

Comparing European Languages:

Germanic, Romance, & Slavic
Language Families

Bonjour!

Ciao!

¡Hola!

Hallo!

здравствуйте!

Teachers:

Print off the following 6 slides and post them around the room. The students will need to travel to each poster to read it and guess what language is used.

1

Hallo! Ich bin froh
dass Sie in meiner
Gemeinschaftskund
e-Klasse sind. Auf
Wiedersehen!

2

Olá! Estou contente
de que você esteja
na minha classe de
Estudos Social.

Adeus!

3

¡Hola! Me alegro de
que usted esté en
mi clase de Estudios
Social. ¡Hasta la
vista!

4

Здравствуйте! Я рад,
что Вы находитесь в
моем классе
Общественных наук.
До свидания!

5

Bonjour! Je suis
heureux que vous
soyez dans ma
classe de Sciences
humaines. Au revoir!

6

Ciao! Sono
contento che tu sia
nella mia classe
Studi Sociali.
Arrivederci!

Teachers:

Print off the following slide and give each student a copy. The students will first travel around the room and read the language poster, guessing the language of the poster. At the end of the discussion, the students will classify the posters by language family.

Guess the European Language!

Your Task: Travel around the room and visit each language poster. See if you can guess which language it is written in. After we discuss the *European Languages* PowerPoint, try to group the language posters based on their language families. Finally, can you guess what the posters are saying??

- Language Guess Choices: Spanish, German, Russian, French, Italian, Portuguese
- Language Family Choices: Slavic, Romance, Germanic

| Poster | Language Guess | Language Family |
|--------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | | |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |
| 4. | | |
| 5. | | |

What do you think the posters are saying?

Language Posters

Let's see if you guessed correctly!

1. German
2. Portuguese
3. Spanish
4. Russian
5. French
6. Italian

What Did They Say?

Hello! I'm glad that you're in my Social Studies class.
Goodbye!



Teachers:

Print off the following slide, cut out, and give each student a Question Strip. The students should glue the strip into their notebooks and write the answers on this notebook lines beside each question. All of the answers can be found in the presentation.

What are the three main language families in Europe?

What have Europeans done to try to solve the problem of so many languages?

In what way are the German and English languages alike?

Which languages come from the language of the ancient Roman Empire?

Which European language has the largest number of native speakers?

What is a problem caused by many languages spoken in the same country?

What are the three main language families in Europe?

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Which European language has the largest number of native speakers?

What is a problem caused by many languages spoken in the same country?

European Languages

- Europe is home to more than 200 native languages!
- Most European languages are in 3 main language families (or categories):
 - Germanic,
 - Romance, &
 - Slavic

Members of the Indo-European Language Family



Germanic Language Family

- Has the most native speakers
- Most live in northwest and central Europe
- English & German are part of this family
 - About 20% of Europeans speak one of these two languages
- Most Europeans learn English as a 2nd language in their schools

Romance Language Family

- Includes French, Italian, & Spanish
- Most live in the south and west of Europe
- These languages come from Latin, the language of the ancient Roman Empire
 - Romance Languages

Slavic Languages

- Includes Russian
- Found in central and eastern Europe
- Written with a Cyrillic alphabet

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|--------|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| Аа | Бб | Вв | Гг | Дд | Ее | Еѐ | Жж | Зз |
| a | b | v | g | d | e | jo | ž | z |
| [a] | [b] | [v] | [g] | [d] | [ye] | [yo] | [ž] | [z] |
| Ии | Йй | Кк | Лл | Мм | Нн | Оо | Пп | Рр |
| i | j | k | l | m | n | o | p | r |
| [i] | [y] | [k] | [l] | [m] | [n] | [o] | [p] | [r] |
| Сс | Тт | Уу | Фф | Хх | Цц | Чч | Шш | Щщ |
| s | t | u | f | x | c | č | š | šč |
| [s] | [t] | [u] | [f] | [x] | [ts] | [tɕ] | [š] | [ɕ] |
| Ьь | Ыы | Ьь | Ээ | Юю | Яя | | | |
| ' | y | " | è | ju | ja | | | |
| silent | [ɯɨ] | silent | [e] | [yʉ] | [ya] | | | |

Brain Break !

- If possible, write your name using the Cyrillic alphabet.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|--------|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| Аа | Бб | Вв | Гг | Дд | Ее | Её | Жж | Зз |
| a | b | v | g | d | e | jo | ž | z |
| [a] | [b] | [v] | [g] | [d] | [ye] | [yo] | [ž] | [z] |
| Ии | Йй | Кк | Лл | Мм | Нн | Оо | Пп | Рр |
| i | j | k | l | m | n | o | p | r |
| [i] | [y] | [k] | [l] | [m] | [n] | [o] | [p] | [r] |
| Сс | Тт | Уу | Фф | Хх | Цц | Чч | Шш | Щщ |
| s | t | u | f | x | c | č | š | šč |
| [s] | [t] | [u] | [f] | [x] | [ts] | [tɕ] | [š] | [ɕ] |
| Ьь | Ыы | Ьь | Ээ | Юю | Яя | | | |
| ' | y | " | è | ju | ja | | | |
| silent | [ɯɨ] | silent | [e] | [yu] | [ya] | | | |

Diversity in European Languages Today

- Many countries have more than one official language
 - Part of life in many countries in Europe due to the ethnic background of the people living there
- Many countries share borders, and people move back and forth across borders
 - About 400 million people in the world speak English because it is often the choice for a 2nd language
 - Over ½ of all Europeans speak English



| Major Indo-European Branches | | | Other Indo-European Branches | | Uralic Language Family | |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| Germanic group WESTERN GERMANIC 1 Dutch 2 German 3 Frisian 4 English NORTHERN GERMANIC 5 Danish 6 Swedish 7 Norwegian 8 Icelandic 9 Faerose | | | Celtic group 14 Breton 29 Welsh GALICISH 31 Irish Gaelic 32 Scots Gaelic | | Finno-Ugric group 38 Ginnish 39 Karelian 40 Saami 41 Estonian 42 Hungarian | |
| Romance group 10 Portuguese 11 Spanish 12 Catalan 13 Provençal 14 French 15 Italian 16 Rhaeto-Romance 17 Romanian | | | Baltic group 33 Latvian 34 Lithuanian | | Samoyedic group 44 Samoyedic | |
| Slavic group WEST SLAVONIC 18 Polish EAST SLAVONIC 22 Russian SOUTH SLAVONIC 25 Slovene | | | Hellenic 35 Greek Thracian/Illyrian group 36 Albanian Thracian/Illyrian group | | Altaic Language Family Turkic group 45 Turkish | |
| | | | | | Other Languages Basque | |

Areas with significant concentrations of other languages (usually adjacent national languages).
 Boundary between languages.
 Boundary between Indo-European and non-Indo-European languages.

- Having so many languages can be a problem
- Difficult to live, work, and trade with people who cannot communicate with each other
- So...
 - Schoolchildren learn 1 or 2 other languages besides their own
 - European Union has 23 “official” languages to make sure that people can understand laws and decisions made by the government

Classify Your Language Chart into Language Families...

1. Germanic
2. Romance
3. Romance
4. Slavic
5. Romance
6. Romance