



The World of Languages and Languages of the World Unit 4 Lesson 3

The Language Tree

Slide 1: Introduce today's objective as shown on the slide. We will learn about language families and language trees.

Slide 2: Starter – The pupils will see a list of languages. Ask the class what it is that links them? They all belong to the same language family. They are all Germanic languages.

Slide 3: Go through what a language family is. Hand out the worksheet/workbook for the lesson to illustrate the idea of language families by showing a language tree.

A language family is a group of languages related through descent from a common ancestral or parental language. The term "family" reflects the tree model (like in our own family trees).

Slide 4: Ask pupils the question “How do we know which languages belong together in a family?”. Discuss. How do they think we know which languages they came from, if it is so far back, the languages have died out? Individual pupil response.

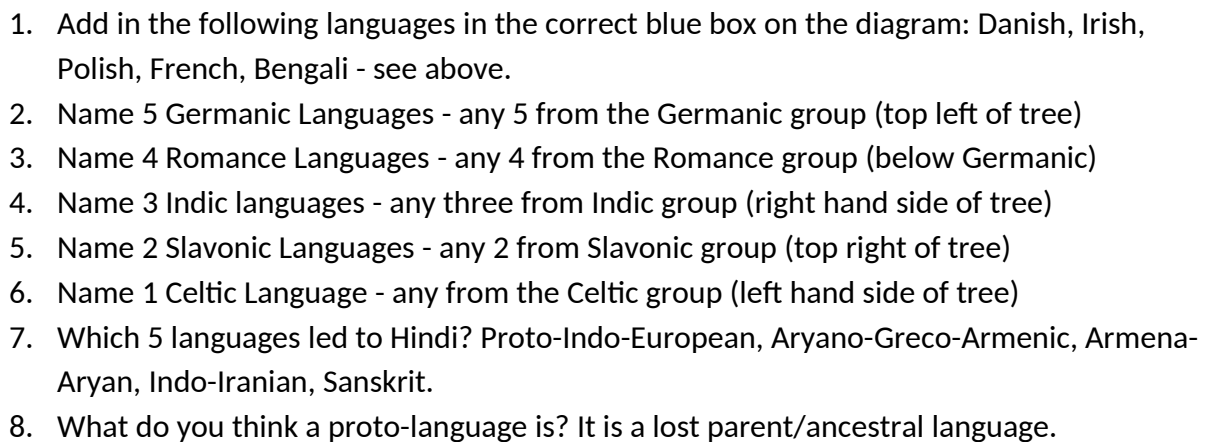
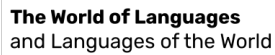
Click on the title which is hyperlinked to a 5-minute clip explaining this. The clip refers to a language called Galician which is a Romance language spoken in the North-West corner of Spain.

Slide 5: Read out the facts about languages and language families.

Slide 6: This slide shows the 5 language families with the most languages. Read out the name of the language family, the number of languages in that family and a few examples of the languages.

Slide 7: Pupils answer the questions on the worksheet (also shown on this slide). They can work individually or in pairs or groups as you see fit.

The Indo-European Language Tree Answers





Slide 8: Discussion in the class. Targeted questioning. Pupils' own response.

- What languages spoken in this class are not on this language tree? Why are they not here?
- What language family could they belong to?

Slide 9 – 13: Plenary Quiz. Pupils race against the clock to find the languages requested in the title. Each slide has 60 seconds. Click on the slide to reveal the answers.

Slide 14: Shows the word “snow” in different languages over Europe. Can pupils spot the related words?