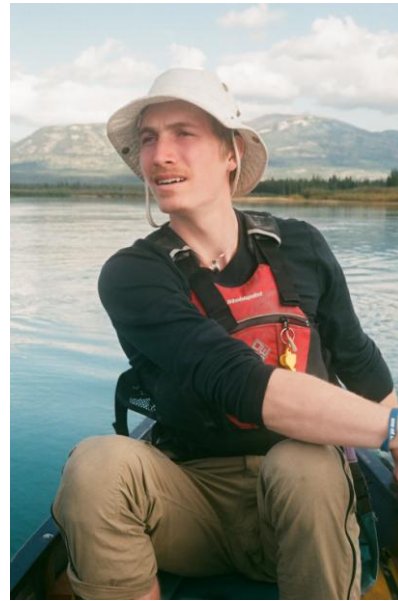




Interview of Terence TURENNE
our Canadian teaching assistant
School year 2020-2021
By the students in 1G7



HELLO!

L. : Can you introduce yourself briefly ?

Terence : Sure, my name is Terence, I am from Canada, specifically I'm from Vancouver on the west coast of Canada.

J. : Why did you choose France ?

Terence : Hum... there is two big reasons I chose to come to France. The biggest reason is that I want to become a French teacher, back in Canada, so I wanted to practice speaking French, so living in a French speaking environment and, having the opportunity to work in a school. Those are the biggest reasons.

A. : What first surprised you when you came to France ?

Terence : I'd say the biggest surprise for me was the difference between how people treat the pandemic. In Canada, people are a lot more conscious, of social distancing or physical distancing, whereas in France, people are all crammed together on the buses and they don't really respect physical distancing as much in public spaces.

Glenn : Did you integrate easily in France? And are the French people nice?

Terence : Ok, so two questions here. I think I did integrate pretty easily in France because I speak French, so I didn't have issues with the language... But... it was difficult to really make a lot of friends and make connections because of COVID, it was not easy to meet people very easily.

But are the French people nice? Yes, I think it's kind of a negative stereotype that French people are rude, but all of the French people that I've interacted with have been very nice and polite, especially my colleagues and students at the school.

O. : What is your favourite French word or sentence ?

Terence : This is a good question. I think my favourite French expression I guess is: “Du coup”. If I’m saying that correctly “Du coup euh, bon bah”... how you start your sentences. I’ve added this to start a lot of my sentences because we don’t say that in Canada. So, “du coup” is my favourite sentence or word.

L. : What is for you the most difficult French word to say ?

Terence : For me, the most difficult word is “AFFICHAG-E”, “affichage”, yeah, it’s the “ch” sound and the “g” together that are difficult.

Alexandre : Do you like French cuisine? And which dish is your favorite?

Terence : Well, I'm vegan, so I don't eat meat or fish or cheese or dairy products, so I don't eat a lot of French cuisine to be honest. I'd say my favourite dish... I like pastries. I know they're not vegan, but you can make vegan pastries that are pretty good.

Paul N. : Even with the pandemic and travel restrictions, were you able to visit Paris? And if so, which monument or place did you find the most interesting?

Terence : I did visit Paris in the beginning of this school year, before the restrictions were too bad, when the museums, restaurants were still open. So, during that time, I think the most interesting place for me was the War Museum, I guess, where they have Napoleon's tomb. That was pretty cool, looking at all the big monuments and stuff in the War Museum.

Léonie : What do you think about French teaching ? What are the pros and cons of the French way of teaching in comparison with the Canadian way of teaching ?

Terence : I think in France the teachers are a lot more... strict with their students. They 're this kind of... Yeah, they are more direct with their students than Canadian teachers are and I think one of the pros of that is that the students tend to listen and stay on task very easily. One of the cons is that sometimes I think that the students don't really know their teachers very well, they don't have a strong connection with their teachers as Canadian students do with their teachers. I feel like there is a big separation in France between the students and the teachers compared to Canada. Yeah...

Léonie : Where would you like to live (which country) later ?

Terence : Good question from Léonie. My next place that I want to live is... maybe a Spanish- speaking country, so that I can really learn Spanish. Somewhere in South America, because I haven’t been there before. So maybe... let’s say Peru or Chile, so I can learn Spanish in South America. That would be next on my list.

J. : What are you going to do when you leave France ?

Terence : I'm going to go back to university for eleven months to complete my teaching certificate, so that I can become certified to become a school teacher in Canada . So, that will start when I go home.

THANK YOU, TERENCE!