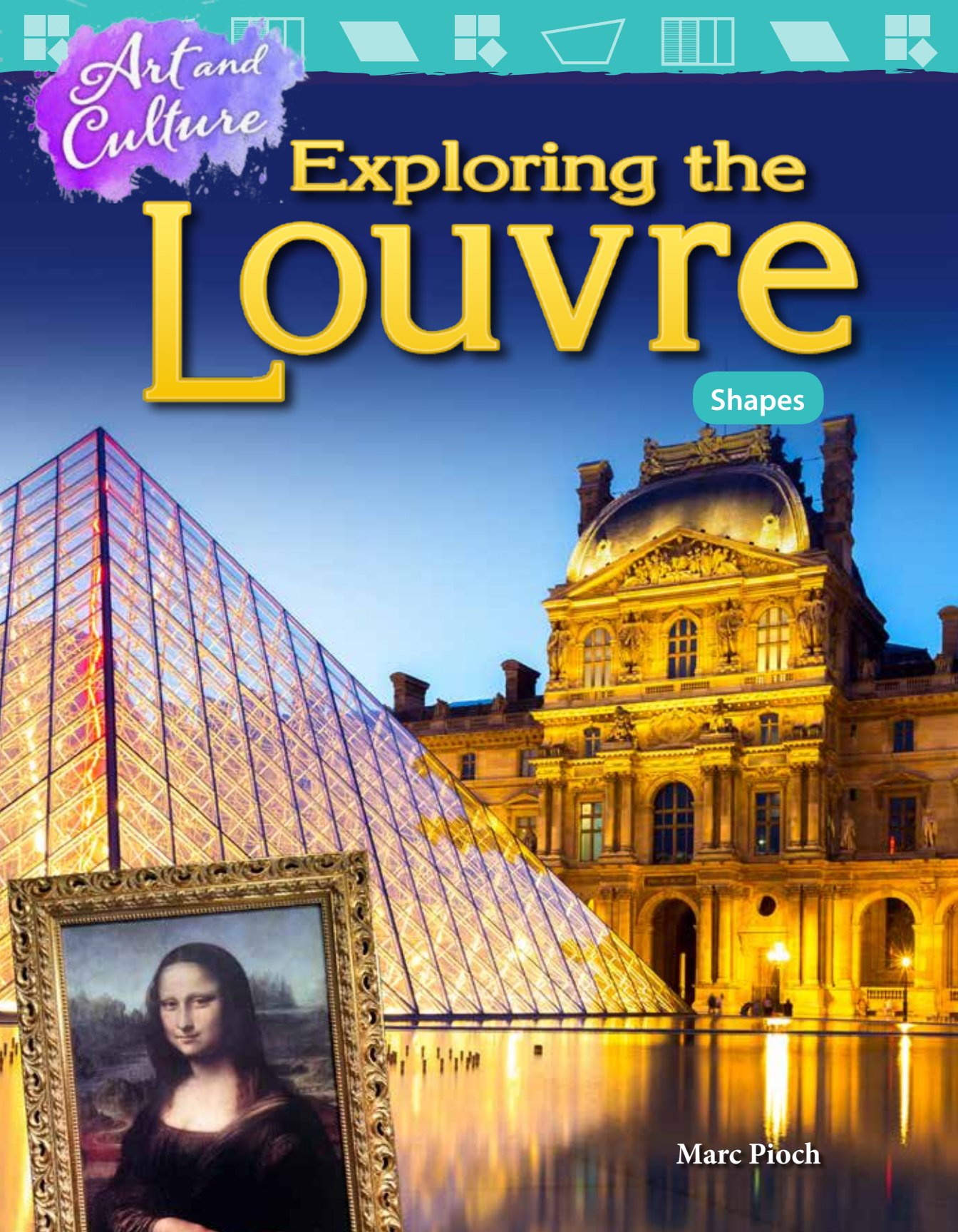
Art and Culture

Exploring the Louvre

Shapes



Marc Pioch

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Welcome to the Louvre

Paris, France, is known as the "City of Light." It is also known as home to one of the biggest museums in the world. Visitors can't miss the Louvre (LOOV). It is a huge sixteenth-century **palace** on the right bank of the River Seine (SEN). It has four glass pyramids in front of it.



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The outside of the Louvre is not the only unique part. The inside awes guests, too. It is home to many well-known works of art. It takes a lot of people to keep the Louvre up and running. Its two thousand staff members share facts about the museum and its art. And, they help to take care of all the artwork. That is vital at a place like the Louvre. Over eight million guests go to the Louvre each year!



