

TEACHER'S NOTES

ACTIVITY 1A. Language trivia

In this activity, students will...

- Reflect on the fact that monolingual societies are not the norm but the exception.
- Become aware of the nature of languages as “living organisms” in constant evolution, rather than as “static objects”.

ESTIMATED
TIME



30 MIN

How to use this resource

- | | | |
|----------------|---|------------|
| STAGE 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Ask your students to form groups of two or three and answer the quiz, either on printouts or on an electronic device (mobile phone, tablet or computer). · OPTION 1 – Software: if you are using Socrative, start a “space race” with the quiz “EYLBID’s language trivia” (available under https://b.socrative.com/teacher/#import-quiz/63019192). Once you begin the race, you will be able to monitor the teams' progress in your Results tab. You can project your screen so the students can follow their progress too and see which teams score highest and win the race. · OPTION 2 – Printouts: give each group a copy of the quiz and let them work through it. | 15' |
| STAGE 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Go through every question with your students and discuss the answers. Let them share other examples involving languages they know with the group. You can also give them the additional information provided, if you wish. | 10' |
| STAGE 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Which group got the highest score? If you have used printouts, ask the students to calculate their scores and share them with the class. · Present the winning team with their language trivia awards. | 5' |

Prep time suggestions

- If you are working with printouts, print out a copy of the quiz for each group.
- If you are using software, make sure your students have an electronic device with internet access. Familiarise yourself with Socrative and its space race function. There is a step-by-step tutorial on Socrative’s support page: <https://help.socrative.com/en/articles/2155306-deliver-a-space-race>.
- Print out some language trivia awards (see below) to present to the winning team at the end of the activity.
- Read chapter 1 of the Teacher’s Book *Inclusion, Diversity and Communication Across Cultures*, available online (<https://pagines.uab.cat/eylbid/en/content/teachers-book>), for extra background information on the topic of languages and multilingualism.

LANGUAGE FAMILIES

1. Which of the following languages does NOT belong to the Romance language family?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romanian | <input type="checkbox"/> Luxemburgish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sardinian | <input type="checkbox"/> Galician |

2. Which of these pairs comprises two related languages?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swahili and Afrikaans | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese and Japanese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arabic and Turkish | <input type="checkbox"/> Lao and Thai |

LANGUAGE CODIFICATION

3. Which of the following languages are written from right to left?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arabic | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hebraic | <input type="checkbox"/> Turkish |

4. Which of the following languages are written in Latin characters?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arabic | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Polish | <input type="checkbox"/> Russian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turkish | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese |

A WORLD OF LANGUAGES

5. Which of the following is NOT an official language of Switzerland?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> French | <input type="checkbox"/> Swedish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> German | <input type="checkbox"/> Italian |

6. Which language has the greatest number of native speakers (nearly a billion) in the world?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cantonese Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> English |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hindi | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandarin Chinese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish | |



A WORLD OF LANGUAGES

7. All over the world, language diversity is the norm, not the exception. The languages in the table below have been awarded official or co-official status in different countries. Match the countries in the table with their (co-)official languages, but be careful! Some languages have an official status in more than one country.

GERMANY

Scottish Gaelic
Friulian
Catalan
Welsh
Slovene
Ladin

SPAIN

Franco-Provençal
Occitan
French
Sardinian
Upper Sorbian and Lower Sorbian
Aranese
North Frisian and Saterland Frisian

UNITED KINGDOM

German
Catalan
Italian
Basque
English
Galician
German

ITALY

Albanian
Greek
Low German or Low Saxon
Croatian
Spanish
Scots
Danish

LANGUAGES IN CONTINUOUS MOVEMENT

8. Languages are living organisms that continually evolve and influence each other. From which languages do the “international” words in the table below originate? Match each word with the language it originally comes from.

Shampoo	Finnish
Iceberg	Nahuatl
Garage	Hindi (derived, in turn, from Sanskrit)
Tomato	Japanese or Chinese
Robot	Dutch
Sauna	Maori
Goulash	French
Soy	Hungarian
Kiwi	Czech

9. What would you call the shoes that you wear to do sports? Match the terms in the table below with the countries in which they are used.

Takkies	Australia, Canada, Scotland, Ireland
Trainers	USA
Sneakers	England
Runners	Wales
Daps	South Africa

10. Languages evolve over time. Match the words on the left in the table below with their original meanings.

Awful	Peasant / farmer
Pastor	Foolish
Crafty	Left
Sinister	Shepherd
Girl	Blissful / blessed
Silly	Strong
Nice	Any young person
Villain	Inspiring wonder or fear