



The Treaty of Versailles is signed
(Source: wikipedia)

Problem of the Week

Problem B and Solution

A 'Prime' Trip

Problem

November 11, 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. In the city of Versailles, France, people gathered to watch the signing of the treaty which ended the war. The Prime Minister of Canada wanted to go to the 100th anniversary ceremony. He asked grade 5 students to suggest a creative way for him to get from his home in Ottawa to the ceremony in Versailles. Of the suggestions received, the Prime Minister considered the following itinerary: take a limousine from his home at 1 Sussex Drive in Ottawa to the Ottawa Central Station; then take a bus from there to the Greyhound bus station at 610 Bay Street in Toronto; then take a taxi to Union Station in Toronto; then take the 27.3 km trip on the Union Pearson Express train to Toronto Pearson International Airport; then fly from Toronto to Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris, France; then fly by helicopter to Versailles (landing at Forêt Domaniale de Louveciennes); and finally take a taxi to the monument at the Palace of Versailles where the ceremony is to be held. If the Prime Minister actually followed this plan, how many kilometres did he travel in total to get to the ceremony?

For information on the distances, consider using the websites

<https://maps.google.com> ; <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/distance.html>

Solution

Answers will vary, depending on the sources used for the different segments of the trip. Remember, this total distance will be approximate. The Google maps website was used for all distances except for the flight from Toronto, Ontario to Paris, France.

According to our sources, the distances covered by the Prime Minister will be as follows:

- a limousine from his home at 1 Sussex Drive in Ottawa to the Ottawa Central Station, 5.8 km;
- a bus to the Greyhound bus station on 610 Bay Street in Toronto, 448 km;
- a taxi to Union Station in Toronto, 1.8 km;
- the Union Pearson Express train to Toronto Pearson International Airport, 27.3 km;
- flight from Toronto to Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris, France, 6 018 km;
- flight by helicopter to Versailles, 43 km;
- a taxi to the monument where the ceremony is to be held, 10 km.

Therefore, the Prime Minister will travel the sum of these distances, approximately 6 554 km, in total. It would probably be reasonable to say that the trip is between 6 500 km and 6 600 km.

