

Die Geographie der Sprache

La Geografía del Idioma

The Geography of Language



La Geografia di Lingua

La Géographie de Langue

Language Defined

Organized system of spoken words by which people communicate with one another with mutual comprehension (Getis, 1985).

Languages subtly gradate one to another. **Dialects** and other regional differences may eventually lead to incomprehensibility - a new language.

Migration and **Isolation** explain how a single language can later become two or more.

Geographer's Perspective on Language

Language is an essential element of culture, possibly the most important medium by which culture is transmitted.

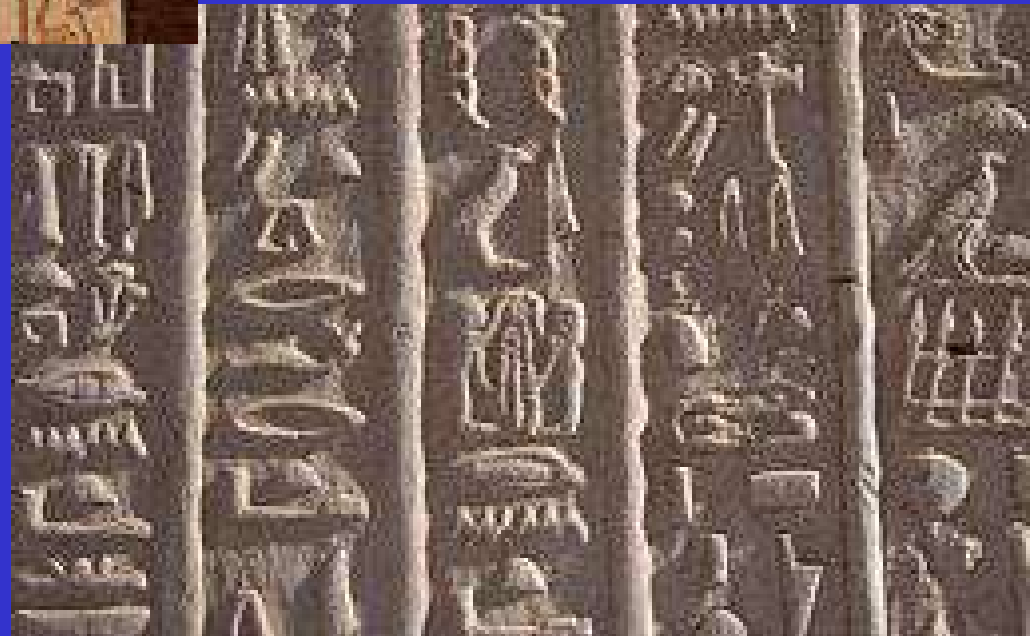
Languages even structure the perceptions of their speakers. Attitudes, understandings, and responses are partly determined by the words available.

Languages are a hallmark of cultural diversity with distinctive regional distributions.

Language Distribution indicates

- **History and conquest**
- **Isolation or integration of cultures**
- **Migration of peoples**
- **Economic Domination of certain cultures**
- **Influence of wealth and technology**
- **Political Divisions (country boundaries)**
- **Physical geography barriers (mts., deserts)**

How to Write Down a Language?



How to Write Down a Language?

Ideograms

- Sumerian; Chinese; Egyptian; Japanese

From basic characters:



Sun



Person



White, clear (Sun peeping out)



Big (person with arms extended)



Heaven (above the biggest person)



White person



Daytime (clear and heaven)



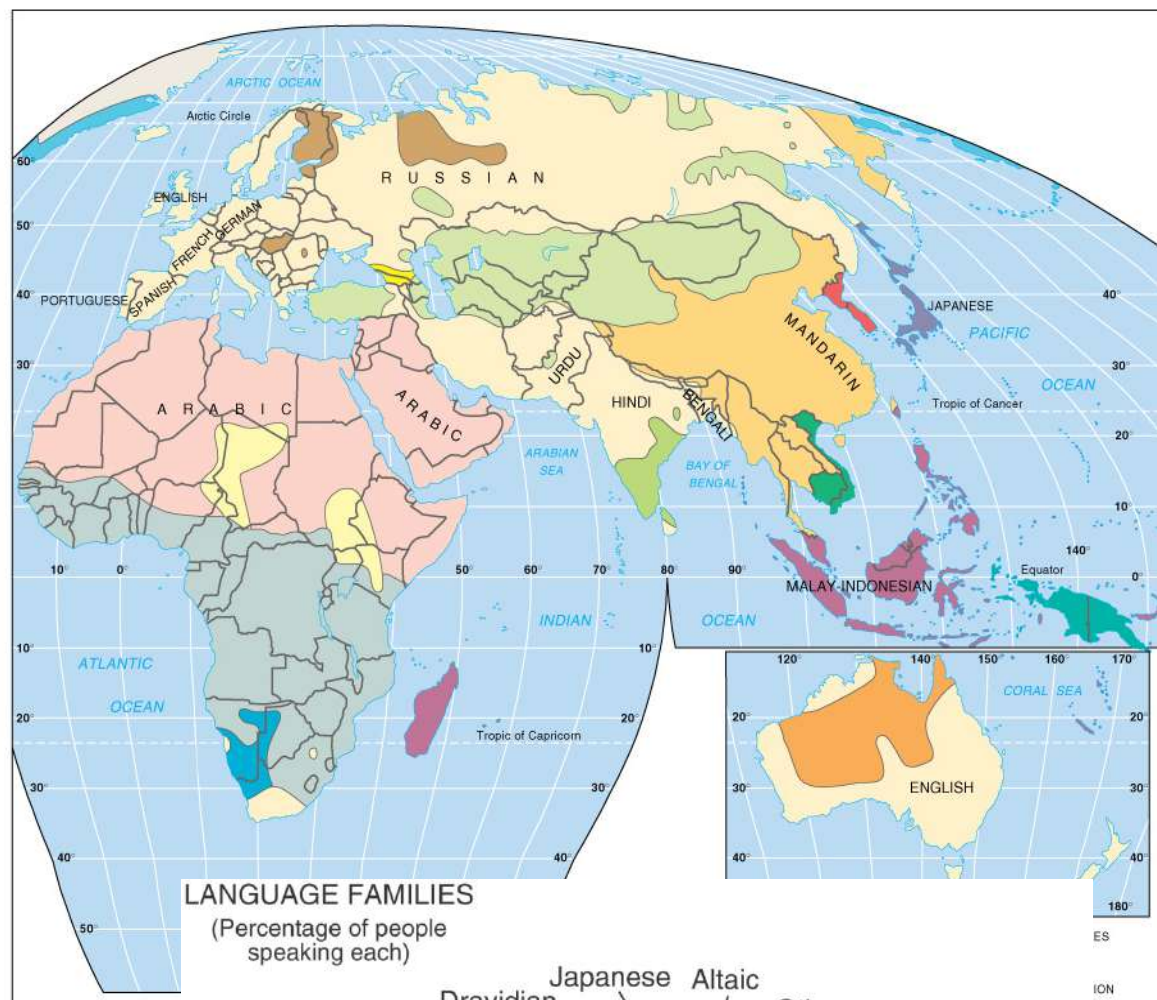
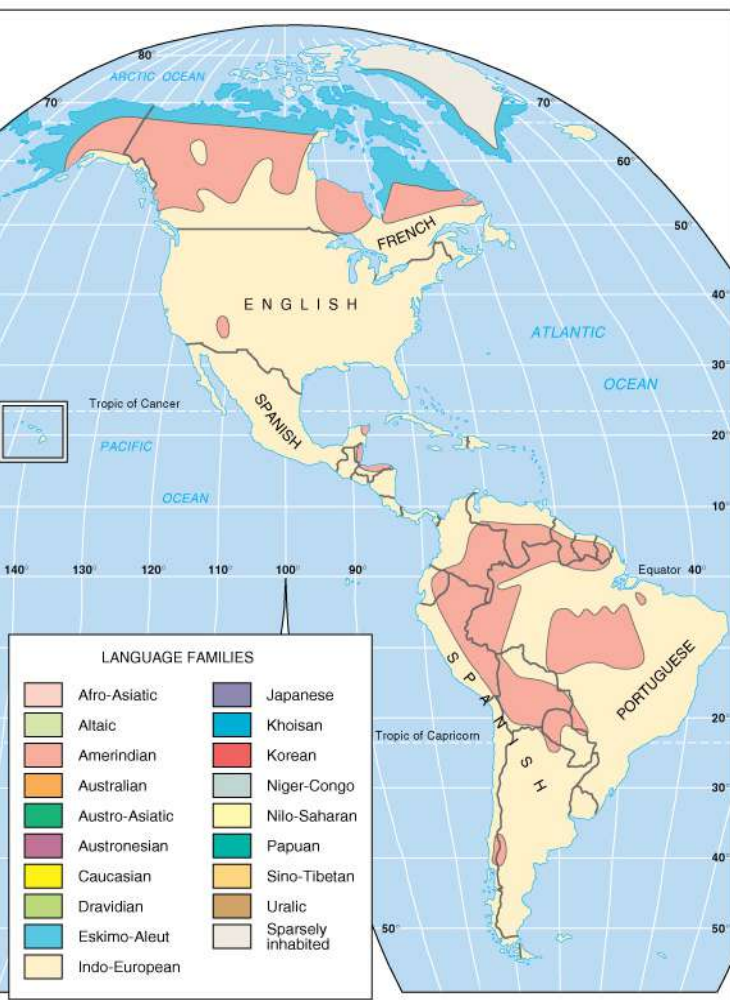
Daytime (clear and Sun)

How to Write Down a Language?

