The first written records for the history of France appeared in the Iron Age. What is now France made up the bulk of the region known to the Romans as Gaul. Roman writers noted the presence of three main ethno-linguistic groups in Gaul under the Roman Empire, the most obvious cultural evolution in Gaul being the Romanization of the region. Roman literature, particularly the works of Virgil and Ovid, had a significant impact on the development of French literature. The influence of Roman authors continued to be felt long after the fall of the Roman Empire.

In the Middle Ages, French literature began to take shape, with works such as the Roman de la Rose and the Roman de la Rue. These works were written in French, and the language continued to develop and evolve over time. By the Renaissance, French literature was flourishing, with works such as the Oeuvres de Charles d'Orléans and the Poésies de Charles d'Orléans. These works were written in the vernacular, and they helped to establish French as a language of literature.

During the Renaissance and Reformation, French literature continued to grow and develop, with works such as La Grande Chronique de France and the Roman de la Rose. These works were written in French, and they continued to influence the development of the language. By the Modern Period, French literature was well-established, with works such as the Miserere and the Roman de la Rose. These works were written in French, and they continued to influence the development of the language.

In the Modern Period, French literature continued to develop, with works such as the Miserere and the Roman de la Rose. These works were written in French, and they continued to influence the development of the language. By the 18th and 19th centuries, French literature was in its prime, with works such as the Miserere and the Roman de la Rose. These works were written in French, and they continued to influence the development of the language. Today, French literature is still a vibrant and influential part of the cultural landscape, with works such as the Miserere and the Roman de la Rose.