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Making of a Museum

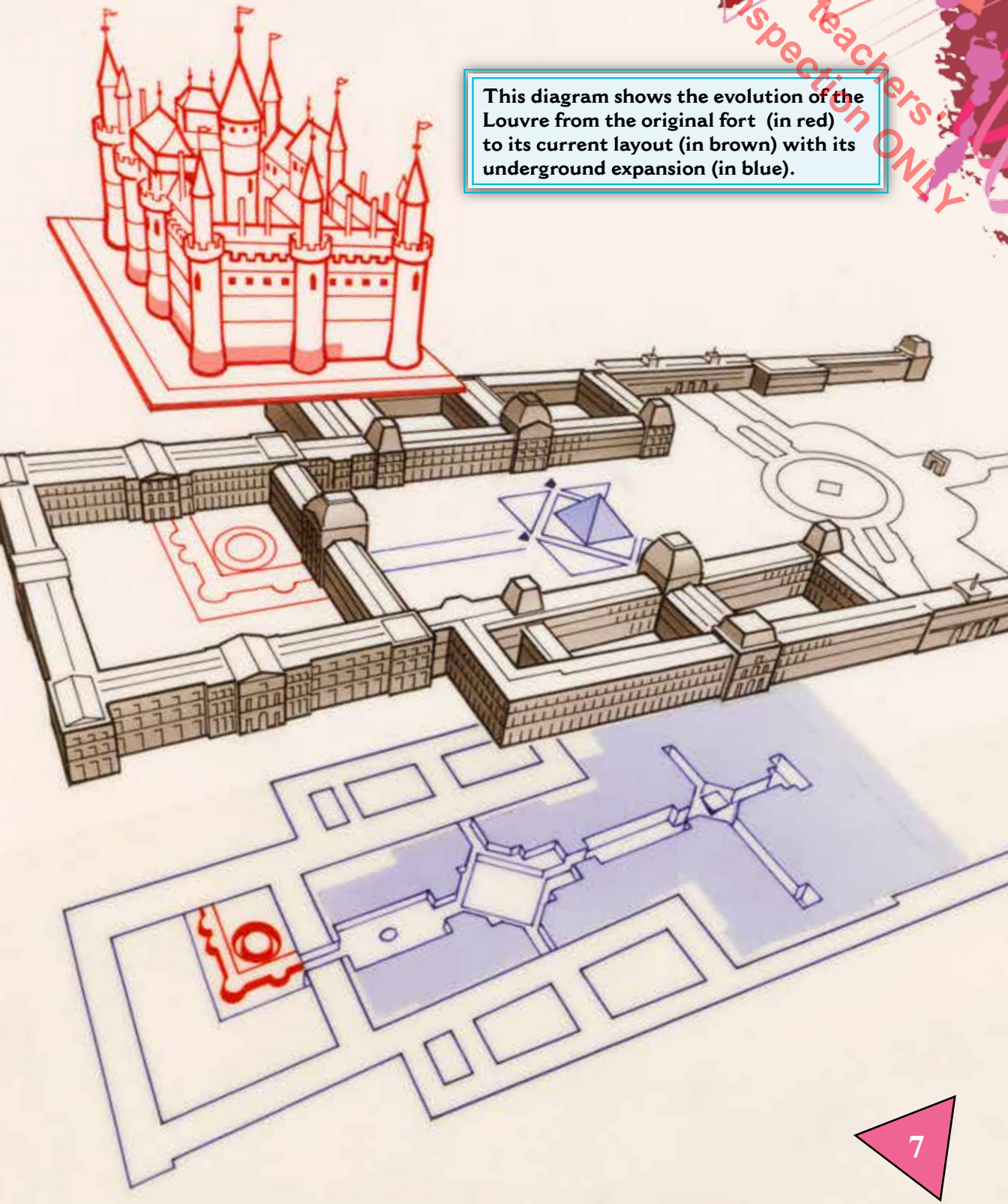
The Louvre, as we know it, has been around for over two hundred years. But, it wasn't always open to the public. And, it wasn't always a museum. In 1190, King Philip II built a fort where the Louvre would someday stand. He thought the fort would help guard Paris. Later kings used it as their Paris palace. In 1546, King Francis I tore down the fort. He thought it looked old. So, he built a new home. He called it the Louvre.

Then, in 1682, King Louis XIV moved his court out of Paris. The Louvre was empty for years. But then, artists went to live and work there. In 1789, a new **government**, without kings and queens, came to power. They liked the art at the Louvre and added more. The new museum opened its doors four years later. It housed more than five hundred pieces of art.



medieval foundations of the Louvre

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This diagram shows the evolution of the Louvre from the original fort (in red) to its current layout (in brown) with its underground expansion (in blue).

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The museum grew over the years until it became one of the biggest in the world. So, how big is "big"? It is bigger than 11 American football fields. And it has over seven hundred times the amount of art as it did when it opened.

With so much artwork, some division can be helpful. The Louvre is divided a few ways. There are four floors. It is also split into the "Old Louvre" and the "New Louvre." The Old Louvre gets a lot of visitors. It shows some of the most famous works of art. The New Louvre is more modern. All guests must see at least a little bit of the New Louvre. After all, that's where the main entrance is found.



the Louvre in 1622

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the Louvre today

LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Imagine that this rectangle is one level of the Louvre. Show at least two ways to divide it into two equal-sized parts, or halves.