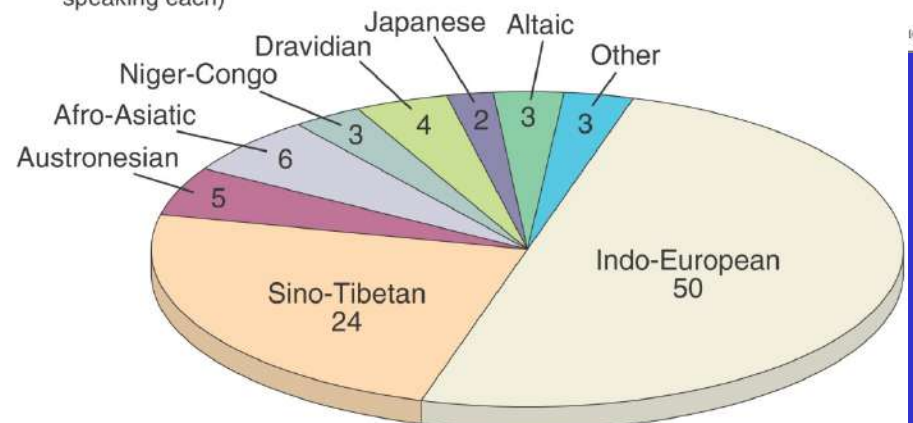
Phonetic

- Most languages, including Romance languages

Symbols (letters) represent sounds, not ideas. A phonetic alphabet is the key innovation.



LANGUAGE FAMILIES
(Percentage of people speaking each)



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Languages and Language Families

