



## **The World of Languages and Languages of the World**

# **Welcome to WoLLoW**

Let's investigate language, crack some codes and look for linguistic clues.  
WoLLoW the Hippo will show that words and languages are fascinating.

# Objectives

---

- We can see that words and languages are fascinating and fun.
- We can see that words and languages from different countries are linked.
- We can see that by looking for clues and cracking codes, understanding other languages is easier than we think.



# Let's Go!

## Can we break the code?

---

Guess what the word under the hippo means.

What do you notice about the letters?

Are there any similarities to English?

What language do you think it might be?



**ίπποπόταμος**  
WoLLoW the HiPPo

So, ἵπποπόταμος  
if  
means Hippopotamus in Greek....

---

- How would you write "mat" using Greek letters?
- What about "pop" and "pot"?
- What other words can you find within the word? Are there any of more than 3 letters?
- Write the words you have found out in Greek letters. Can your partner crack the code and work out what they mean?

Meet WoLLoW the HiPPo.

His real name is William  
and he was made 4000  
years ago in Egypt.



ἵπποπόταμος  
WoLLoW the HiPPo

**What can you tell me about this  
Greek letter?**

---

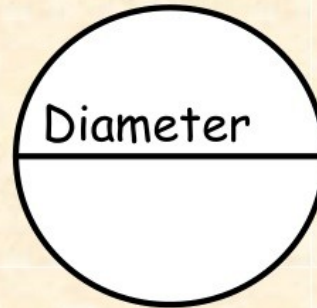
$\pi$

# $\pi$

---

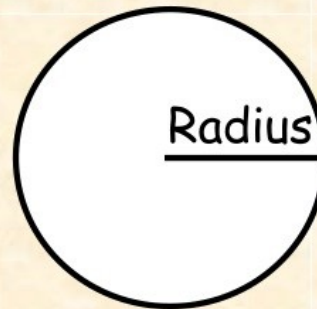
3.14159265358979  
3238462643383279  
5028841971693993  
7510582097494459  
2307816406286208  
9986280348253421  
170679.....

Circles



Circumference =  $\pi \times \text{diameter}$

$$C = \pi d$$



Area =  $\pi \times \text{radius}^2$

$$A = \pi r^2$$

# Now, let's crack a code in German.

- Hippopotamus means “river horse” in Greek. Which part of the word do you think means "horse" and which part means "river"?
- In German a hippopotamus is a *Nilpferd*. Pferd means horse, so what does *Nil* mean? Remember that this Hippo was found in Egypt!



