

European Languages - Trivia, Facts about Europe

Overview - Europeans speak many different languages. The number of the official languages of the EU is 24. The topic of the lessons is to learn different interesting and funny facts about the languages in Europe. Did you know that animals also speak different languages? A cow in English makes “moo” but in Dutch it’s “boeh”. This is called [onomatopoeia](#). In this lesson, the students discover different animal sounds and facts about the languages and about facts in Europe (also language families). Students can discover different facts about Europe. Some languages are included although they are not official languages of Europe. The reason is simple - multilingualism. In London, you can hear up to 250 different languages. This module is connected to other modules - Europe and languages and multilingualism.

Target Group - Class 4-5

Aims - The student will...

1. Explore different languages
2. Learn facts about European languages and European countries
3. Will learn about language families in Europe
4. Will revise English names for animals

Materials

- Printed PDF fail of animal sound cards
- Cardboard to write the animal sounds
- Computers with Internet connection or tablets (then you need QR codes for the links)
- Speakers, a screen and projector.
- Paper and pencils.

Used Materials

Link 1. European Day of Languages. Language facts.

<https://edl.ecml.at/LanguageFun/LanguageFacts/tabid/1859/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>

Visited (24.05.18)

Link 2. European Day of Languages. Animal sounds.

<https://edl.ecml.at/LanguageFun/Animalsounds/tabid/3112/language/Default.aspx> Visited

(24.05.18)

Link 3. European Day of Languages. Language Quiz.

<https://edl.ecml.at/LanguageFun/LanguageQuiz/tabid/1873/AreaID/4/language/et-EE/Default.aspx> Visited (24.05.18)

Link 4 - Video. Bow Wow Meow - <https://vimeo.com/25215616> (visited 24.05.2018)

Link 5 - Animals Sounds - ESL

<https://www.esl-languages.com/en/study-abroad/coffee-time/animal-sounds/index.htm>

(visited 24.05.2018)

Link 6 Map of Languages -

<https://jakubmarian.com/map-of-languages-and-language-families-of-europe/>

(visited, 27.05.2018)

I printed the animal sound cards (link 2) out and translated the languages on the cards. Then I covered the correct sounds.



Picture 1



Picture 2

Directions:

Step 1 (10 minutes)

Visit the homepage of **European Day of Languages** (link 1). You can read the facts about languages in English or in your own language.

Share the link with your students. First of all, let all the students read the facts and then take part in the language quiz (link 3). The quiz shows also the correct answer. You can discuss with your students which questions were the most difficult and why. The facts are quite surprising. Discuss the different languages in Europe.

Fact: Languages in Europe: Most languages belong to either the Romance languages (such as French, Italian, Spanish), the Germanic languages (among them are German, English) and the Slavic languages (among them Russian, Bulgarian, Polish)

Show the students the maps of languages (LINK 6).

Step 2 (10 minutes)

Explain what onomatopoeia means and that animals make different sounds in different languages.

Divide the class into groups of 2-3. Hand out the animal sound cards. The correct sounds are covered (picture 2). Hand them out the cards with different sounds. The students have to guess what kind of sound does an animal make in the given languages in the card. They have to match the orange cards with the correct languages. When they have finished they can peek under the card and check if they were correct.

Step 3 (5 minutes)

After they have finished working in the groups watch the video “Bow Wow Meow” (link 4).

Step 4 (5 minutes)

Discuss - what sound do the animals do in your languages. Is it similar to the sounds that you heard in the video?

Step 5 (15 minutes)

Let the students pick an animal. They have to draw the animal on a paper and write different sounds in different languages on the card. Also add what language it is and where it is spoken (name of the country, capital city, some facts about the country - this way they also remember

facts about Europe). They can look up the information (link 5) and listen to them. Encourage them to add at least 3-4 languages. Those cards can be displayed in the classroom.

Step 6

Ask the students which facts about Europe they learned in this lesson. They can present their animal cards if you have time.