Language Divisions

Language Families

Language Branches

Language Groups

Languages

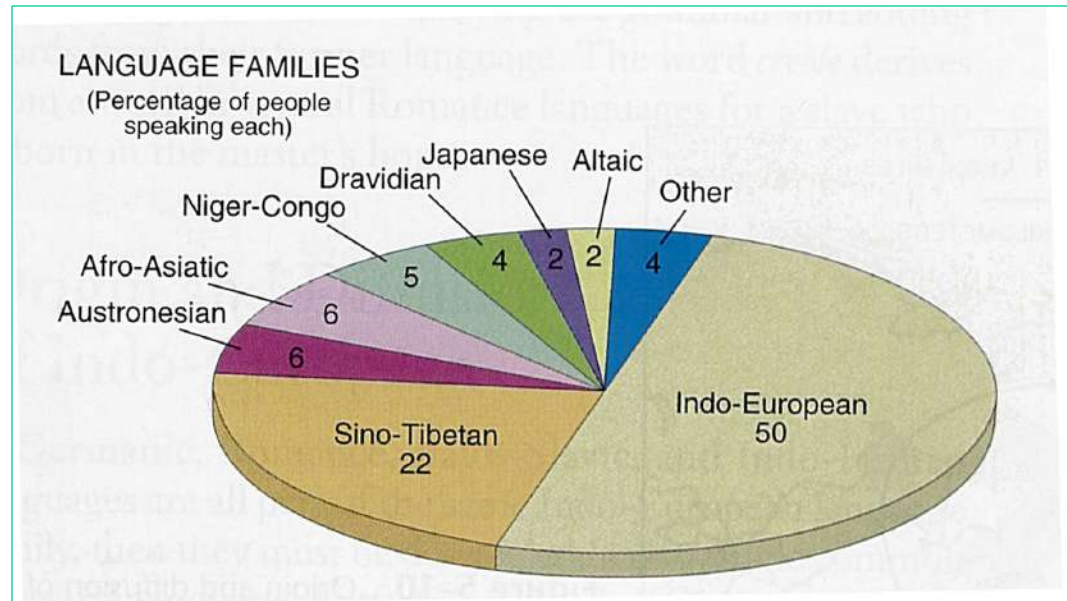
Dialects

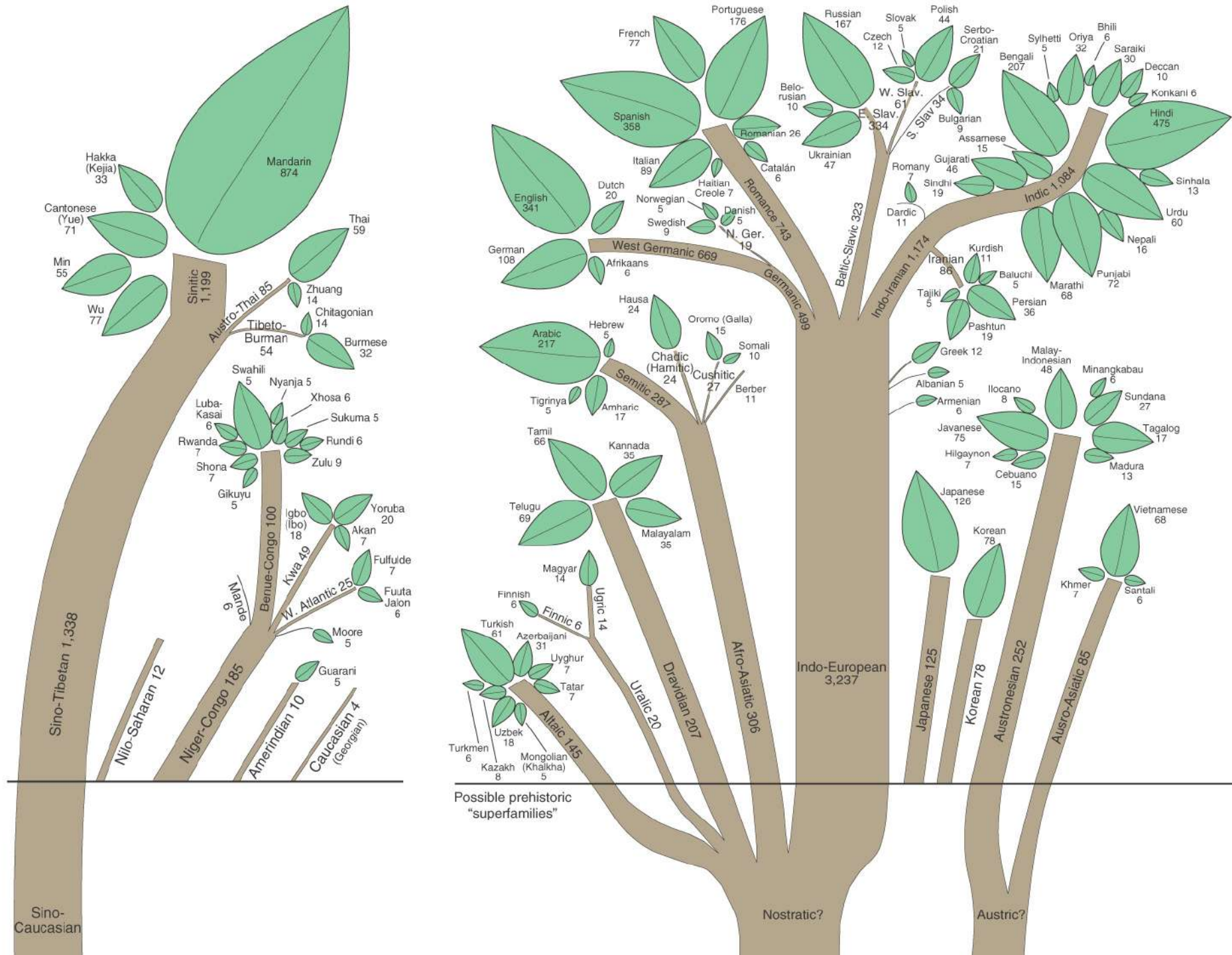
Accents

Language Families

- a collection of individual languages with a common ancestor

a family may be divided into several divisions or branches





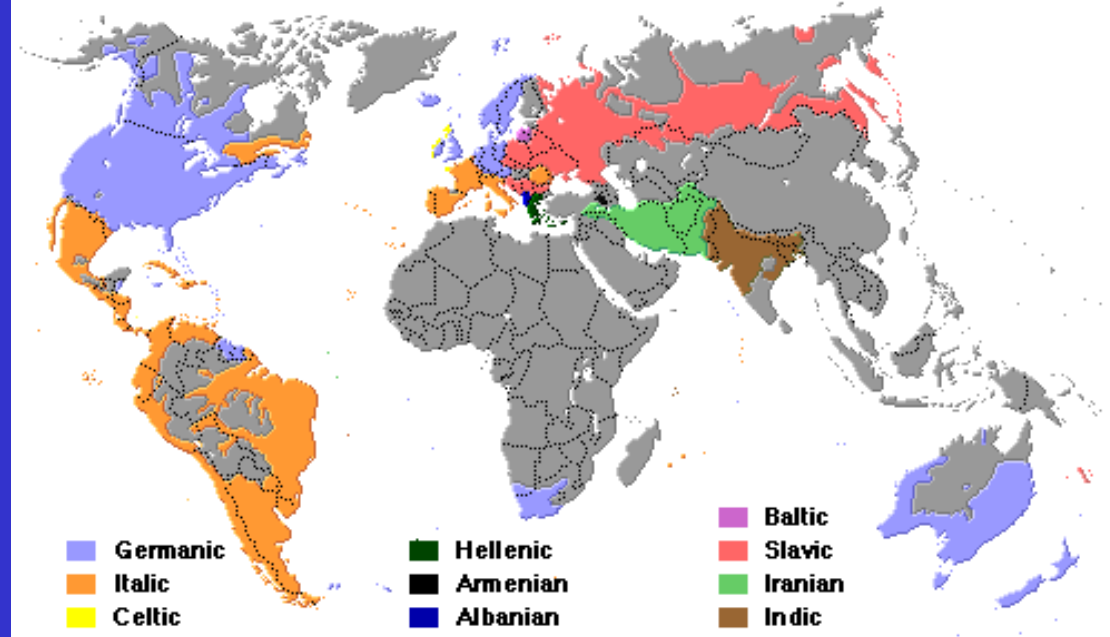
Language Branches

- a group of languages that share a common origin but have evolved into different languages
- example: Romance Branch - Indo-European Family
 - French, Spanish, Portuguese, Romanch

Language Groups

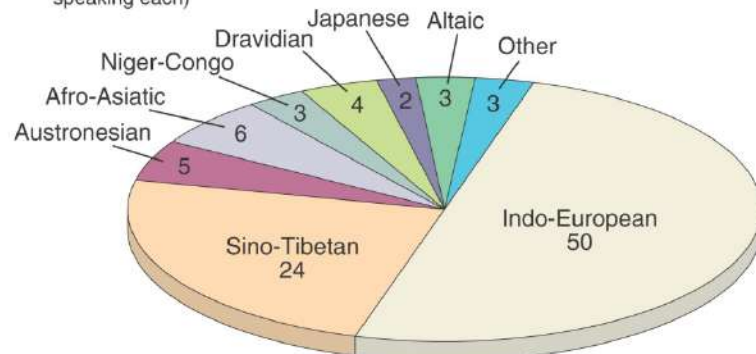
- Several individual languages within a language branch
 - share a common origin in recent past
 - few differences in grammar and vocabulary

Indo-European Language Branches

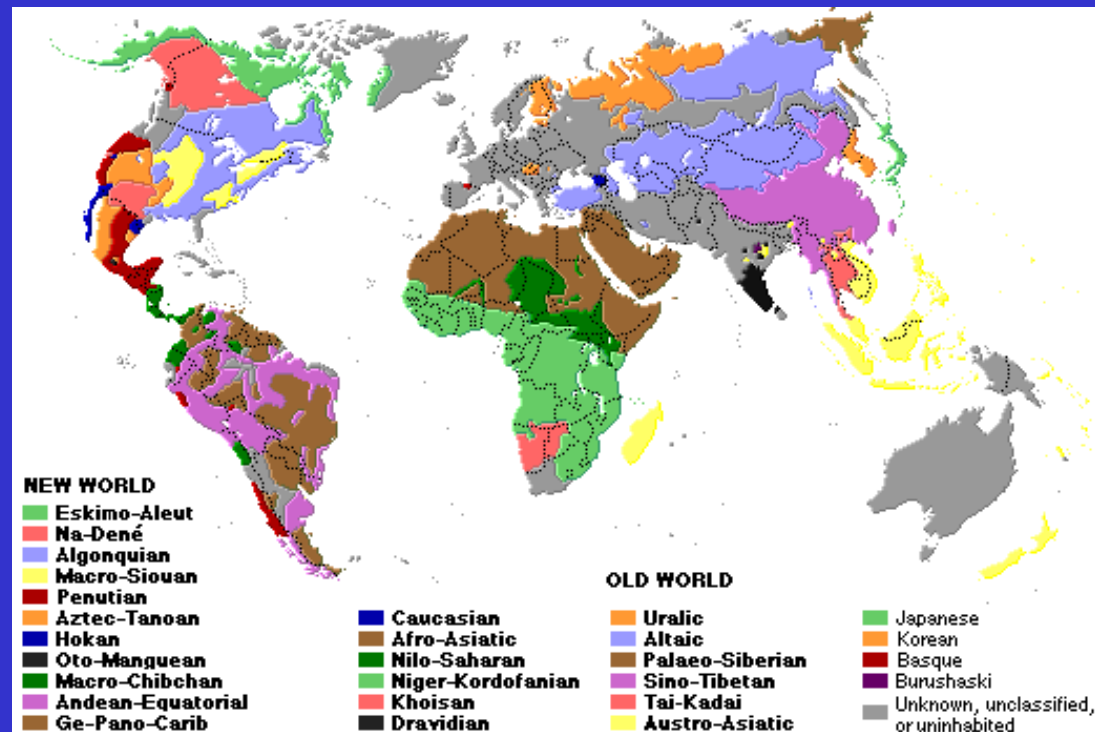


Non-Indo-European Language Families and Branches

LANGUAGE FAMILIES
(Percentage of people speaking each)



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Language Divisions for English

Language Families	-- Indo-European
Language Branches	-- Germanic
Language Groups	-- West Germanic
Languages	-- English
Dialects	-- Northeastern
Accents	-- Boston (Pak da ka o-fa dere, please!)

Which languages share a common ancestor?

Some Indo-European Shared Words

English	Sanskrit	Greek	Latin	Armenian	Old Irish	Lithuanian
me	mam	eme	me	is	-	mane
father	pitar	pater	pater	hayr	athair	-
mother	matar	mater	mater	mayr	mathair	motina
brother	bhratar	-	frater	elbayr	brathair	brolis
daughter	duhitar	thugater-	-	dustr	-	dukter
cow	gav-	bous	bos	kov	bo	guovs(Latv)
eoh (OE)	asvas	hippos	equus	-	ech	asva, mare
hound	svan	kuon	canis	sun	con	sun
foot	pad	pod-	ped-	otn	-	-
new	navas	ne(w)os	novus	nor	nue	naujas
bears	bharati	pherei	fert	bere	berid	-
two	duva	duo	duo	erku	do	du
three	trayas	treis	tres	erek	tri	trys

Many Indo-European languages have common words for snow, winter, spring; for dog, horse, cow, sheep bear but not camel, lion, elephant, or tiger; for beech, oak, pine, willow, but not palm or banyan tree.

