



A scavenger hunt to explore the city of Flers
WITH YOUR FAMILY OR YOUR FRIENDS



EXPERIENCE FULLY FLERS AGGLO!











And many other outdoor activities!



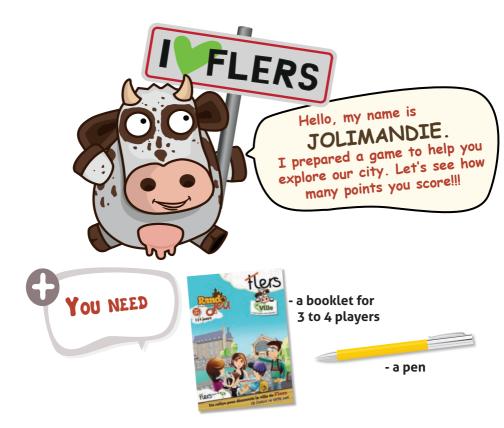






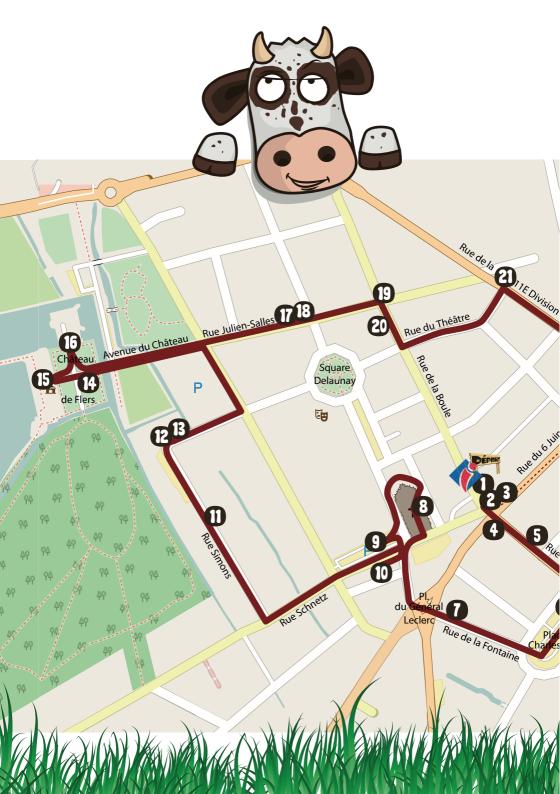


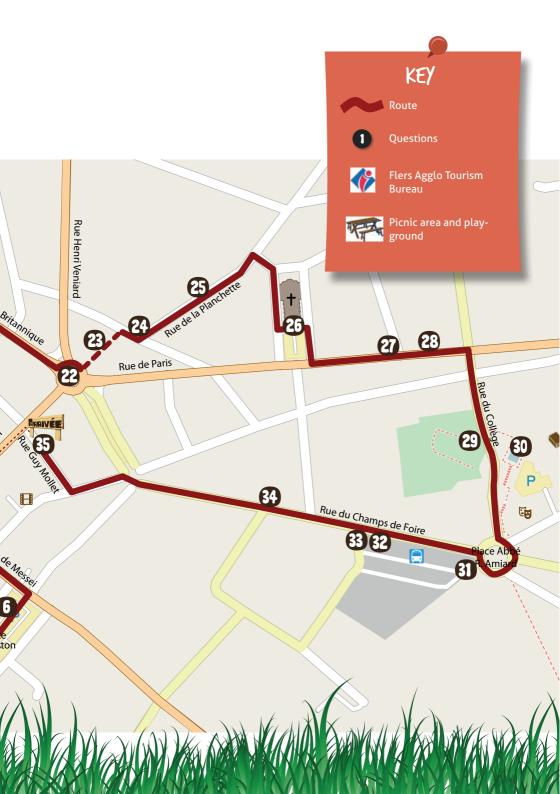




A FEW TIPS ?







