

La Toussaint

- On our first day back after the October Half term, which happened to fall on Hallowe'en, I wanted to reference this well known holiday in my French lesson.
- Last year I had done a whole lesson on 'La Toussaint' in France but this year I thought more broadly and felt it was a great opportunity to learn about how another Francophonie culture marked this day.
- I looked into various different countries and settled on the celebrations which take place in French Polynesia.
- I started the lesson by explaining how All Saints Day is marked there but I also thought it was important that children understood where French Polynesia was and learnt more about its culture. I included a map, the flag, some facts and pictures as well as listening to a traditional 'himene' (hymn) which may be sung on special occasions such as All Saints Day.
- The children really enjoyed the opportunity to learn about a different culture through different media and spoke about it for several weeks after.

Bonne fête de Toussaint!

Traditions in Francophonie countries

French Polynesia:

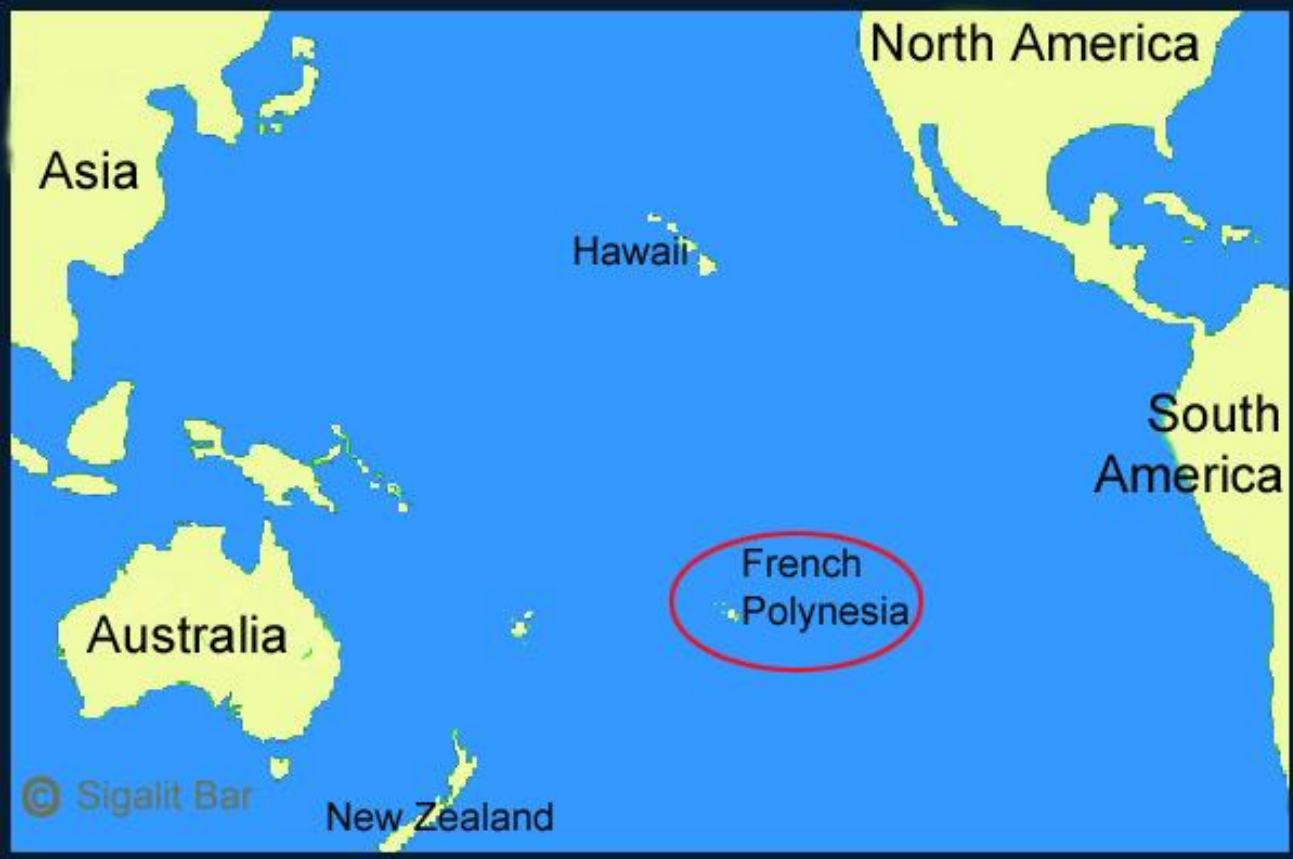
- Cemeteries are decorated with hundreds of thousands of white flowers.
- In the evening, candles are lit up forming a kind of luminous halo
- Families sing the religious song the Himene.





Himene = hymn





Made up of 121 islands in the South Pacific Ocean

Main language: French



Des bonbons ou un sort?

What do you think this might mean?

What are they doing in the picture?

Trick or treat?

Translates to:
Sweets or a spell?



Try this tonight if you go trick or treating! Hopefully, you get des bonbons and not un sort!