Indo-European Language Family (50% of World)

Main Branches:

Germanic

- Dutch, German

Romance

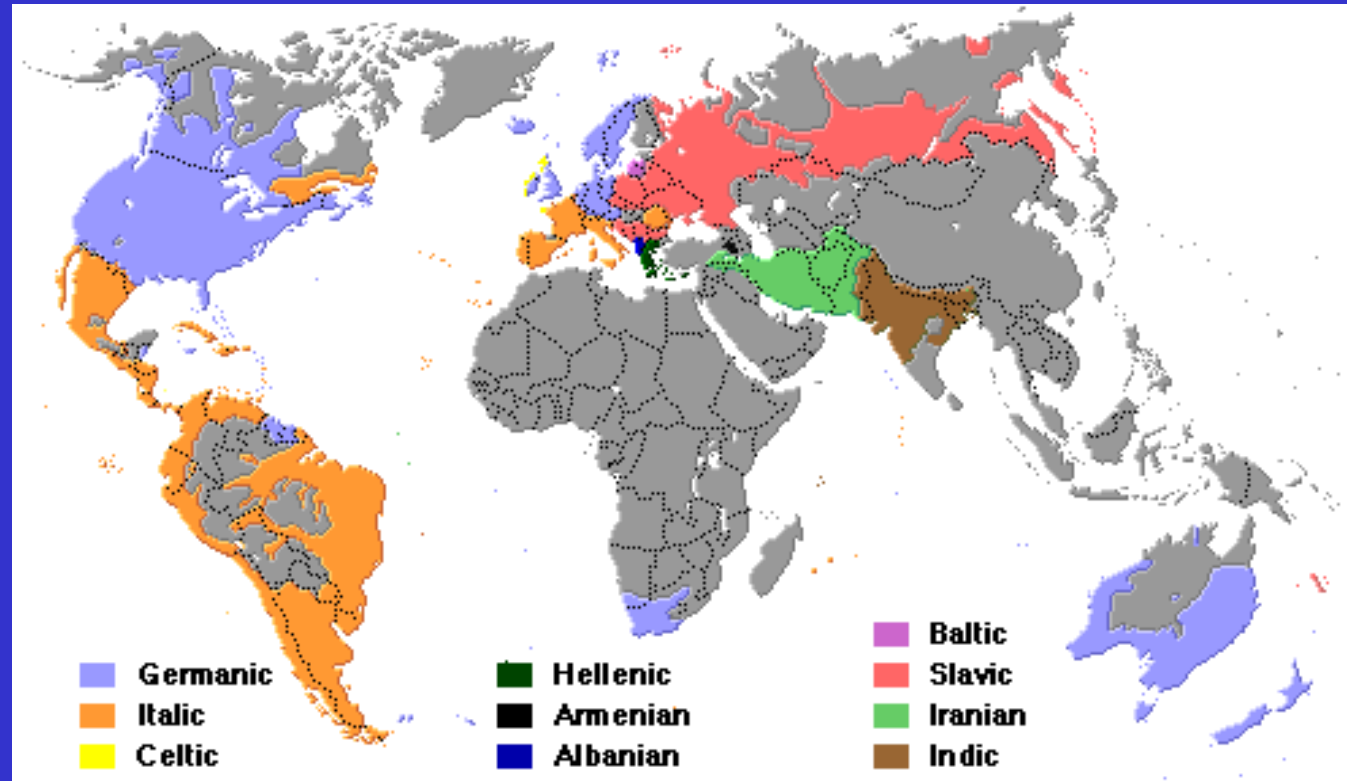
- Spanish, French

Baltic-Slavic

- Russian

Indo-Iranian

- Hindu, Bengali



Indo-European Language Family - Germanic Branch

West Germanic

English (514 million)

German (128)

Dutch (21)

East Germanic

Danish (5)

Norwegian (5)

Swedish (9)



Germanic Branch - English

Diffused throughout the world by hundreds of years of British colonialism. Brought to New World by British colonies in 1600s. Has become an important global *lingua franca*.



Development of English

Germanic Tribes (Germany/Denmark)

Jutes

Angles

Saxons

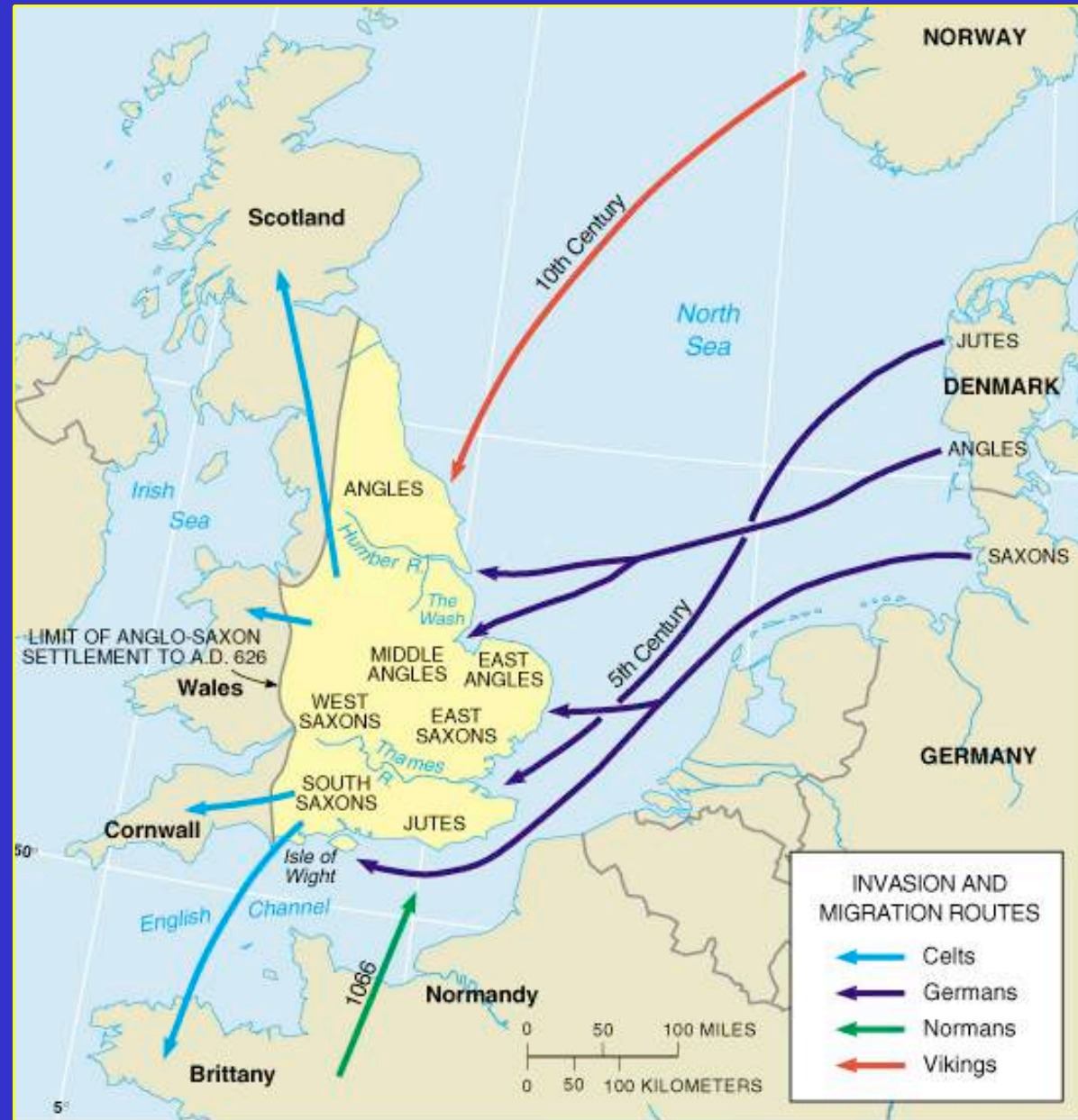
Vikings (Norway)

9th - 11th Centuries

Normans (French)

Battle of Hastings, 1066

French was official
language for 150 years.





Development of English - Adopted Words

Germanic Tribes (Germany/Denmark)

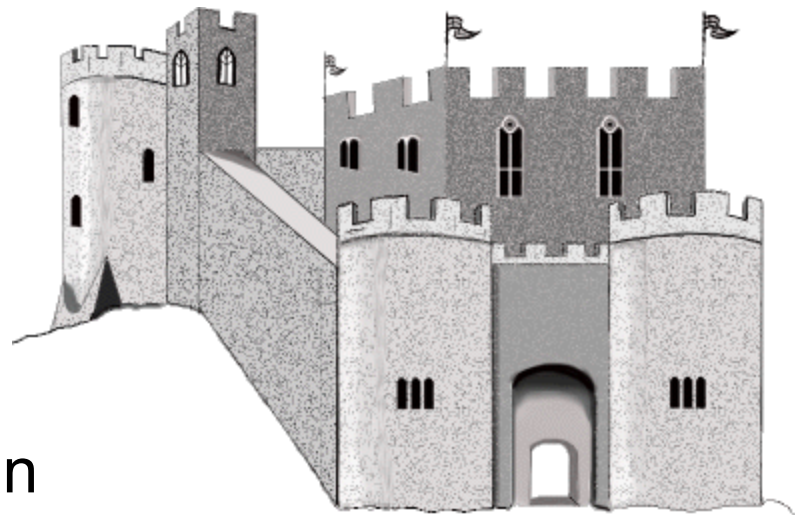
kindergarten, angst, noodle, pretzel

Vikings (Norway)

take, they, reindeer, window

Normans (French)

renaissance, mansion, village, guardian



Indo-European Language Family - Romance Branch

Like English these languages have been spread by Colonialism.