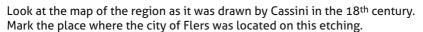


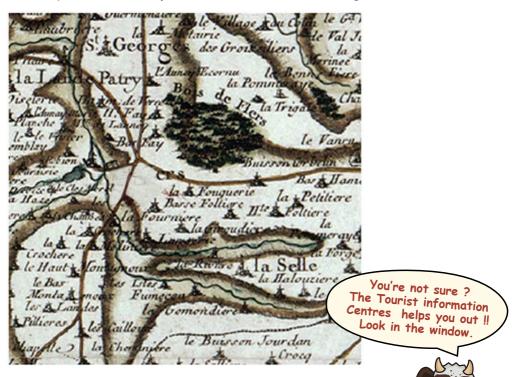
In which region is Flers located?





Question 2









collection Jacques Seigneur-Lemaître

The city of Flers was bombed by U.S. forces on June 6, 1944 in order to slow down the advance of German reinforcements on the D-Day beaches. As you probably saw, many of Flers' building date from after the war. Under the direction of architect Pierre Boulanger followed by Pierre Communal, reconstruction turned toward a modern Flers rather than try to recreate what was there before.





Question 3

What is the date of the groundbreaking ceremony marking the beginning of reconstruction?

In Roman	nun	nera	ls :									
In plain numbers :												

Data on the June 6, 1944 bombing: 98 inhabitants killed, 854 houses destroyed, 1,200 buildings damaged, 1,191 families lost everything, 720 families lost many of their belongings.



Question 4

From this crossroad, you can recognize buildings dating from reconstruction, all built in the same style, plain, straight providing comfort and light. In Flers, many balconies and railings were crafted by a metal worker named Pierre Hodiesne (1910-1987). He was a son of the city and received numerous awards.





Do you really need a hint? Look closely, which window is really different?



A

В

C



A bas-relief on a façade reminds you that an old and famous establishment stood here. It was patronized by textile brokers from the whole region. What kind of establishment was it?

a) a forge

b) a relay inn

c) a salt cellar

Question 6





This rather large square has greatly changed.



Answer true or false.

a) In the 19th century, this is where the Corn Exchanges stood

FALSE TRUE

b) Charleston and Dijon are two of Flers' sister cities

FALSE TRUE

c) Their relationship with Flers dates from the early 20th century **TRUE**

FALSE

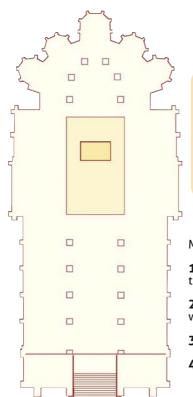




The name of this street reflects a legend. Please fill in the blanks!

In the 5th century, the bishop of Auxerre, _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (380-448) went through the town while evangilising. Highly sensitive to the living conditions of farmers, he had a _ _ _ _ _ _ gush forth. Much later, a _ _ _ _ _ was built by the side of the road. This road as well as the neighbouring church were named after this saint. The water was said to have the power to heal the _ _ _ _ and disabled. Every year, the inhabitants of Flers would decorate the place with flowers and have a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ . Since reconstruction the

water can no longer be seen, as it was channelled to the Vère River.





Question 8

Saint Germain Church was built in 1922 following the demographic boom of 1880 which was due to the growth of the textile industry; it replaced a previous church which was too small and dilapidated. The spires that had been planned as well as the ornaments of the three tympanums of the facade never materialized for lack of resources.

Mark on the following map:

- 1 The place which shows the largest impact of the 1944 shelling
- **2-** The magnificent Jean Chaudeurge rose window. He was born and bred in Flers.
- 3- The chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Flers
- 4- The Marcel Callo Chapel





She used to live on this square, worked at the Banque de France and unbeknownst to her parents she was an outstanding hero during World War II. She died of exhaustion in Ravensbruck where she had been deported. She wrote the following: "Oh my beloved parents, forgive me for having thought about my country before thinking of you". Who was she?

Question 10





Please fill in the blanks:

Built in $___$, in the "Baltard" style, the red brick and white stone market
building was a very lively place. At the turn of the 20th century, shopkeepers,
farmers and house-hold wives conducted business there daily because there were
no ! Funny detail, Flers inhabitants christened a nearby
street Pissing Women Street.
What is its French name ? « ».

Question 11



Nowadays, market days are on Wednesdays and Saturdays.



