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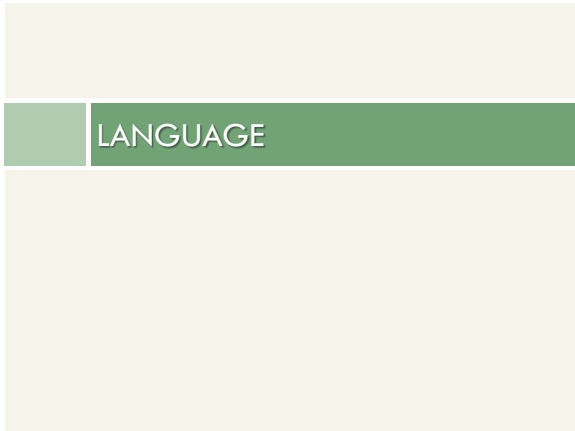
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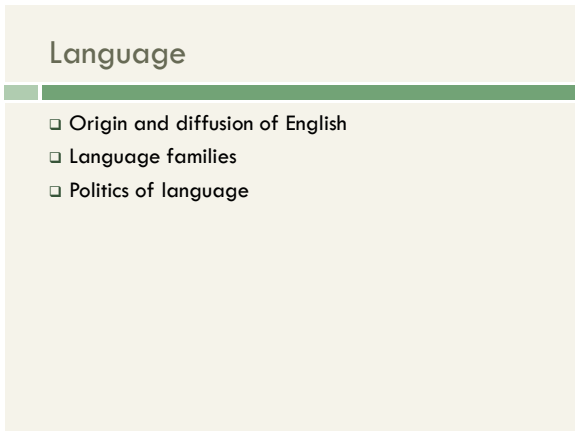
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## What is Language

- ❑ Organized system of speech
- ❑ Mutual comprehension of sounds
- ❑ Allows transmission of culture
- ❑ Cause and symbol of cultural differentiation
- ❑ Vocabulary, pronunciation, syntax, word meaning

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## Language Defined

- ❑ Organized system of spoken words by which people communicate with one another with mutual comprehension (Getis, 1985)
- ❑ Languages subtly gradate one to another. Dialects and other regional differences may eventually lead to incomprehensibility - a new language
- ❑ **Migration** and **Isolation** explain how a single language can later become two or more

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## World Languages

- ❑ Estimated 6000-7000 languages
- ❑ But only 2000-3000 written
- ❑ Half the world speaks only 8
- ❑ Only 300 are safe from extinction

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# Geography of Language

- ❑ Language depends on migration
- ❑ Diffusion of language
  - ❑ Spread by speakers
  - ❑ Picked up by others
- ❑ Language splitting
- ❑ Pidgins and creoles

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# Language Families

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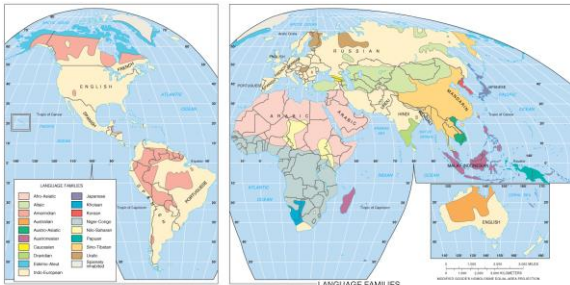
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## Language Families of the World



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## Indo-European Language Family



The main branches of the Indo-European language family include Germanic, Romance, Balto-Slavic, and Indo-Iranian. English is in the West Germanic group

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## Indo-European Language Family – Germanic Branch

- West Germanic
  - English (514 million)
  - German (128)
  - Dutch (21)
- East Germanic
  - Danish (5)
  - Norwegian (5)
  - Swedish (9)



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## Germanic Branch - Icelandic

- Iceland colonized by Norwegians in AD 874
- Largely unchanged because of isolation combined with literary tradition
- Highly developed literary tradition
- Ancient sagas can be read by modern speakers of Icelandic




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## Germanic Branch - English

