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European Day of Languages 2020

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European Day of Languages Activities 2020 Activities



Activity 1 - Facts about the Romanian Language

Did you know this about... Romanian?

- 1. In the Romanian language, the same words can have a different meaning depending on where you place the accent e.g. véselă vesélă (happy tableware). The name "Romania" comes from the Latin word "Romanus" which means "citizen of the Roman Empire."
- 2. Although it is classified as a romance language, Romanian has developed a very distinct phonology and grammar system different from other Romance languages. Historians believe that this is due to Romania's relative isolation from areas where the other Romance languages developed, and because of Romanian contact with Slavic-speaking peoples. For example, while most Romance languages have lost the Latin language differentiation between a long "o" and short "u", fusing the two together, Romanian has retained this distinction. Another distinct feature Romanian has as a Romance language is the fact that it tends to replace consonants such as "k" and "g" with the labial consonants "b," "m" or "p."

- 3.The longest word in the dictionary containing only vowels is an onomatopoeia: "uiuiu". It is used as an interjection to express happiness. "Oaia aia e a ei, eu i-o iau" (That sheep is hers, I'm taking it) is a sentence made up only of vowels.
- 4. The Romanian language has no word for "shallow." To describe something as shallow, people speaking Romanian usually use the word "small" ("small water" means "shallow water," for example) or simply "not deep."
- 5. The Institutul de Lingvistic ă al Academiei Române (Institute for Linguistics of the Romanian Academy) was founded in 1866 under the name of the Romanian Literary Society which is a cultural forum responsible for cultivation of Romanian language, history and literature. From the very beginning its primary mission was to elaborate the three necessary instruments of a modern culture, namely to normalize the orthography, set down the grammar, and compile an exhaustive dictionary of the Romanian language.

www.academiaromana.ro

Activity 2: Language Quiz

1. Question 1: In which of the following countries is German an official language?

Liechtenstein

Switzerland

Austria

Belgium

Luxembourg



2. Question 2: The official language of Azerbaijan is called?

Azerbaijanian

Azerbaigianic

Azerban

Azeri

3. Question 3: In which country is the language Cymraeg spoken?

Ireland

Scotland

Wales

Faroe Islands

4. Question 4: Who was the founder of Esperanto?

Ferdinand de Saussure

J. R. R. Tolkien

Naom Chomsky

Ludwig Lazarus Zamenhof

5. Question 5: Which book is considered to be the world's oldest?

The Koran

Adam Bede's Historia

The Epic of Gilgamesh

Chanson de Roland

Activity 3: Celebrities speaking languages

Find out how many languages your favourite celebrity speaks and present it to the class.



Activity 4: PROVERBS, QUOTES, IDIOMS

Research the internet and find quotes, proverbs, idioms about the importance of learning languages and present them to the class.

To learn a language is to have one more window from which to look at the world.

Chinese proverb

teamjapanese.com

Activity 5: Language Challenges

Choose one of the following challenges. You have one week to present it to the class.

Challenge 1: Say 'I love you!' in 5 different languages within 1 minute.

Challenge 2: Count from 1-10 in 3 different languages within 1 minute.

Challenge 3: Write down my favourite colour/sport/ hobby/animal in 3 different languages.

Challenge 4: Write down my 3 favourite words in a foreign language.

Challenge 5: Switch the language of your phone or tablet to a foreign language for one day (or longer!).

Challenge 6: Translate a song in a foreign language into your own language.

Challenge 7: Keep a journal in a foreign language for one week.



Activity 6: CREATE THE LOGO

Create the Logo of the European Day of Languages 2020.



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