On the rue Simons, you pass by one of Flers's well known buildings: la Petite A (the Little A). The Association Amicale des anciens élèves (alumni association) of Flers' secular schools was founded in 1900. The current building was erected in 1932 and in 1937 and 1938, it sheltered Spanish republican refugees. What is the name of the architect who built it?

a) Louis Amiard
b) Gustave Eiffel
c) Leonardo da Vinci

Today it houses an archery team, a photography club, and tea dances and other events are regularly hosted in it.





Which facility is located on the side of the Vère River?



Don't be shy!

Get closer, look, you can even enter if it's open!



- | | | |



Question 13

This facility has found a new life since 2015. Answer true or false.

a) Flers Agglo transformed it into a child care facility	TRUE	FALSE
b) Flers Agglo has opened it to the inhabitants who want to work there	TRUE	FALSE
c) Flers Agglo organizes meetings and workshops pertaining to new technologies.	TRUE	FALSE





Now go and discover the favorite location of Flers' inhabitants and admire the outstanding landscape chosen by the Lords of Grosparmy for their residence. One of the lords was Ange-Hyacinthe de la Motte-Ango.



Indicate on this map:

- 1 The gate which was used as the castle's main entrance until the 20th century
- 2 The main entrance to Town Hall housed on these premises since the turn of the 20th century
- 3 The monument erected as a tribute to Jules Gévelot
- 4 The castle's sun dial

Continue your exploration.

Have you seen the city's coat of arms?

Look at it closely, it might be useful later!!





This is an enchanting site, isn' it? As you daydream on the bank of the lake, please find the dates that correspond to 3 major events in the castle's history:

a) At this location, a modest building made of stones belonged to the Aunou family. It was half-timbered and surrounded by a moat with interesting defenses
b) At this location Nicolas III de Grosparmy built the east wing of the castle with the revenue form the Halouze forge. Legend tells us that he also used the proceeds from his alchemical research
c) Large alleys and ponds showcase the estate whose north-south wing, front steps and gate are the finishing touches

For this game, children will have an advantage!

As tradition would have it, the castle's foundation dates back to the 11th or 12th century. Probably built on a fortified mound, it consists of a main building built of wood and stone without any military value.



If you are interested in learning about the history of the castle and of the museum, check Flers Virtuel and Flers Chateau.

In the 16th century the alchemists Nicolas de Grosparmy, Nicolas Valois and Pierre de Vitecoq worked in this castle. They supposedly succeeded in changing metal into gold. This gold enabled Nicolas de Grosparmy to build the castle's right wing along with both of its towers. They left 70 manuscripts describing their secrets.

The truth is quite different: their economic endeavours, such as mining, allowed them

The truth is quite different: their economic endeavours, such as mining, allowed them to amass a large fortune.





Focus your attention on the oldest part of the castle, used today for the museum. Look closely at the picture below, there are 4 errors when you compare it to the building in front of you. Circle these errors.

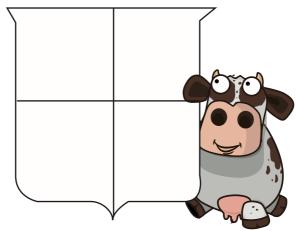


Question 17





Now go back to town to the ruins of the Institution Sainte Marie. This private school played an important role in the town for 150 years. Draw the escutcheon of this school and circle the part corresponding to Flers's coat of arms.







Let's study the Institution Sainte Marie closer. What is true? What is false?

a) Established in 1843, it was the first all girl school of Flers. **TRUE FALSE**

b) During WWII, it became a military hospital. TRUE FALSE

c) It became coeducational in 1960 accepting both boys and girls TRUE FALSE

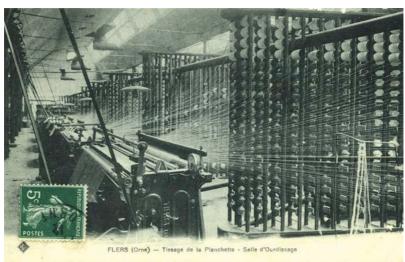




Question 19

With the textile industry, prosperity came to Flers in the 19th and 20th centuries. A major spinning mill was located near the Institution Sainte Marie. In what year was the building erected?





The weaving industry here is very old, Flers's weavers used wool, hemp and linen until the arrival of coton - imported from the United States - which took centre stage starting in 1820.

