Languages of the World



Did You Know...

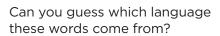
- Nobody knows exactly how many languages are spoken in the world today, but there are probably around 7,000.
- ◆ At least 2,000 languages don't have a written form; they're only spoken. Some languages have more than one written form—Japanese has four!
- Living languages are always changing. New words are added to the dictionary every year while other words fall out of use.



The Borrowers

English loves to borrow words from other languages. Just look at some of the words we've "stolen" over the years!

- alligator (Spanish)
- chimpanzee (Luba-Kasai [Bantu])
- chipmunk (Ojibwe [Algonquian])
- dollar (Dutch)
- giraffe (Arabic)
- shampoo (Hindi)
- tea (Chinese)
- tycoon (Japanese)



1. author 2. noodle 3. klutz 4. candy

Answers: J. French, 2. German, 3. Yiddish, 4. Arabic



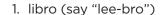




Say What?

Kids all over the world love to read! Here's the word book in 5 different languages. See if you can guess





- 2. книга (say "kuh-nee-ga")
- 3. 书 / shū (say "shoo")
- 4. kitabu (say "kee-tah-boo")
- 5. bok (say "boohk")

Answers: 1. Spanish, 2. Russian, 3. Mandarin Chinese, 4. Swahili, 5. Norwegian.

Cracking the Code

Trying to understand a language you don't know can be like trying to break a secret code. In fact, in World War II, the US military used hundreds of Navajo code talkers to share information they wanted to keep secret. Their code—based on the Navajo language—was never broken.

America = Ne-he-mah, "Our Mother"

Battleship = Lo-tso, "whale"



The Write Direction

Not all languages are written horizontally from left to right as English is.

- Korean is written in columns that go top to bottom.
 - 0



Ancient Egyptian
 Hieroglyphics
 used to go
 whichever way
 looked best.

were facing.

You could tell
where the beginning
of a sentence was
based on which
way the animal
hieroglyphics



