



Why are
different
languages so
important?

TAKE IT FURTHER:

THINK

What curiosity questions can you ask?

e.g. Where does language come from? What is the connection between language and culture? Why do we need diversity of language? What is the impact of globalisation on language and culture? What are some of the issues of monoculture?

FEEL

How might different people feel about this?

e.g. How do different words or languages make you feel? Have you ever felt frustrated to not be able to put a thought or feeling into words? Why do some languages have more words for emotions and ideas than others? What feelings do you get when you encounter a new culture or language?

CONNECT

What links can you start to make?

e.g. What is the link between language and place? Why are languages disappearing across the world? What is lost when a language disappears? Why is language so important to culture and diversity? Why do we need diversity of language and culture (just like we need diversity of species in the natural world)?

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Activity ideas:

1. What is the link between language and your identity?
Imagine that you no longer were able to speak your own language but instead were told you had to communicate in another language – a language that someone else had decided should be spoken in your country or community, but that didn't originate in that place (for example, telling all Egyptian people to speak Spanish, or all Mexican people to speak English. What would be gained and what would be lost?

Take a piece of paper and make a list of all of the things that would be GAINED and a list of all that would be LOST. Think about how it might feel to not be able to express yourself in the way your native language allows you to.

2. Studying diverse languages gives us invaluable insights into human behaviours and cultures, however language diversity is at risk and languages are dying out every year. Often a language's death is recorded when the last known speaker dies. Most of these unique languages that are disappearing have never been recorded and so will be lost forever. [Linguists estimate](#) that about 50 percent of the languages spoken today will disappear in the next 100 years. So why does this matter?
Talk about this with people around you about the impact of languages disappearing and why keeping language alive is so vital for us all.
3. Explore some of these ideas from Global Oneness Project and learn about recording a disappearing language and some of the direct and indirect impacts that language has on us all as human beings: [Recording a vanishing language](#)

USE THE **THINKER'S GUIDE TO HELP YOU*

What other activities could you do?

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RESOURCES:



[Why do humans speak so many languages?](#)

(Article | *The Conversation*)

[Why we must save dying tongues](#)

(Article | *BBC Learning*)

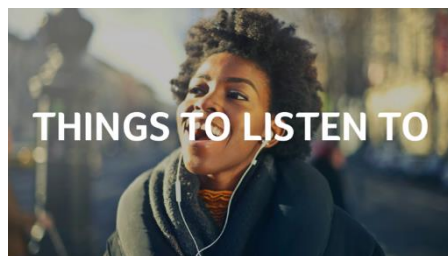


[How languages evolve](#)

(4 minute video | *Alex Gendler - Ted-Ed*)

[Marie's Dictionary](#)

(9 minute video | *Global Oneness Project*)



[16 podcasts that explore the beauty and mystery of languages](#)

(Range of podcasts | *Discoverpods*)



[Explore and protect global languages](#)

(Website and projects | *Wikitongues*)



[Explore our Global Cultures topic](#)

(A home-learning topic for 5-18 year olds | *ThoughtBox*)

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