Spanish (425 million)

Portuguese (194)

- most in Brazil

French (129)

Italian (62)

Romanian (26)



Indo-European Family - Romance Branch

The Roman Empire, at its height in 2nd century A.D., extinguished many local languages. After the fall of Rome in the 5th century, communication declined and languages evolved again.



Literature was all written in Latin until the 13th and 14th centuries. Dante Alighieri's 1314 *Inferno* written in **vulgar latin** (Florentine).

English in Decline as a Language

Assignment – Read and answer the following:

1. Summarize the article.
2. What is the article suggesting?
3. Where does the article focus?
4. What type of diffusion does it illustrate?
5. What patterns do you see being created from the results?
6. Why are the results occurring? What systems and processes created this pattern?
7. Prediction – So what? What if?
8. Consider what will happen if English disappears, what do we make of this occurrence? How might technology influence the spread/decline of English?

Sino-Tibetan Language Family (20%)

Branches:

Sinitic

- Mandarin (1075),
Cantonese (71),

Austro-Thai (77)

- Thai, Hmong

Tibeto-Burman

- Burmese (32)



SINO-TIBETAN

- Mandarin
- 1. Northern
- 2. Eastern
- 3. Southwestern

Southern

- 1. Wu
- 2. Gan
- 3. Xiang
- 4. Min
- 5. Hakka
- 6. Yue
- Tibetan
- 1. Amdo
- 2. Khams
- 3. Dbusgtsang
- Kam-Tai
- Miao-Yao

INDO-EUROPEAN

- Tajik

AUSTRO-ASIATIC

- Mon-Khmer

ALTAI

- Turkic
- 1. Kazakh
- 2. Uygur
- 3. Kirghiz
- Mongolian
- Manchu-Tungus
- Korean

Chinese languages based on 420 one syllable words with meaning inferred from context and tone

Language Families of Africa

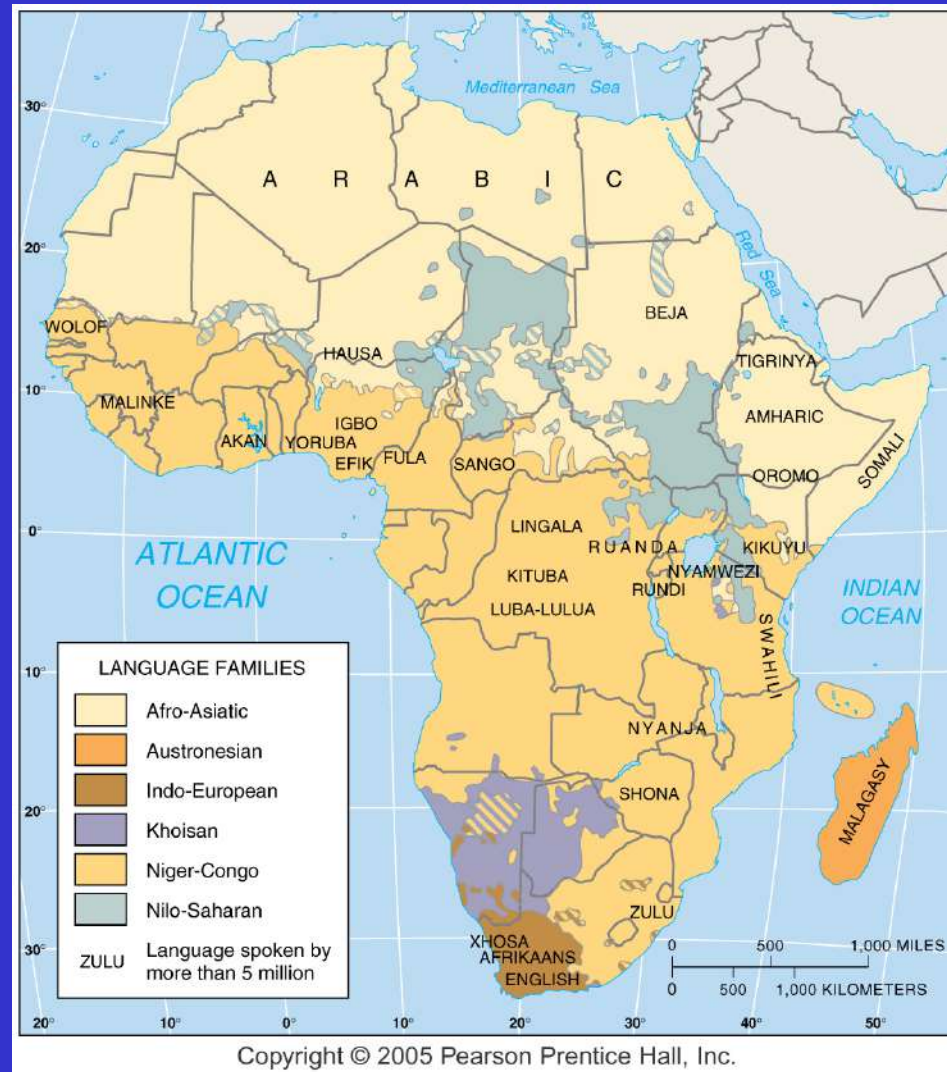


Fig. 5-14: The 1,000 or more languages of Africa are divided among five main language families, including Austronesian languages in Madagascar.

Afro-Asiatic Language Family

Main Branch:

Semitic

Arabic (256)

Language of the Koran;
spread by Islamic Faith
and Islamic (Ottoman)
Empires

Hebrew (5)

Language of the old
Testament (with Aramaic);
completely revived from
extinction in Israel, 1948.



Niger-Congo Diffusion

proto-Bantu peoples
originated in Cameroon-
Nigeria

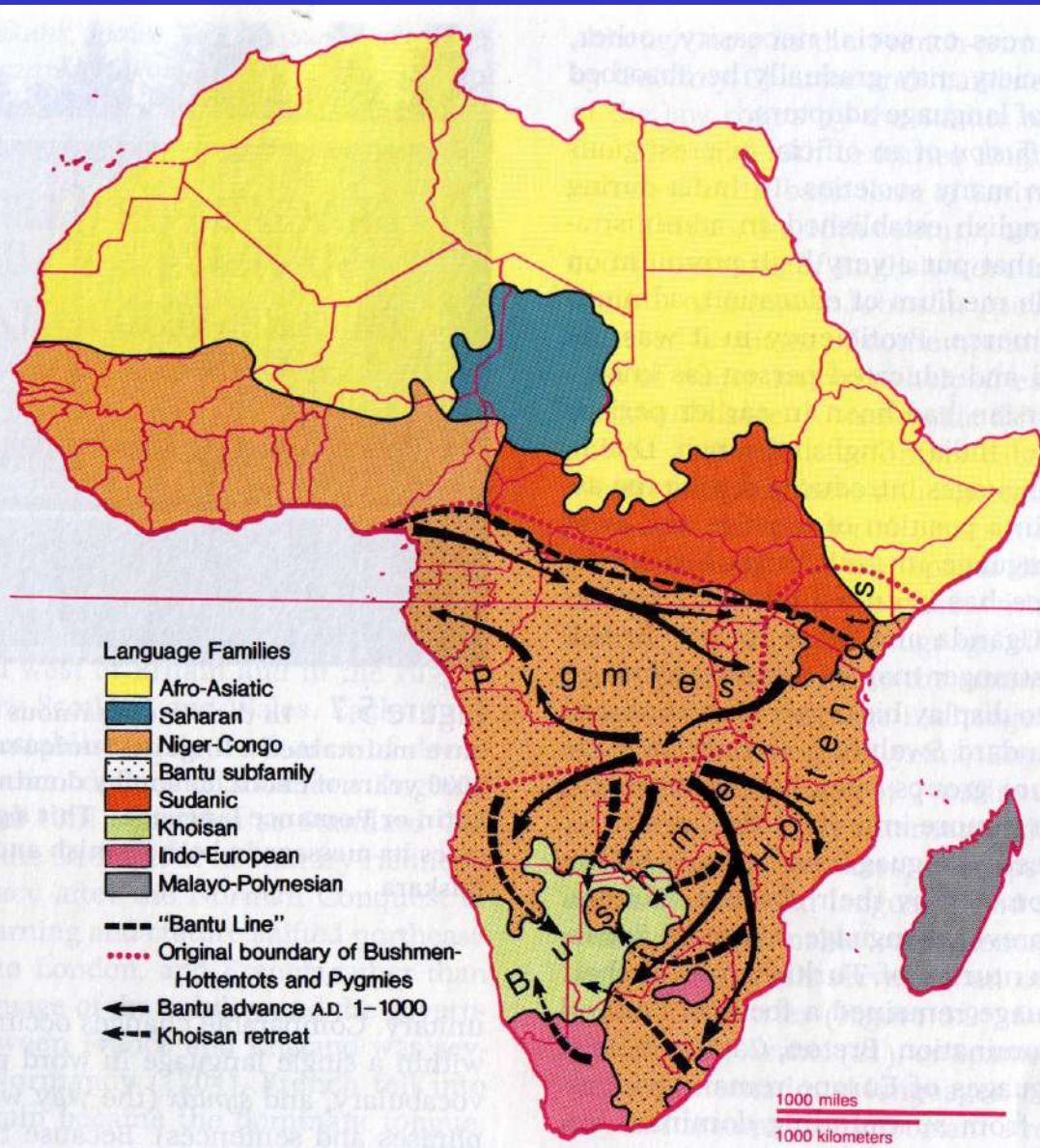
They spread throughout
southern Africa AD 1 - 1000