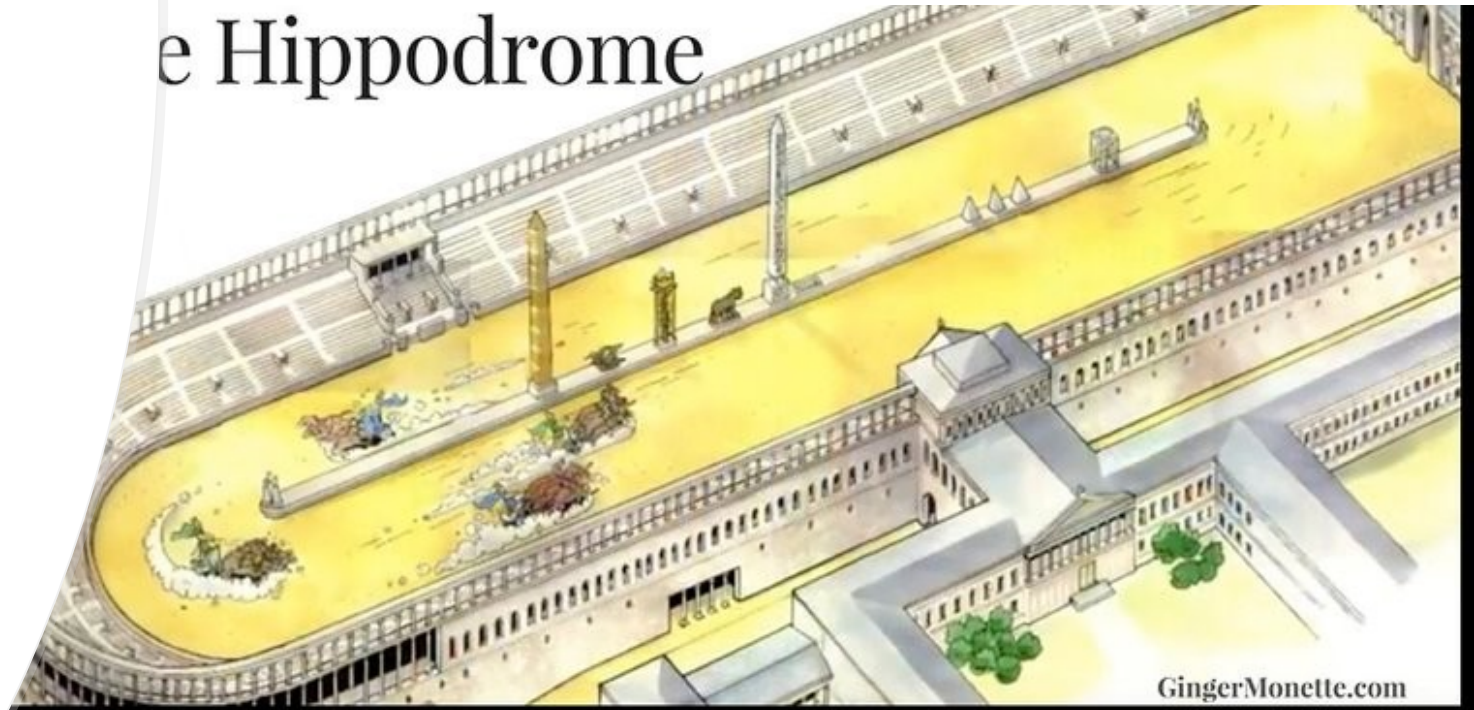


Hippos means horse;  
Potamus means River. So...

- What's a Hippodrome?
- What does the name Philip mean?
- The hippocampus can be found in the brain and the sea. Why?



e Hippodrome





**Match the language  
to the word!  
All these words mean  
the same thing. What  
could it be?**

---

- |            |                       |
|------------|-----------------------|
| 1. نَهْر   | a. Chinese            |
| 2. Río     | b. Spanish            |
| 3. Flod    | c. Arabic             |
| 4. Fleuve  | d. Greek              |
| 5. Ποταμός | e. French             |
| 6. 河流      | f. Danish and Swedish |

Can you add any languages to the list?

