking place. Some of them have been damaged.

7- **Observe the detail on the right and solve the following riddle:**

I'm the only living creature in the painting and superstitious people think of me as a bad omen. **Who am I?**

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Paris in flames

© Bayerisches Armeenmuseum Ingolstadt (Foto: Christian Stoye)

The city of Paris was badly damaged by the fighting: the government bombarded the city, and the Federates preferred to set fire to symbolic monuments rather than leave them in the hands of their enemies.

8- **Note down the name of one of the monuments of Paris by observing the map opposite.**

The _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

❈❈❈❈❈◆ ★❈◆ ●★❈❈▼❈◆

This palace built by Queen Catherine de' Medici in the 16th century was used by Napoleon III as an imperial residence.

a = ❀ ; d = ✪ ; e = ❆ ; h = ❄ ; i = ❅ ;
l = ❋ ; o = ❏ ; p = ▮ ; r = ▼ ; s = ◆ ;
t = ● ; u = ✳ ; v = ▲

Remembrance in the city

After the Franco-German war and the Paris Commune, the Third Republic government, in the interests of reconciliation, decided to rebuild certain Parisian monuments, while others were left in ruins for many years. The Sacré-Cœur basilica on the hill of Montmartre in the 18th arrondissement was built on the basis of a national vow « to put an end to the misfortunes of France ».

9- **Find which of the following shadows corresponds to the Sacré-Cœur and circle it.** **Clue: look closely at the photographs in the last part of the exhibition.**

a

b

c

Réponses : 1- Königgrätz ; 2- c ; 3- d ; 6- c ; 7- the black cat ; 8- The Tuileries Palace ; 9- a.

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