



Endangered Languages

Reading Worksheet — Level C | tahricteaches.com

There are about 7,000 **languages** in the world today. Sadly, many of them are in danger. Experts say that one language dies every two weeks. When the last speaker dies, the language is gone forever.

A language is **endangered** when only a few people speak it. Some languages have just ten or twenty speakers left. Most of these speakers are old people. Young people often learn bigger languages like English or Chinese instead. They want better jobs and more friends.

When a language dies, we lose more than just words. We also lose stories, songs, and old **knowledge**. Many small languages have special words for plants, animals, and weather. This information is very important and hard to find in other languages.

Some people work hard to **save** these languages. They make books, videos, and apps. Teachers go to small villages and talk with old people. They record their voices and write down their words. Children can then learn the language at school.

You can help too. Be kind to people who speak different languages. Learn a few words from a small language. Every language is **special** and beautiful. Together, we can keep these voices alive for the future. Small actions today can protect old languages for many years. We must all care about this big problem before it is too late.

A. Vocabulary

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|--------------------|---|
| 1. languages ____ | a. different and important in a good way |
| 2. endangered ____ | b. keep something safe from harm |
| 3. speakers ____ | c. people who use a language to talk |
| 4. knowledge ____ | d. very small town in the countryside |
| 5. save ____ | e. sounds people make when they speak or sing |
| 6. special ____ | f. systems of words people use to talk and write |
| 7. record ____ | g. in danger of disappearing soon |
| 8. village ____ | h. information and facts people know |
| 9. voices ____ | i. keep something safe from being lost |
| 10. protect ____ | j. save sounds or pictures to listen or watch later |

B. True or False

- | | |
|--|--|
| ___ 1. There are about 7,000 languages in the world today. | ___ 2. One language dies every two weeks. |
| ___ 3. Most speakers of endangered languages are young children. | ___ 4. Young people often learn bigger languages like English. |

- ___ 5. When a language dies, we only lose words and nothing else.
- ___ 6. Small languages have special words for plants and animals.
- ___ 7. No one is trying to save endangered languages.
- ___ 8. Teachers visit villages and record old people's voices.
- ___ 9. Children cannot learn endangered languages at school.
- ___ 10. Every language is special and beautiful.

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: endangered, speakers, knowledge, save, special, languages, voices, protect

1. A language is _____ when only a few people speak it.
2. Some languages have just ten or twenty _____ left.
3. When a language dies, we lose stories, songs, and old _____.
4. Some people work hard to _____ these languages.
5. Every language is _____ and beautiful.



D. Comprehension Questions

1. How often does a language die in the world?
2. Why do young people often learn bigger languages instead of small ones?
3. What do teachers do to help save endangered languages?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Do you think it is important to save endangered languages? Why or why not?
2. What small language or dialect is spoken in your country, and how can people help keep it alive?



Answer Key

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A. Vocabulary: 1-f, 2-g, 3-c, 4-h, 5-i, 6-a, 7-j, 8-d, 9-e, 10-b

B. True/False: 1-T, 2-T, 3-F, 4-T, 5-F, 6-T, 7-F, 8-T, 9-F, 10-T

C. Fill Blanks: 1-endangered, 2-speakers, 3-knowledge, 4-save, 5-special

D. Comprehension:

1. One language dies every two weeks.
2. They want better jobs and more friends.
3. They visit small villages, record old people's voices, and write down their words so children can learn at school.