- ❑ Diffused throughout the world by hundreds of years of British colonialism
- ❑ Brought to New World by British colonies in 1600s
- ❑ Has become an important global lingua franca

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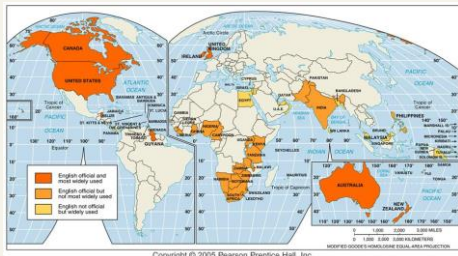
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## Germanic Branch - English



English is the official language in 42 countries, including some in which it is not the most widely spoken language. It is also used and understood in many others.

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## Development of English

- ❑ Germanic Tribes (Germany/Denmark)
  - ❑ Jutes
  - ❑ Angles
  - ❑ Saxons
- ❑ Vikings (Norway)
  - ❑ 9th - 11th Centuries
- ❑ Normans (French)
  - ❑ Battle of Hastings, 1066
  - ❑ French was official language for 150 years.




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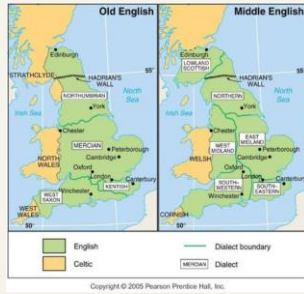
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## Old and Middle English Dialects

- The main dialect regions of Old English before the Norman invasion persisted to some extent in the Middle English dialects through the 1400s




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## Dialects in the Eastern U.S.

- Hans Kurath divided the eastern U.S. into three dialect regions, whose distribution is similar to that of house types




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## Development of English - Adopted Words

- Germanic Tribes (Germany/Denmark)
  - Kindergarten, angst, noodle, pretzel
- Vikings (Norway)
  - Take, they, reindeer, window
- Normans (French)
  - Renaissance, mansion, village, guardian




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## Indo-European Language Family – Romance Branch

- Like English these languages have been spread by Colonialism
- Spanish (425 million)
- Portuguese (194) - Brazil
- French (129)
- Italian (62)
- Romanian (26)




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## Indo-European Language Family – Romance Branch

- The Roman Empire, at its height in 2nd century A.D., extinguished many local languages
- After the fall of Rome in the 5th century, communication declined and languages evolved again
- Literature was all written in Latin until the 13th and 14th centuries
- Dante Alighieri's 1314 Inferno written in vulgar Latin (Florentine)

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## Indo-European Language Family – Romance Branch




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## Sino-Tibetan Language Family (20%)

- Branches:
  - Sinitic
    - Mandarin (1075)
    - Cantonese (71)
  - Austro-Thai (77)
    - Thai, Hmong
  - Tibeto-Burman
    - Burmese (32)
- Chinese languages based on 420 one syllable words with meaning inferred from context and tone

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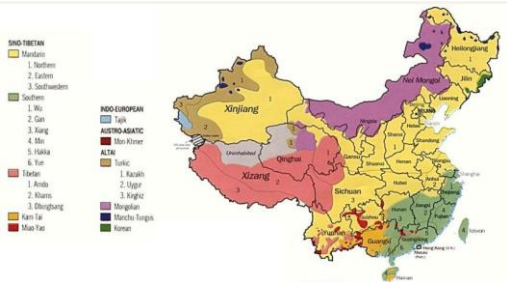
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## Sino-Tibetan Language Family (20%)




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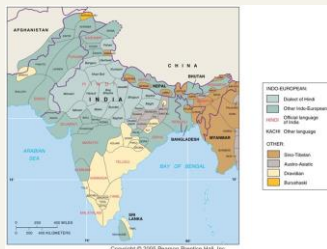
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## South Asian Language Families

- Indo-European is the largest of four main language families in South Asia
- The country of India has 18 official languages




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## Language Families of Africa

- The 1,000 or more languages of Africa are divided among five main language families, including Austronesian languages in Madagascar