The glory years of the city were around 1880 when it counted 14 000 inhabitants compared to 3 400 in 1820! Labourers worked either at the spinning mill or at home to supplement their income from field work. Flers's spinning mills shut down once and for all in 1986.





A few weavers' cottages remain in this street. What make them special? True or false.

a) Because of loom sizes the houses were spacious

FALSE TRUE

b) Very large windows made it possible to benefit from sunlight

FALSE TRUE

c) Looms were kept in the basement as humidity prevented threads **TRUE** from breaking

FALSE

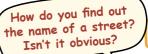


From the Ancien Regime (15th century to the later part of the 18th century) to the early part of the 19th century, the inhabitants did their weaving at home in addition to their regular jobs. Weavers worked for a manufacturer and received the warp and the weft from them. They were paid by the piece. Weaving apprenticeship was done at home and the weaver's craft was transmited from one generation to another.

Question 21



What is the former name of the rue de la 11e Division Blindée britannique (11th British Armoured Division), the division that liberated Flers in 1944?

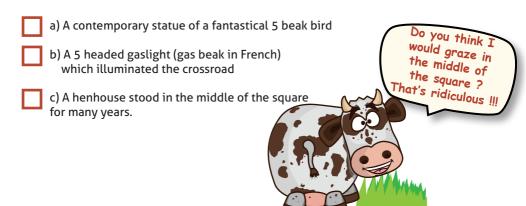








This square is nicknamed "5 beak square". Why?

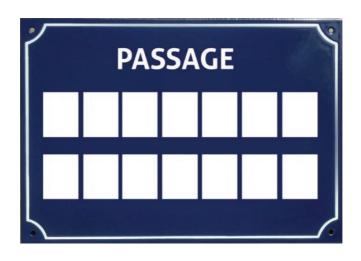






This WWI veteran refused to leave the city and rushed to find several victims in the evening of June 6, 1944 as the bombs fell on Flers. He was wearing his WWI helmet and his Red Cross armband. With his team, he retrieved 57 victims and gave them a decent burial.

Who was this individual?







The rue de la Planchette (Little Board Street) leads to the industrial area. Where do you think it gets its name?

a) This is where the little boards used to stabilize looms were sawed off

b) It is the name of a tool used to light a mine

c) From a board used to cross a brook that no longer exist



Question 25





The large houses in this street, saved from bombing, testify to the industrial wealth of Flers's inhabitants. In remarkable alignment, most were built by the Amiard familly (father and son) around 1870. They also designed the former post office, the theatre, the Dieufit estate as well as many other buildings.

Please find on which house each of these details apppears and write their house number under each photo.







A

8

C





Built for the inhabitants of the upper part of the city, adorned with a neo-Roman porch and a neo-Gothic bell tower, this church was built in the $19^{\rm th}$ century as part of the expansion of the northern part of the city.

Please find the 4 errors that appear on this photography of Saint Jean Church.







Do you like to eat ? You came to the right place as you are now in the food business neighbourhood! Flers has two specialities:

- *The gousset flérien*: a piece of beef cut open on one side, stuffed and closed up with a little wooden marble.

- The bec flérien: puff pastry similar to a turnover. In your opinion, what is a Bec Flérien stuffed with:



b) Pear and chocolate

c) Apple and rhubarb





The Bec Flérien or Bec de Flers is a typically local speciality. It is a puffed pastry stuffed with a mixture of apple and rhubarb. To be enjoyed slightly lukewarm. Flers's gastronomy brotherhood was born during a gastronomical exhibition in 1987 because of a dish invented by the city food craftsmen, namely Le Gousset Flérien. The brotherhood competition takes place on the 3 Sunday in September.

Question 28





This industry made Flers famous and helped equip many cities. Look closely, you may encounter their products while on your journey. What is the name of this company?

				_					
]				



Built by François Liger in 1854 for Eugène Gallet, an industrialist, this residence stands out because of its architecture. The property was bought by Joseph Duhazé, an industrialist from Flers. He greatly renovated it and added two small wings. Would you be able to recognize the Duhazé castle among these 3 photographies?





C

The city bought the property for 445,000 francs in 1974 and made it available to the city's various associations.







