

Paris

Paris is the capital of France, and one of the largest cities in Europe. It has been one of the most important cities in the history of the western world.

The first permanent settlement was built by the Romans. It first became a capital city under the Franks, but in the 800s suffered raids by Vikings who sailed up the River Seine. One Viking leader held the entire city for ransom.

Paris became a centre of learning and culture, but also became the site of the French Revolution, where the people deposed their king.

During the Second World War, the German commander in Paris was ordered by Adolf Hitler to destroy the city and all its historic monuments when the Germans retreated, but he refused to do it, earning the title "Saviour of Paris".

Paris today remains one of the most culturally and architecturally impressive cities in all of Europe.



Population: 10,413,386