Bantu peoples were
agriculturalists who used
metal tools

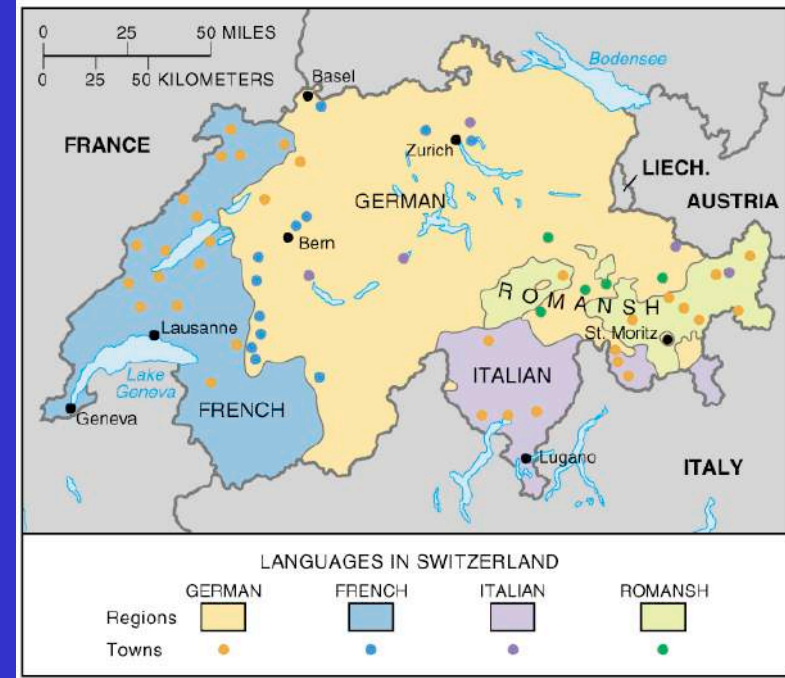
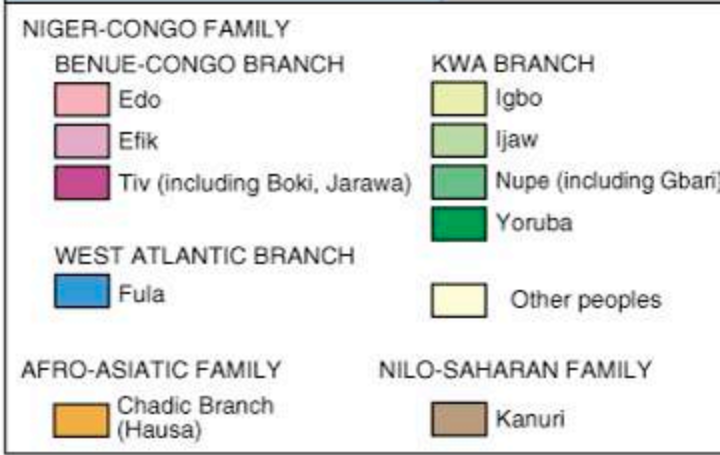
Khoisan peoples were
hunter-gatherers and were no
match for the Bantu.

Pygmies adopted Bantu
tongue and retreated to forest

Hottentots and Bushmen
retained the clicks of
Khoisan languages



Language Complexity



In Nigeria ethnic conflict between southern Ibos and western Yoruba led the government to move the capital to a more neutral central location (Abuja). Many other ethnic battles rage continuously.

In Switzerland, four official languages, a history of peace and tolerance, and a political system that puts power in the hands of local leaders ensure peace.

Nigeria has more than 200 individual languages!

Key Terms

PIDGIN - a form of speech that adopts simplified grammar and limited vocabulary from a lingua franca, used for communication between speakers of two different languages.

Examples include Hawaiian Pidgin and the creoles of West Africa that resulted from the slave trade.

“No eat da candy, Bruddah, it's pilau. Da thing wen fall on da ground.”



Give us da food we need fo today an every day.
Hemmo our shame, an let us go
Fo all da kine bad stuff we do to you,
Jalike us guys let da odda guys go awready,
And we no stay huhu wit dem
Fo all da kine bad stuff dey do to us.
No let us get chance fo do bad kine stuff,
But take us outa dea, so da Bad Guy no can hurt us.
Cuz you our King.
You get da real power,
An you stay awesome foeva.
Dass it!”

Matthew 6:9-13 “The Lord’s Prayer”

- Taken from Da Jesus Book, a twelve year effort
by 6 linguists to translate the New Testament into
Hawaiian Pidgin, published 2001



Key Terms

CREOLE - a language that results from the mixing of a colonizer's language with an indigenous language. Often they are pidgins.

Can you guess which colonizing language is the base for each of the following creole examples?

- a. mo pe aste sa banan
- b. de bin alde luk dat big tri
- c. a waka go a wosu
- d. olmaan i kas-im chek
- e. li pote sa bay mo
- f. ja fruher wir bleiben
- g. dis smol swain i bin go fo maket

I am buying the banana
they always looked for a big tree
he walked home
the old man is cashing a check
he brought that for me
Yes at first we remained
this little pig went to market



New Orleans'
French Quarter

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French based Seychelles Creole

English based Roper River Creole

English based Saran

English based Cape York Creole

French based Guyanais

German based Papua New Guinea Pidgin

German English based Cameroon Pidgin

Key Terms

DIALECT - a regional variety of a language distinguished by pronunciation, spelling, and vocabulary.

Social Dialects - can denote social class and standing.

Vernacular Dialects - the common, slang, speech of a region.

Sounds Familiar - English Dialects Website

Common American Slang

<i>Term</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Location</i>
Is he fair dinkum?	Is he real or genuine?	Australia
Why I declare!	That's remarkable!	Deep South (U.S.)
Down by the crick	Down by the stream (creek)	Middle Atlantic States
bludger	freeloader; welfare	Australia
mosquito hawk	dragon fly	South (U.S.)
nappies	diapers	Britain; Brit. Colonies

Key Terms

ISOLATED LANGUAGE - a language that is not related to any other languages and thus not connected to any language families. Examples include Basque and Korean.



Language and the Environment (Linguistic Ecology)



Mt Cook, New Zealand

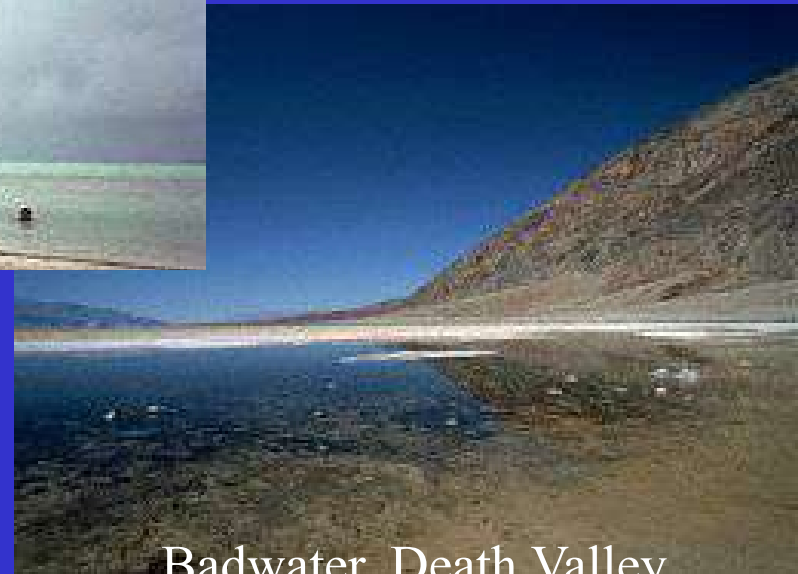
TOPONYM - a place name. These are language on the land, reflecting past inhabitants and their relation to the land.