Rome Reward for French artists !? Go figure !!

Study the following words, all are linked to this place but 3: which ones?

Make a circle around them!





Behind the wall of the Saint Thomas d'Aquin junior school you can see the outline of the Chapelle du Souvenir (Remembrance Chapel). It was built in 1926 and consecrated 1932 in memory of all who died during WWI. It is a good example of its period with its plentiful decoration inside. To which of the 3 styles shown below does it belong?







Today this chapel is used daily by the pupils of the junior school and is opened to the public on the first Sunday of every month.

•



Question 32

Used for a long time for various events and shows, the Champ de Foire (Fair Grounds) is filled with stories. Let's take advantage of this very straight road to tell you two stories. When the Mars Circus came to town in 1892 a tragic accident happened. During taming practice, Mr. and Mrs. Mars were attacked by the animals and they died of their injuries. They were buried in the Flers cemetery and circus people began visiting their grave to pay their respects.

Which animals killed them?









In 1905, a memorable event took place on the Champ de Foire when the William Frederick Cody show came to town. Brought by 2 trains, the company included 350 horses and 500 people. The event attracted more than 20,000 people! From all over Normandy and farther away!

Under what name is W. F. CODY known?

a) Buffalo Bill

b) Lucky Luke

c) Billy the Kid

Question 34



In this street you can see a white house which is not a typical house for the city. It housed the Cercle de Flers (Flers's circle) established in 1843.

What was the purpose of this Cercle de Flers?

- a) An exercise club for women
- b) A business and relaxation centre for industrialists
- c) A charitable organisation helping the very poor





Look for the building which first was used as a post office. It was built by Henri Amiard. Its façade is very attractive with its adorned white stones. Luckily it survived the bombings. Let's see, true or false?

a) It was inaugurated in 1897	TRUE	FALSE
b) The Coat of arms of Normandy with its two leopards can be seen on its façade	TRUE	FALSE
c) Allegorical paintings depict industry on the left and weaving on the right	TRUE	FALSE



Thanks to:

The team of Flers Promotion for the books Flers le château, Flers à tous les coins de rue, Flers, the archives and the multimedia library of Flers Agglo Couleurs textiles en Normandie, Flers Agglo Museum, Baptiste, Hugues Ménès, Sébastien Marie, etc, all the weavers and art casters.



To continue exploring and learn about my city, 2 apps:

Flers Virtuel:

from the 19^{th} century until today. It shows you Flers before the 1944 bombings.

Flers Château:

an application about the castle's history and the museum collections.

If you get a chance, go on a treasure hunt with your family.







Available in printed booklets, on your **smartphone** or **tablet**:

- Treasure Hunt for 7-13 years old
- Treasure Hunt for all ages in French
- Treasure Hunt for all ages in English









Your Treasure Hunt

The object of the game is to look for clues, information and secret codes using the map to answer questions, solve puzzles and explore the heart of the city of Flers.

On your journey, you will travel through Flers where old structures (large houses and weavers' colages) stand next to buildings dating from after the war, homes of people who experienced its history. The castle is the city's crowning jewel located in a breathtaking and verdant landscape surrounded by beautiful ponds. A good time to stop for a picnic or a snack.

Flers Agglo Tourism Bureau

4, place du Docteur-Vayssières 61100 Flers 02 33 65 06 75

accueil@flerstourime.fr www.flerstourisme.fr

Hours:

Mon: closed morning / 14:00 - 18:00 Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9:30 - 12:30 /14:00 - 18:00

Wed: 9:30 - 13:00 / 14:00 - 18:00 Sat: 9:30 - 13:00 / 14:00 - 17:00



Treasure Hunt for All Ages



Up to 2 hours (3.7 km)



Free access, some places not open 24hrs a day (churches, Tourism Bureau)



Handicap and stroller accessible





Easy walking outside around city hall near automobile traffic



Other treasure hunts?

Baie du Cotentin, Ste Mère-Eglise-Carentan, Seigneurs de Bellême et ducs d'Alençon, Bellême & La Perrière, Le Mans, Honfleur, Le Havre, Cherbourg, Saint-Pair-sur-Mer, Nantes, Saint-Malo, Senlis, Paris, Pays de Carcassonne...

And more...



