

Let's explore pétanque!

Teacher's guide

Introduction:

Target Audience: Levels 1-4, AP, IB

Class Time: 60-90 minutes

Objective: Students understand the origins and rules of pétanque and actively

participate in a speaking or gameplay activity.

- Materials Needed: -

- Video: "Comment jouer a la pétanque | French Class Activity | Forum by Prométour"
- Student handout
- Computer + projector + speakers
- Pétanque set (or DIY alternative) 1 set for every 6 students
- Open space (gym, yard, or empty classroom area)

Lesson plan:

Stage	Time	Activity Description
Warm-up	5 min	Brainstorm: "What French sports do you know?"
First viewing	5 min	Watch the video (no subtitles)
Comprehension	20-25 min	Complete student handout individually
Second Viewing	5 min	Watch again with subtitles and correct your mistakes
Speaking Activity	10-15 min	Role-play: player & journalist
Gameplay (optional)	15-30 min	Pétanque match using classroom set or DIY set
Wrap-up	5 min	What did you learn? What surprised you?





-Instructions for the role-play activity:

Form pairs: One student plays a pétanque player, the other is a sports journalist.

Give them 2–3 minutes to prepare their roles (you can provide a short guide or role cards with details such as a fictional first name, age, team, performance in the match, emotions, etc.).

The player talks about their match, their experience, and their impressions.

The journalist asks questions such as:

- Why do you play pétanque?
- · How long have you been playing?
- How did the match go?
- What was your favorite moment?
- Do you have a strategy?

Tip: Encourage students to use expressions they heard in the video (e.g., pointer, tirer, cochonnet, bonne mène, c'était serré!).

Option: Ask a few pairs to perform their scene in front of the class.

Student Handout Answer key: -

Activity 1: After watching the video, answer the questions below, using complete sentences.

1. What is pétanque?

Pétanque is a French game where you throw metal balls to get close to a small ball.

2. Where and when was it invented?

It was invented in the south of France in 1907.

3. What does "pétanque" mean?

"Pétangue" means "feet together" in the Provençal language.

4. How many players can be on a team?

You can play one against one, two against two, or three against three.

- 5. How many points are needed to win a game of pétanque? You need 13 points to win.
- 6. What is a "cochonnet"?

The cochonnet is the small wooden ball you try to get your ball close to.





Activity 2: Read the words below, then choose the letter that matches the correct definition (a, b, c, d, or e).

WORDS:

- 1) Boule → a **b** c d e f
- 2) Cochonnet → a b c d e f
- 3) Mene \rightarrow a b **c** d e f
- 4) Triplette \rightarrow a b c **d** e f
- 5) Pieds plantés → a b c d **e** f

DEFINITIONS:

- a) Little ball that gets tossed first
- b) Circular object that players toss to earn points
- c) Round of play in pétanque
- d) Match with 3 players versus 3
- e) Phrase that means you keep your feet still when throwing

Activity 3: Circle your answer and explain why you chose it:

- 1. Pétanque originated in the northern part of France : TRUE **FALSE** *Pétanque originated in La Ciotat, in the south of France.*
- 2. Each players always has 3 balls : TRUE **FALSE**In tete a tete and in doublette each player had 3 balls but in triplettes, each player has 2 balls.
- 3. The jack must be thrown exactly 10 meters from the circle: TRUE **FALSE**The jack must be thrown between 6 and 10 meters from the circle.
- 4. Ideally, petanque is played on grass : TRUE **FALSE** *Ideally pétanque is played on gravel.*
- 5. Pétanque was invented in 1852 : TRUE **FALSE** *Pétanque was invented in 1907.*