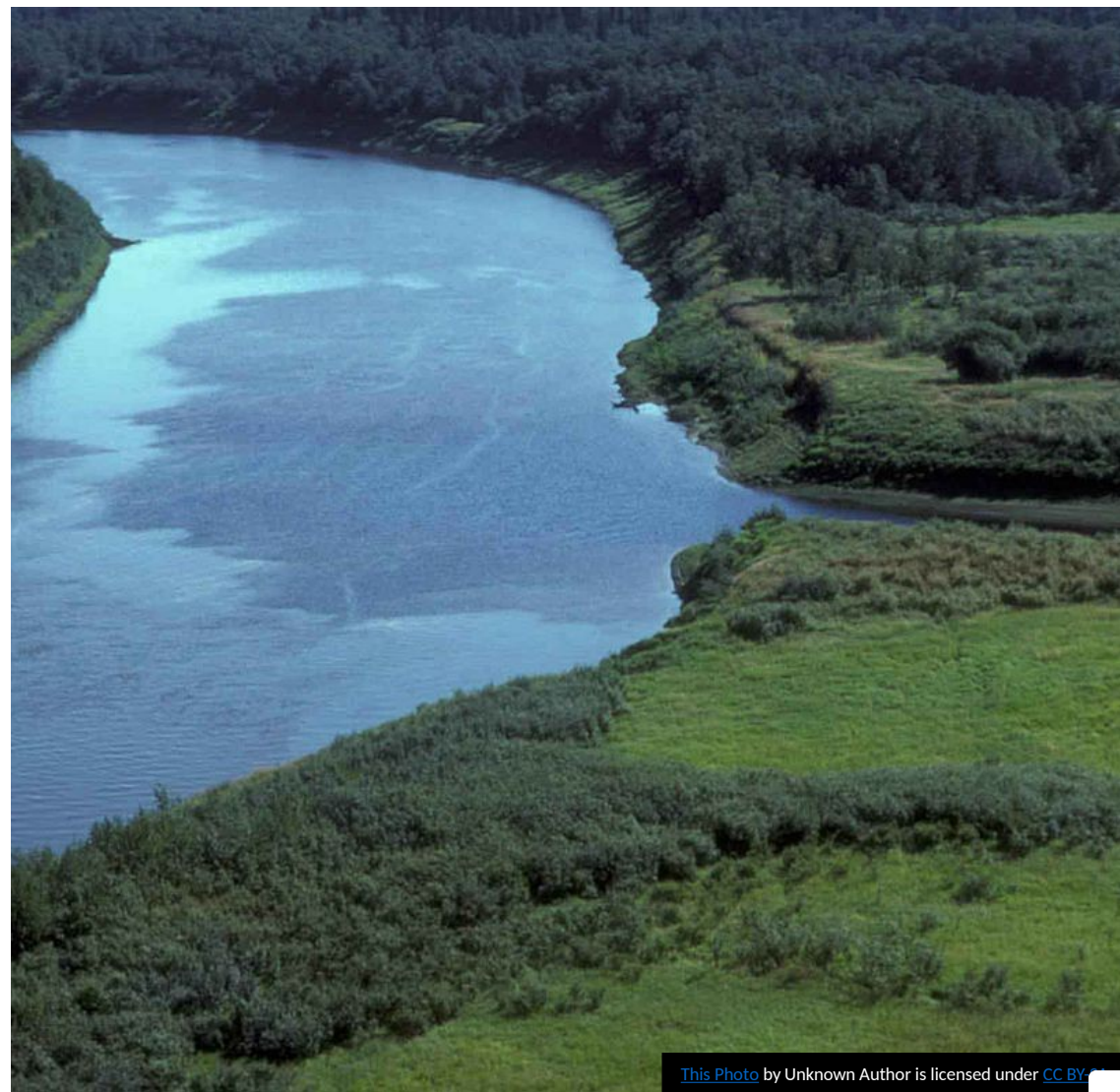


ἵπποπόταμος  
WoLLow the HiPPo



# Flod

- Does *Flod* remind you of any English words?
- Why is the Danish and Swedish for “river” the same?
- Do you know how language from Denmark influenced English?
- Arabic and Greek use a different alphabet. Chinese uses characters. Can you think of other languages that use different scripts?



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

# Río

Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

- What language links these countries?
- Where are most of them located on a map?
- Why is Brazil different?
- Have you heard of Rio de Janeiro?



# Mesopotamia: the land between two rivers

What is the Fertile Crescent?

Why did it matter?

Which modern countries are in the Fertile Crescent?

What is the capital of Iraq?

Which other countries border Iraq today?

In Arabic the area is called Al-Jazirah - 'the island'





# Hippos and Lions

In which continent do hippos live?

How many languages do you think are spoken on that continent?

Swahili is one of the most spoken languages in this continent. You may know some Swahili: *Hakuna Matata* and *Simba*. What do these words mean?



