

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
Gemeinschaftskunde-
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!

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!

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?

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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

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

Slavic Languages

Includes Russian

Found in central and eastern Europe

Written with a Cyrillic alphabet

Аа	Бб	Вв	Гг	Дд	Ее	Ёё	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]
Ъъ	Ыы	Ьь	Ээ	Юю	Яя			
'	y	”	è	ju	ja			
silent	[ɯɨ]	silent	[e]	[yu]	[ya]			

Brain Break!

If possible, write your name using the Cyrillic alphabet.

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



Major Indo-European Branches

Germanic group

WESTERN GERMANIC
 1 Dutch
 2 German
 3 Frisian
 4 English

NORTHERN GERMANIC
 5 Danish
 6 Swedish
 7 Norwegian

8 Icelandic
 9 Faeroese

Romance group

10 Portuguese
 11 Spanish
 12 Catalan
 13 Provençal

14 French
 15 Italian
 16 Rhaeto-Romance
 17 Romanian

Slavic group

WEST SLAVONIC
 18 Polish

EAST SLAVONIC
 22 Russian

SOUTH SLAVONIC
 25 Slovene

Other Indo-European Branches

Celtic group

BRITANNIC
 29 Breton
 30 Welsh

GAULISH
 31 Irish Gaelic
 32 Scots Gaelic

Baltic group

33 Latvian
 34 Lithuanian

Hellenic

35 Greek

Thracian/Illyrian group

36 Albanian

Uralic Language Family

Finno-Ugric group

38 Finnish
 39 Karelian
 40 Saami

41 Estonian
 42 Hungarian

Samoyedic group

44 Samoyedic

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

Classify Your Language Chart into Language Families...

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