Devil's Tower WY



Cook Islands, Polynesia



Badwater Death Valley

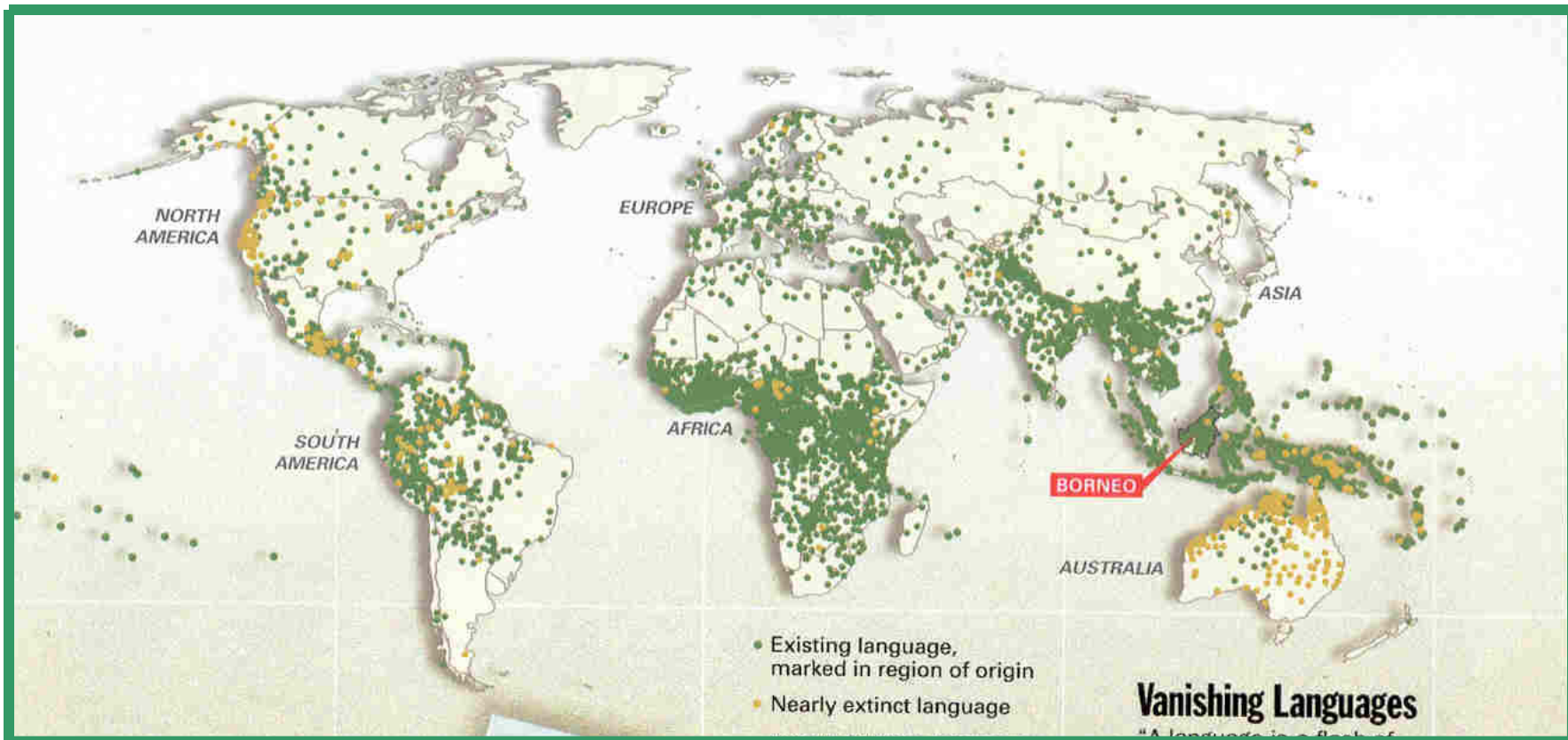
Endangered Languages

As recently as 3,000 years ago, there were 10,000 to 15,000 languages in the world.

Now: about 6000 left.

Of those, 1/2 will be gone by the year 2100 and all but 500 of the rest will be endangered.

More than 90 percent of the languages in existence today will be extinct or threatened in little more than a century if current trends continue.



Endangered Languages

Why are they disappearing?

Globalization

Migration (Urbanization)

Economic Development

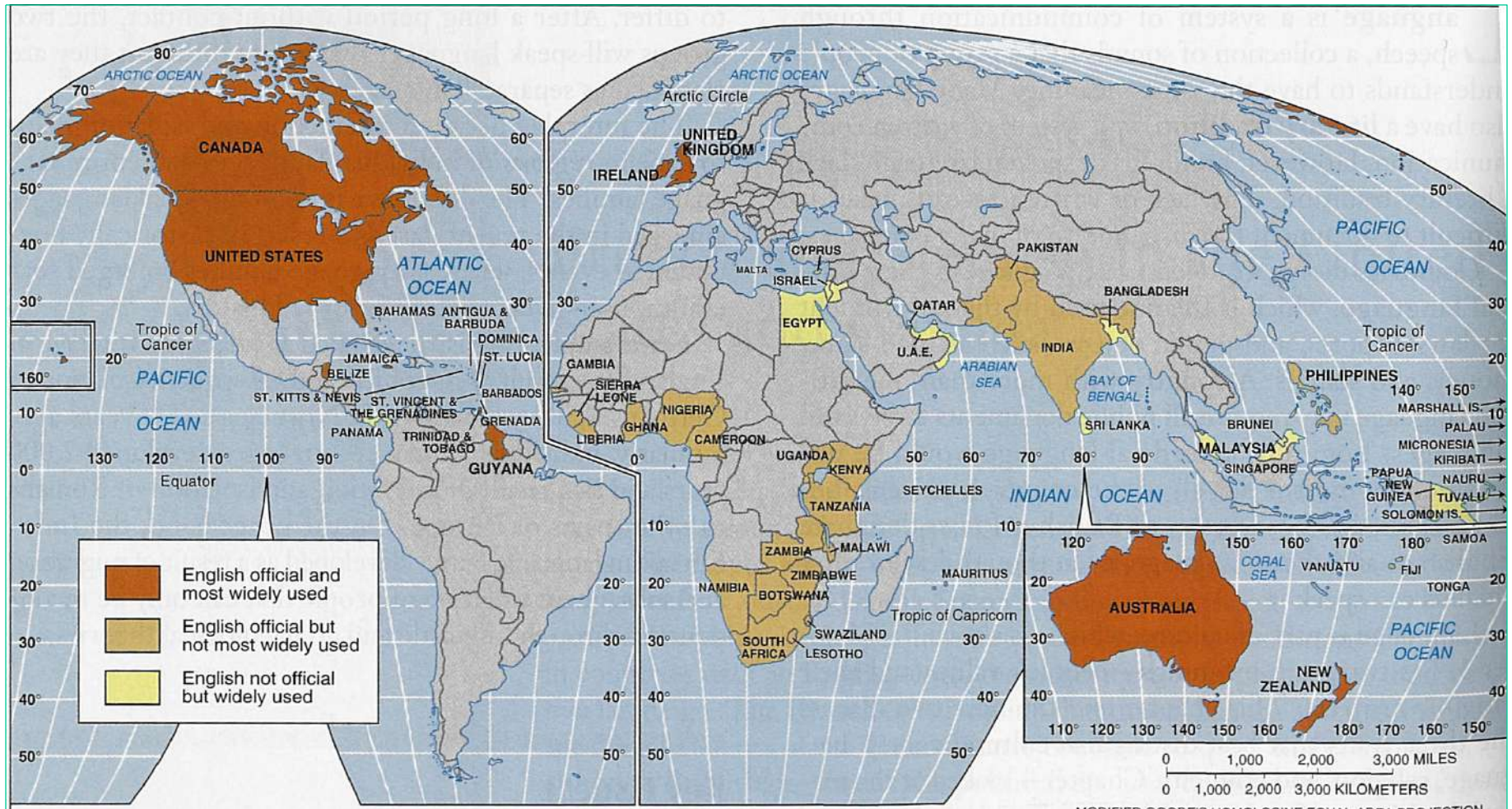
- Lingua FrancasMedia

Internet (Requires Arabic Character Set)

Lingua Franca - a language used for trade by two people who speak different native tongues.