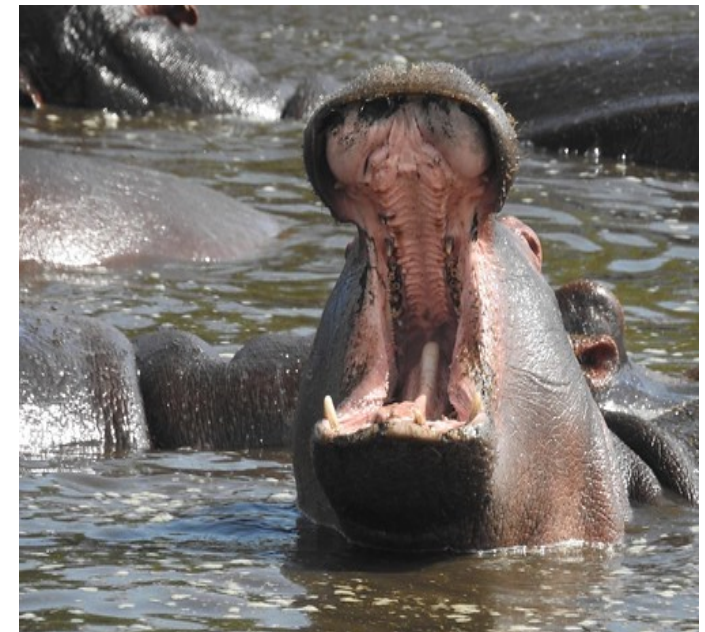




ἵπποπόταμος  
WoLLow the HIPPo

# WoLLOW the HiPPo will take you on a journey around the world to explore language.

Games	Play	Puzzles	Code-breaking
Patterns	Similarities	Differences	Changes
Oddities	Theft	Clues	Fun



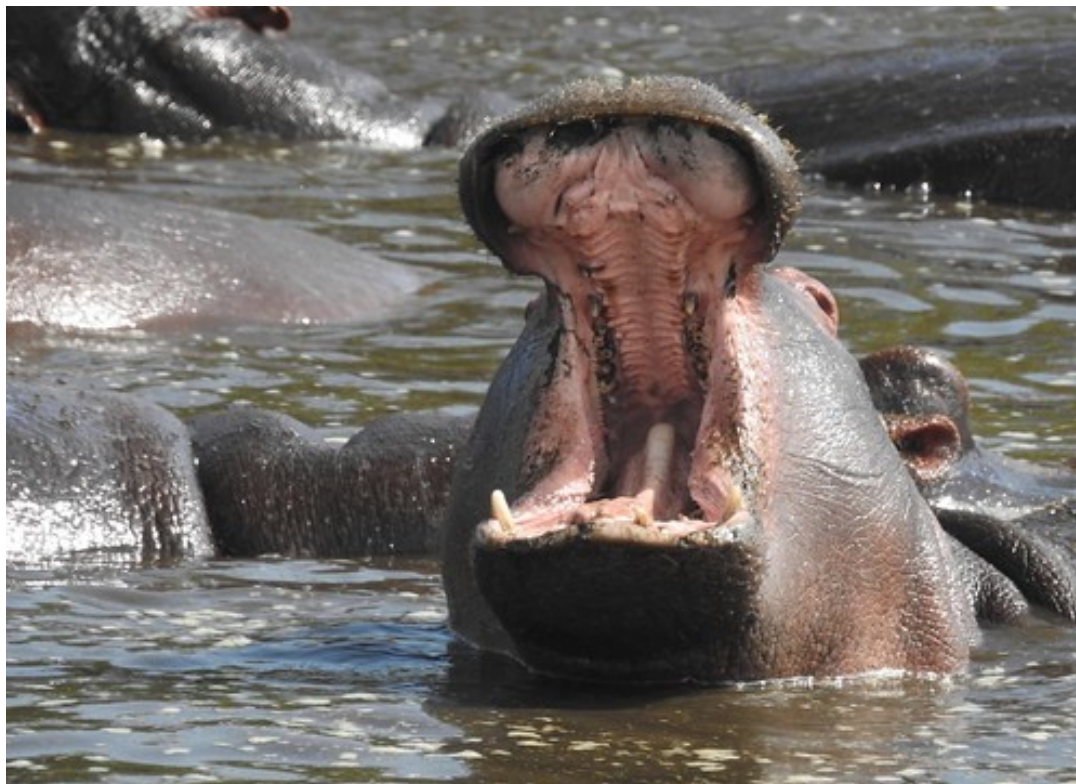
# WoLLoW would like to know...



**ἵπποπόταμος**  
WoLLoW the HiPPo

- What languages do you speak?
- What languages do your parents or grandparents speak?
- What are these WoLLoW lessons aiming to do?
- Why not talk to your parents or carers about the languages in your family?

"So follow me follow, down to the hollow  
And there we will WoLLoW in glorious mud!"



ἵπποτάμος  
WoLLow the HiPPo

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed