

The terrorist attacks in Paris

You have very probably heard of the terrible events that left at least 129 people dead and hundreds injured in Paris. Astrapi helps you to understand.

What happened?

On the evening of Friday 13th November, **men full of hatred** killed innocent people. Three explosions went off near the Stade de France football stadium, where a match was being played. Then there were several gun attacks in Paris, in the 10th and the 11th *arrondissements*. The men who carried out these attacks had been preparing them for a long time.

They shot people in the streets and people sitting outside cafés with military weapons. They also shot people in a concert hall. They killed a total of 129 people and injured many.

Seven of the terrorists who committed these atrocities died the same night.



Since this terrible and violent event, **children and adults have been asking lots of questions.** Why did the terrorists kill innocent people? Who are these terrorists? Should we be afraid? Why is everybody talking about the tragedy so much? And what can we do?

"I haven't seen any images, and I prefer it this way because I think that I'd see horrible things. I just want to understand why they did what they did."

Noé, age 10

"Is it true that France is at war?"

Julie, age 8

"Can the terrorists get into my house?"

Antoine, age 7

Who are the killers?

While the police carry out their investigations, we still do not know everything about these killers. What we do know is that they **are terrorists**.

They use violence and terror to impose their views.

And they are ready to die for this.

These terrorist attacks were carried out by "Islamic extremists". They say that they are acting in the name of their religion, Islam, and want to force their way of thinking on the world.

But these ultra-violent extremists have nothing to do with the majority of Muslims, who live their faith peacefully.



"I'm scared of terrorism!"

"But terrorists are even more scared of freedom!"

What should we do?

When we are faced with such a difficult event, we don't know how to react. The first thing we feel is fear. To get rid of this fear, we must talk about it. Adults are also in shock, but they have understood that we must not give in to fear, we must not be scared. Whether you live in Paris or elsewhere, your home and your school are safe. The best way to react to the violence of the past few days **is to continue to live normally and to defend your ideas with respect to others.**



To express their sadness and show their support for the victims, people are sharing this drawing called "Peace for Paris" (Paix pour Paris).

Why did they attack France?

The terrorists attacked France **because it is a free country, where everybody can say what they think and live as they choose.**

The terrorists say they want revenge because the French Army, like other armies, is at war with Islamic extremists in countries like Syria and Iraq.

By killing people in the street and in a concert hall, **the terrorists want to scare everyone so that each person thinks "that could have been me..."**. The French President and all of France's security forces reacted immediately to make sure the population was safe.

