

# International Languages Week

[www.international-languages-week.org.nz](http://www.international-languages-week.org.nz)

15-21 AUGUST 2010

## INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES WEEK – a time for celebration!

International Languages Week is now well-established in New Zealand communities and schools, with many doing creative, entertaining things highlighting the importance for New Zealanders of learning international languages.

Taking place annually in the third full week of August, International Languages Week is designed to celebrate the diversity of languages used in New Zealand and throughout the world. Although it focuses on five key languages taught in New Zealand schools: **Chinese, French, German, Japanese, and Spanish**, International Languages Week celebrates the teaching, learning and use of ALL languages.



## A TIME FOR CELEBRATION

The following ideas are provided for teachers to plan and run celebrations of languages during International Languages Week. All teaching and learning ideas are generic and can be applied to each of the five key languages we teach in New Zealand schools. The way the celebration is organised could take many forms, **eg**

- celebrate one language and culture only for the week
- celebrate one language and culture per day
- divide the class into 5 groups – one for each language/culture
- have five classes celebrate a different language and culture and share their celebrations with each other

## TUNING IN TO LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

- Did the students know that as well as English and Māori, we teach a number of other languages in New Zealand Schools? Do they know what these languages are and what countries they come from?
- Were any of the students, parents, grandparents ... born in any of these countries? Have any students visited these countries?
- Do they know any words or greetings in any of these languages?
- Can they locate these countries on a map? What is the capital city and population of each country (ask Google Search)? What countries and/or seas border these countries?
- What do students know about these countries at present? Brainstorm and record and add to the list during the week.
- Have students use the 'Fly to' feature of Goggle Earth for a virtual visits.

## LEARNING BASIC GREETINGS IN EACH LANGUAGE

- Discuss reasons for learning basic greetings in other languages. How will it help us better interact with people from other cultures?
- These web resources are useful for students to learn basic greetings and simple phrases. For other web sites ask Google Search.  
[www.french-linguistics.co.uk/phrase\\_book/en/greetings.html](http://www.french-linguistics.co.uk/phrase_book/en/greetings.html)  
[www.elearnspanishlanguage.com/vocabulary/greetings.html](http://www.elearnspanishlanguage.com/vocabulary/greetings.html)  
[www.travelblog.org/World/chinese-audio.html](http://www.travelblog.org/World/chinese-audio.html)  
<http://german.about.com/library/anfang/blanfng01.htm>  
[www.ninjabapanese.com/japanese-greetings.html](http://www.ninjabapanese.com/japanese-greetings.html)

## RESEARCHING IDEAS FOR OUR CELEBRATION

- Introduce the idea that no matter what culture, there are some things that people like to do together and this often takes the form of a festival or celebration. Have students brainstorm a list of activities that could be included in a festival or celebration, **eg**
  - preparing and sharing special foods

- dancing and making music together
- creating and appreciating works of art and film
- planning and taking part in special festival events (these can even be sporting events such as the German Sandboarding Festival).
- Have students/groups carry out online research into festivals that take place in each country to find activities to include in their International Languages Week (ILW) celebration, **eg**
  - learning a dance enjoyed in that culture
  - learning to sing songs from these countries in their language
  - focus on the preparation, customs and cooking of particular dishes from these countries such as the special ingredients, and equipment needed to prepare a sushi meal.



## YOUR CELEBRATION/FESTIVAL IN ACTION

- Develop the idea that your ILW celebration is a special opportunity for the class to share the language and culture of countries with other classes and the wider community. Challenge students to come up with 'dozens' of great ideas that will make their festival a great success. Have them consider and plan out the form the festival will take. Are there any resources in the local community that will help? Consider turning the classroom into another country. What could be included?
  - colourful wall displays, word mobiles and travel brochures...
  - art works created around the festival theme
  - guided virtual tours for visitors using Google Earth
  - preparing and sharing a favourite meal from the country
  - learning and playing games, dances and songs from the country
  - national dress fashion parades
  - a timeline of the history and or/inventions/famous people
  - where in the world is the language spoken
  - teaching and using greetings and simple phrases in the language
  - feature traditional music from each country (ie type traditional spanish music into Google and select videos). Use data projector.

For further ideas, resources and language adviser contacts visit:  
[www.international-languages-week.org.nz](http://www.international-languages-week.org.nz)

He taonga nga reo katoa

All languages are to be treasured