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## Afro-Asiatic Language Family

- Main Branch:
  - Semitic
    - Arabic (256)
      - Language of the Koran; spread by Islamic Faith and Islamic (Ottoman) Empires
    - Hebrew (5)
      - Language of the old Testament (with Aramaic); completely revived from extinction in Israel, 1948




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## Islamic World circa A.D. 1500




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## Niger-Congo Diffusion

- Proto-Bantu peoples originated in Cameroon-Nigeria
- They spread throughout southern Africa AD 1 - 1000
- Bantu peoples were agriculturalists who used metal tools
- Khoisan peoples were hunter-gatherers and were no match for the Bantu.
- Pygmies adopted Bantu tongue and retreated to forest
- Hottentots and Bushmen retained the clicks of Khoisan languages

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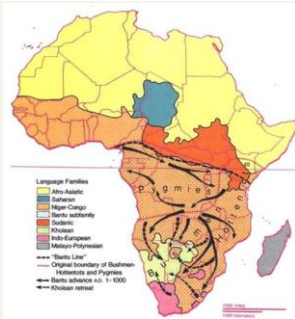
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## Niger-Congo Diffusion




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## Language Complexity

- In Nigeria ethnic conflict between southern Ibos and western Yoruba led the government to move the capital to a more neutral central location (Abuja)
- Many other ethnic battles rage continuously




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## Language Complexity

- In Switzerland, four official languages
- A history of peace and tolerance, and a political system that puts power in the hands of local leaders ensure peace




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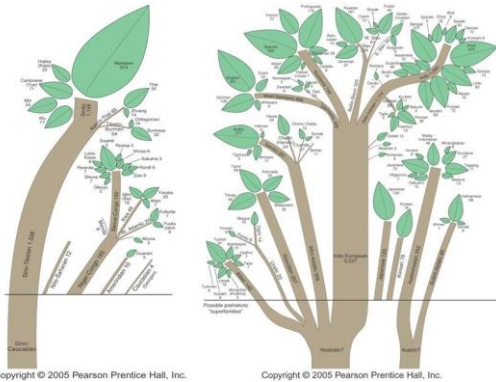
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Family trees and estimated numbers of speakers for the main world language families.

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## Roots of Language

- Spoken Languages
  - Origins? Evidence?
  - Competitive Value for Culture?
- Written Languages
  - Value for Culture?
  - Sumerian 3000 B.C., Mesopotamia (Iraq)
  - Soon also the Assyrians, Babylonians, Hittites
  - Libraries established by 2500 B.C.
    - More than 200,000 of the tablets have been preserved
  - Connection to Neolithic Revolution?

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## How to Write Down a Language?

From basic characters:

日	人
Sun	Person

白	White, clear (Sun peeping out)
大	Big (person with arms extended)
天	Heaven (above the biggest person)
白入	White person
白天	Daytime (clear and heaven)
白日	Daytime (clear and Sun)

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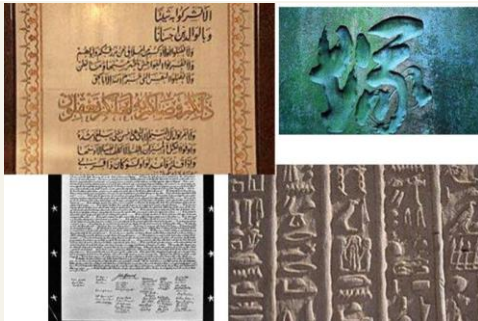
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## How to Write Down a Language?