World's Top 10 Languages

- **Mandarin Chinese**726 Million
- **English**427 Million
- **Spanish**266 Million
- **Hindi**182 Million
- **Arabic**181 Million
- **Portuguese**165 Million
- **Bengali**162 Million
- **Russian**158 Million
- **Japanese**124 Million
- **German**121 Million

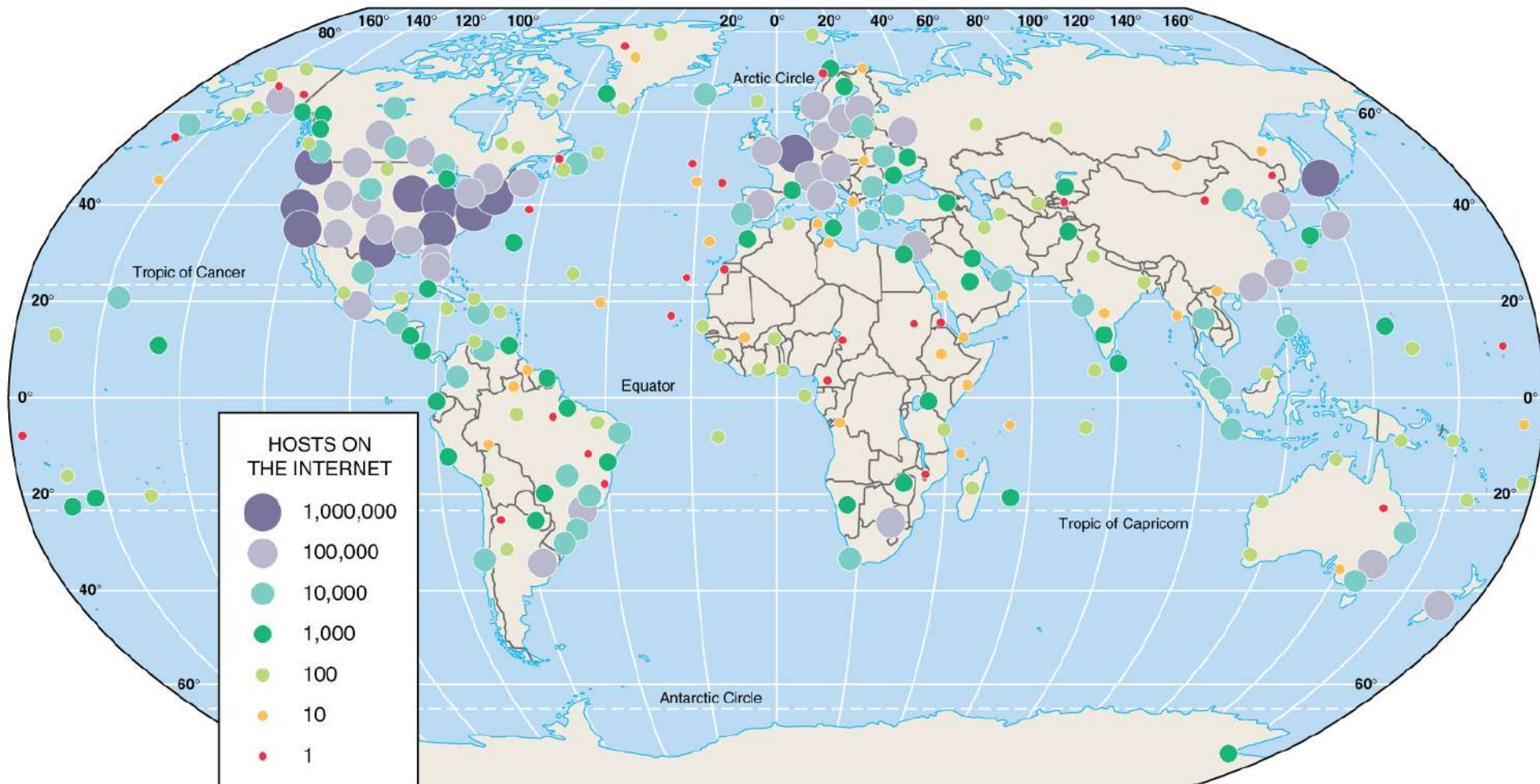


English Speaking Countries

Interesting Facts about the English Language

- English is spoken as a first language by 427 million
- English is spoken as a second language by another 350 million
- English is the most widely taught language in over 100 countries
- In 70 countries English has official status:
 - more than any other language

Internet Hosts



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Fig. 5-1-1: A large proportion of the world's internet users and hosts are in the developed countries of North America and western Europe.

Internet Hosts, by Language

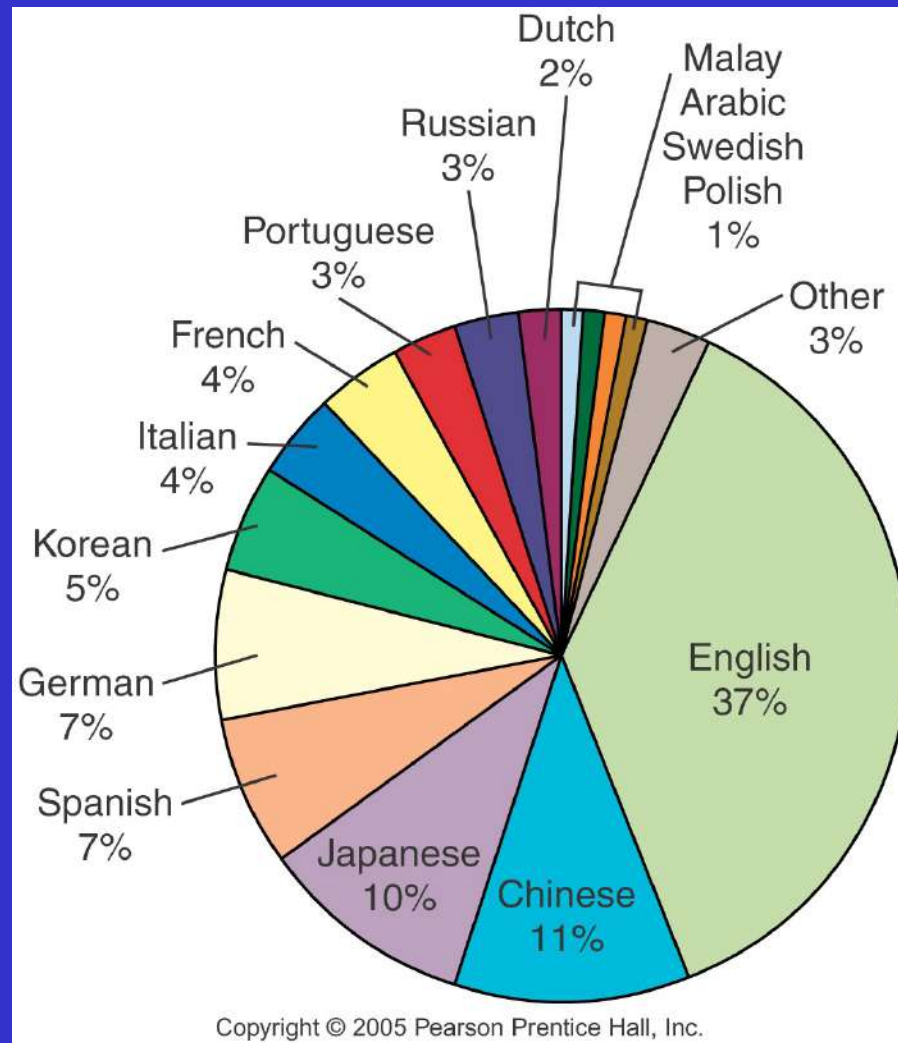


Fig 5-1-1a: The large majority of internet hosts in 1999 used English, Chinese, Japanese, or European languages.

Key Points

Language is a fundamental element of cultural identity.

Languages diverge via **migration** and **isolation**.

Small languages are disappearing as a result of globalization.

Languages that share a common ancestor belong to the same family.

Language diversity is a source of political conflict in the world.



McDonald's, Israel