

## **Endangered Languages** **an interactive e-learning module on the internet for secondary schools**

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The module on Endangered Languages consists of two lessons and can be used as optional teaching materials for two or three hours in the discipline geography and in languages classes. The module comes with instructions for both teachers and students and with worksheets. In the first lesson themes are:

- about language
- how many languages do you speak?
- languages of the world
- the origins of language
- endangered languages
- language loss, maintenance and revitalization

Each theme is subdivided into short textslides and animations with many more details. As it is nearly impossible to discuss within two or three hours all five continents each with its specific problems as regards language endangerment, examples are mainly taken from two areas: Northeast Siberia and Western New Guinea. The second lesson zooms in on these two regions on

- geography (climate, landscape, flora and fauna)
- village life (living, traffic, administration, health care)
- daily life (hunting, fishing, nomads, agriculture-gardening)
- traditions (feast, religion, birth-marriage-death)
- school (system, language education)

In order to avoid leaving students with a “sad doom-and-gloom story”, much attention is paid to issues like language revitalization, the pride of a people for its own language, culture and traditions, the importance of self-esteem and own identity. Also, how peoples themselves, social organizations, schools and governments can contribute to language maintenance. Instead of having to worry about yet another world problem, students can enjoy the wide variety of other peoples’ languages and cultures.

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