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## Geography of English

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## Geography of English

- ❑ History of invasions
- ❑ Original inhabitants: Celts
- ❑ 450 AD: Angles, Jutes, Saxons
- ❑ 1066 AD: Normans
- ❑ Germanic, French, and Latinate bases

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## Geography of English

- ❑ Diffused via colonization
- ❑ Now official language of 60 countries
- ❑ 1.5 billion speakers
- ❑ Lingua franca
- ❑ Several distinct dialects

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## Dialects

- ❑ Variation of a language
- ❑ Different vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation
- ❑ Vary by place, ethnicity, class
- ❑ Usually still understandable

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## American vs. British Dialects

- New words, new inventions
  - Moose, raccoon, canoe
  - Elevator/lift, flashlight/torch
- Deliberate new spellings
  - Color/colour, defense/defence
- Changes in pronunciation (“a,” “r”)

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## American Dialects

- Based on who migrated where and contact with England
  - New England
  - Mid-Atlantic
  - South
- Midwestern English standard dialect

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## American Dialects




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Language Classification

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Language Classification

- Language families
  - ▣ Languages with a common, prehistoric origin
- 20 major families
  - ▣ Indo-European, Sino-Tibetan, Afro-Asiatic
  - ▣ Indo-European languages cover half the world

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Language Classification

- Branches or subfamilies
  - ▣ Common ancestor within thousands of years
  - ▣ Germanic, Armenian, Celtic
- Not mutually intelligible
- But similar sounds, grammar, words

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## Language Classification

- Groups within branches
  - West Germanic, Indic, East Slavic and Baltic
- More recent common origin
- Few grammar, vocabulary differences

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## Language Classification




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## Politics of Language

- Language as key to culture
- Official languages
- Bilingualism or multilingualism
  - Belgium vs. Switzerland

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# Belgium

- ❑ Walloons (French) 45%
  - ❑ Historically upper/ruling class
- ❑ Flemish (Dutch) 55%
- ❑ Two regions governed separately
- ❑ Brussels (capital) bilingual




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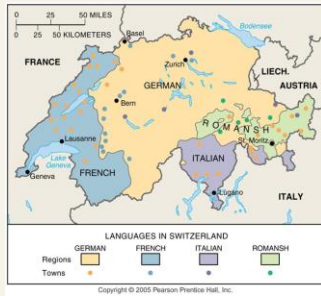
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# Switzerland

- ❑ Four official languages
  - ❑ German (65%)
  - ❑ French (18%)
  - ❑ Italian (12%)
  - ❑ Romansh (1%)
- ❑ Strong local government (cantons)




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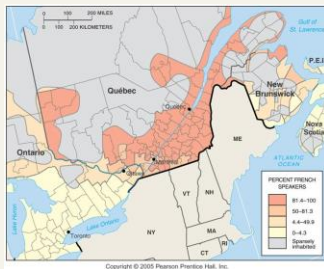
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# French-English Boundary in Canada

- ❑ Although Canada is bilingual, French speakers are concentrated in the province of Québec, where 80% of the population speaks French




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## French-English Boundary in Canada



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## Endangered Languages

- Why are they disappearing?
  - Globalization
    - Migration (Urbanization)
    - Economic Development
    - Lingua Francas
  - Media
    - Internet (Requires Arabic Character Set)
    - **Lingua Franca** - a language used for trade by two people who speak different native tongues

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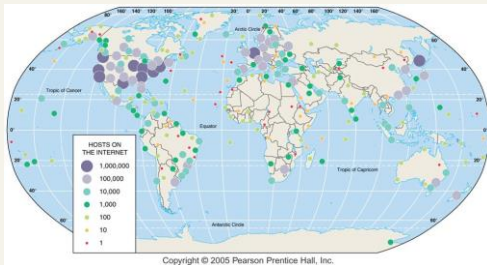
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## Internet Hosts



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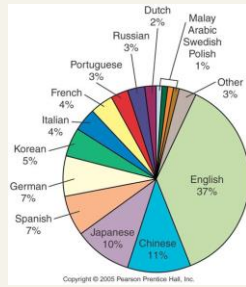
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## Internet Hosts, by Language

- The large majority of internet hosts in 1999 used English, Chinese, Japanese, or European languages



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## Key Points

- Language is a fundamental element of cultural identity
- Languages diverge via migration and isolation
- Small languages are disappearing as a result of globalization
- Languages that share a common ancestor belong to the same family
- Language diversity is a source of political conflict in the world

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## McDonald's, Israel



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