

# Comparing European Languages: Germanic, Romance, & Slavic Language Families

Bonjour!  
r!

Ciao!  
o!

¡Hola!  
a!

Hallo!  
!

здравствуй  
те!



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!

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!

# 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?**



# Languages Gallery Walk

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!



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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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	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]	[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	[ɯ+]	silent	[e]	[yu]	[ya]			

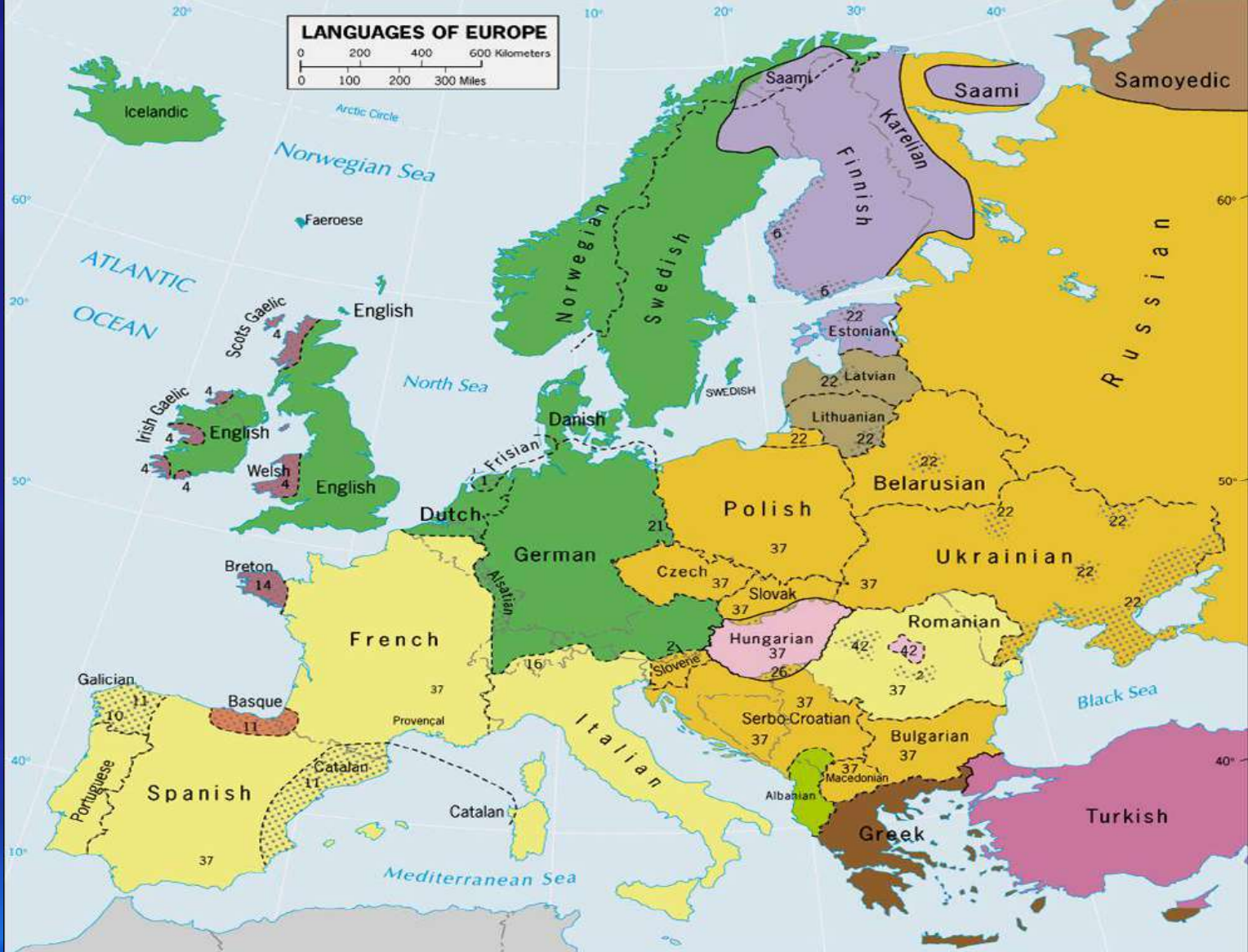
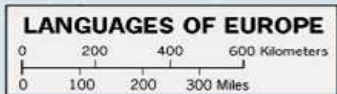
# Diversity in European Languages Today

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 2<sup>nd</sup> language



- Major Indo-European Branches**
- Germanic group**
    - WESTERN GERMANIC: 1 Dutch, 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, 19 Czech, 20 Slovak
    - EAST SLAVONIC: 21 Russian, 22 Ukrainian, 23 Belarusian
    - SOUTH SLAVONIC: 24 Slovene, 25 Serbo-Croatian

- Other Indo-European Branches**
- Celtic group**
    - BRITANNIC: 29 Breton, 30 Welsh
    - GALLIC: 31 Irish Gaelic, 32 Scots Gaelic
  - Baltic group**
    - 33 Latvian, 34 Lithuanian
  - Hellenic**
    - 35 Greek
  - Thracian/Illyrian group**
    - 36 Albanian

- Uralic Language Family**
- Fino-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**
- 46 Samoyedic

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