

Vocabulary to Know

Column 1

language
mutual intelligibility
standard language
dialects
dialect chains
isogloss
language families
subfamilies (language branches)
cognate
Proto-Indo-European

Column 2

Proto-Eurasiatic
language divergence
backward reconstruction
language convergence
extinct language
conquest theory
Romance Languages
Germanic Languages
Slavic Languages
lingua franca

Column 3

pidgin language
Creole Language
monolingual states
multilingual states
official language
global language
place
toponym
language group

Unit 4: Language

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Key Question #1: What are languages and what role do languages play in cultures?

1. Why did Frenchification occur in Brussels?
2. Make a key for French and Flemish and identify where each language is spoken on the map below.



3. How have loanwords presented a challenge for the Académie Française?

4. What methods did the United States use to force English on Native American groups and why?

5. According to figure 6.4, what are the five most spoken languages on earth?
6. How does language help cement cultural identity?

7. How can language be used as a “weapon”?

8. Why have the Quebecois demanded more autonomy from the rest of Canada?

9. Define mutual intelligibility.

10. How are all of the people of China able to communicate with one another?

11. What is the difference between a dialect and a language?

12. Define isogloss.

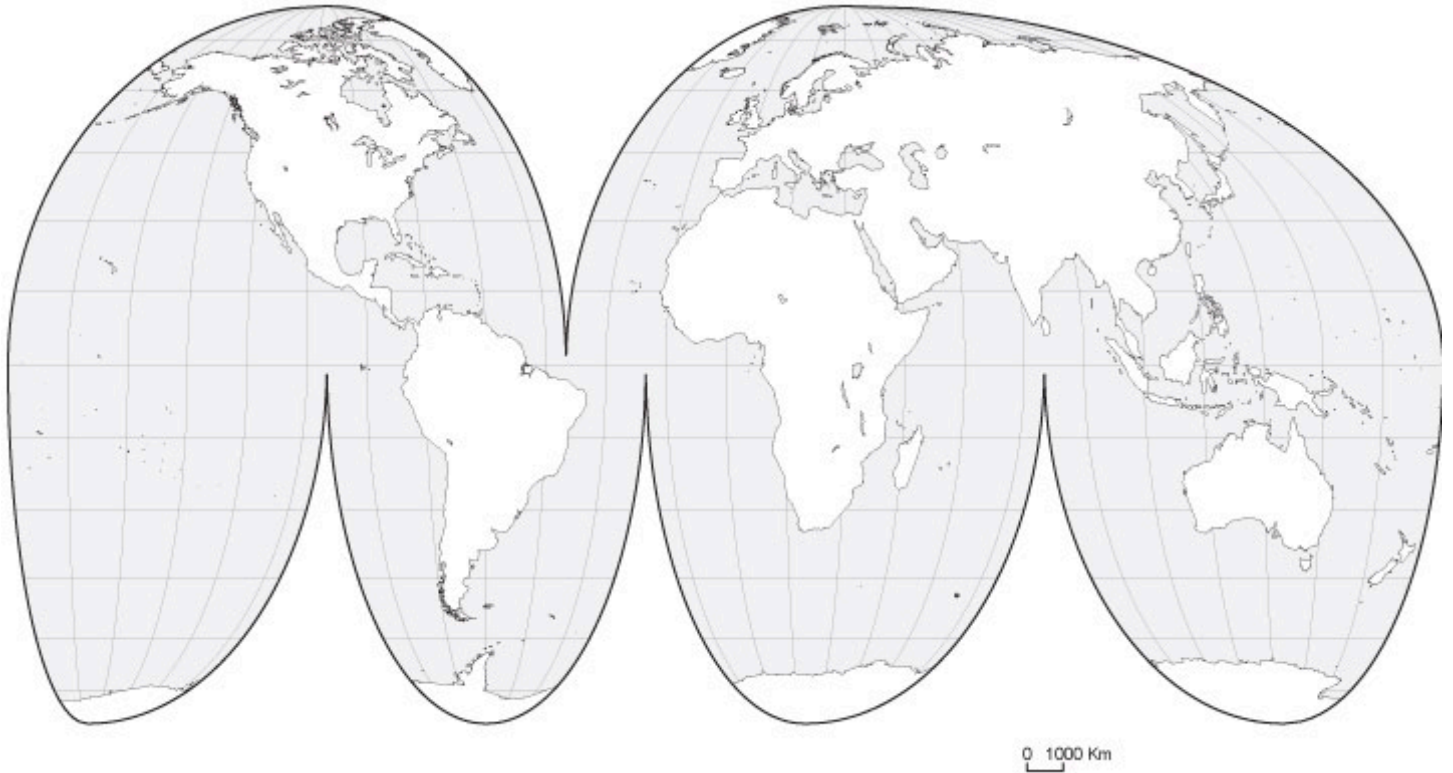
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Key Question #2: Why are languages distributed the way they are?

1. Define language family.

2. Use figure 6.8 to shade in the areas on the map below where Indo-European Languages are the most prevalent languages spoken.
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3. Why is Madagascar linguistically different than the rest of Africa?
4. Define cognate.
5. Explain how the following people aided the world in understanding the origin of languages.
William Jones

Jakob Grimm
6. Why is there really no such spoken language as “Chinese”?

7. How do languages go extinct?

8. Describe the difference between the conquest theory and agricultural theory of the spread of the Proto-Indo-European language family.

9. Which two language families other than the Indo-European language family are most represented in Europe and where?

10. Identify where each of the major Indo-European subfamilies in Europe are spoken.

Germanic

Romance

Slavic

11. How is the Euskera language of the Basque region different than the rest of the languages in Europe?

12. Which language family in sub-Saharan Africa is the oldest, and what is its unique trait?

13. Which language family is dominant in sub-Saharan Africa?

14. Why is English the official language of Nigeria and how does it present problems for its people?

Key Question #3: How did certain languages become dominant?

1. How did Gutenberg's printing press stabilize certain languages?
2. How do trade and commerce stimulate the formation of new hybrid languages?
3. According to Wade Davis, how many of the world's 7000 languages are endangered?
4. Define the following three terms.

Lingua franca

Pidgin language

Creole language

5. Identify the world's major lingua franca in each of the following regions.
A. East Africa _____ C. Middle East _____
6. What is Bazaar Malay?
7. Which states today can still be loosely considered monolingual states?

8. Why do some countries have official languages?

9. How can an official language hurt a country?

10. Why is it unlikely that English will ever be the global tongue, but will remain the global language?

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Key Question #4: What role does language play in making places?

1. How does the name of a place give it character?

2. Using figure 6.2 on page 165, label each of the following toponyms of New York City.

A) Bronx _____

B) New York City _____

C) DUMBO _____

D) Citi-Field _____

E) Forest Hills _____

H) Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. _____

3. Why do Argentina and the United Kingdom have differing names for the Falkland Islands/Malvinas?

4. Why did the people of one Welsh town rename their town, Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwryndrobwlilllantysiliogogoch?

5. How has Wales worked to preserve the traditional Welsh language?
6. Why did a local nationalist party in India rename Bombay, Mumbai?
7. Why has the name of the Democratic Republic of Congo changed a few times?
8. What was odd about the city of New York's decision to rename the 59th Street Bridge, the Ed Koch Bridge?
9. Why did residents and business owners on the eastern end of West Fifth Street in Greenville, North Carolina object to renaming their portion of the street after Martin Luther King Jr.?
10. How have corporations affected names in New York City?