

International Languages Week

18-24 AUGUST 2008

WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES WEEK?

International Languages Week is now well established in New Zealand communities and schools, with many doing creative, entertaining things to get across 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.

International Languages Week gives schools and communities the opportunity to recognise and value the languages students speak at home or are learning at school (or elsewhere). It provides an opportunity to develop students' awareness of the languages around them as well, to highlight the benefits of learning additional languages and to showcase the achievements of those already learning languages – within the school and the community.



A Great Way to Introduce Chinese to your Class

LESSON ACTIVITIES

- Chinese actually is not as hard as you thought. Learning Chinese could be fun! Do you like drawing pictures? If you do, then you would love to draw Chinese characters. Why? Because you can imagine your own images from many Chinese characters, eg
 - *New Zealand is an island country. How would you write Chinese character for this?*
- Well, imagine what is there on the island?
 - *birds and mountains? Yes, you are right.*
- The word island consists of bird and mountain. Look at the development of bird and mountain in Chinese as well as that of island below. Now you can write three words in Chinese. Well done!



鳥 + 山 = 島

Bird plus mountain equals island (Chinese Pinyin: dao3). Students can view these symbols at: (> Use character index) <http://chineseculture.about.com/library/symbol/blcc.htm>

A Great Way to Introduce German to Your Class

German is supposed to be difficult but try this text and the students will be amazed how much they can understand.

Karl Lindner ist Amerikaner. Karl ist 19 Jahre alt und lebt in Texas. Er ist Student an der Universität Texas. Karls Mutter ist Professorin an der Universität und Karls Vater ist Kapitän auf einem Schiff.



Karl hat einen Bruder, Martin und eine Schwester, Maria. Maria ist das Baby in Karls Familie. Salat, Nudeln (mit Tomatensoße),

Sie ist 5 Jahre alt und geht in den Kindergarten. Karl ist intelligent. Er studiert Physik, Sport und Mathematik. Karls Hobbys sind Theater, Film, Camping, Tanzen und Musik.

Karl trinkt oft Mineralwasser und Milch und er isst oft Steak, Sauerkraut und Schokolade (ist das nicht eine interessante Kombination?) Karl ist freundlich und tolerant und viele Mädchen finden ihn attraktiv und interessant.

- To point out the similarities of English and German you can use this table showing a comparison of some words in Spanish, French, German and English.

Spanish	French	German	English
ver	voir	sehen	see
aqui	ici	hier	here
pan	pain	brot	bread
bueno	bon	gut	good

The words above also give you a chance to practice the pronunciation of the German vowels. For more of this check the following website:

www.goethe-verlag.com/poster/indexeng.htm

GERMAN CLASSROOM PROJECTS

- Let the students research which German food they can find in a NZ supermarket.
- Let the students "collect" German names/words/signs ... etc. in their community.
- An internet activity about movies in Germany can be found at: www.clta.net/lessons/german/kino.html
- For further resources the Goethe-Institut website at: www.goethe.de is of great help.
- If you want to know what's happening in NZ with regards to the teaching of German go to: www.german.ac.nz

Viel Spaß!

He taonga nga reo katoa

A Time for Celebration

www.international-languages-week.org.nz

A Great Way to Introduce Japanese to Your Class

- You would be surprised if I said that you and your students know at least 15 Japanese words. Yes, you do!
- Let's start with finding Japanese names, words in TV ads or even in a nearby supermarket or in your street. Then find out the meanings.



川崎 豊田 本田

KAWASAKI

TOYOTA

HONDA

(All pictures for students can be downloaded at:
www.teachingonline.org/languagesweek.pdf)

- Tell students these are the Japanese family names of the founders who started these companies in the 19th or 20th century. These companies still keep their founders' surname to honour them. Some big companies tend to change their original Japanese names to internationally recognizable names such as Panasonic and Sharp.
- Have students locate Mitsubishi on the pictures sheet.

三菱

Tell your students that Mitsubishi refers to the three-diamond emblem. Mitsubishi is a combination of the words mitsu and hishi/bishi. Mitsu means three. Hishi means a rhombus or diamond shape.

- The founder of the company, Yataro, chose the three-diamond mark as the emblem for his company. It was a combination of the three-leaf crest of the Tosa-Samurai Clan, Yataro's first employer, and also of the three stacked rhombuses of the Iwasaki family crest. Traditionally, every Japanese family has a crest which you can find on the top of the back of formal kimono.
- Have students locate Subaru on the pictures sheet.

すばる

Subaru is a Japanese word for the Pleiades, a beautiful cluster of stars.

The first president of the company gave this name to his first passenger car as he had a definite opinion that Japanese cars should have Japanese names. Now you can understand why Subaru emblem is a cluster of stars.

- The following Japanese words are commonly used in NZ.

すし (sushi) すもう (sumo) つなみ (tsunami)
わさび (wasabi) なし (nashi) からて (karate)

- Have students find these symbols on the pdf pictures sheet. Tell students that they know their meanings, **eg**

- *Suin Sushi means vinegar. Sushi is cooked rice mixed with vinegar, sugar and a bit of sake.*
- There are many Japanese words or names around your students. Why don't you use these for your "language class"? Japanese is not the strange unfamiliar language – your students just didn't know they were Japanese words.

What About the French Speaking World?

- Do students know that one of NZ's closest neighbours is a French-speaking country? What is its name? How many French-speaking territories can they find in the Pacific region?
 - There are many parts of the world where French is also spoken as a first or second language. Google a map of the Francophone world and identify the main areas. Where in the world are these French-speaking territories?
 - Many famous names come to us from the French-speaking world, particularly associated with cars, cosmetics and fashion, food and alcohol, comic strips, tourism and sport. Here is a list of famous French names or icons. Google them to find out more about them and what they represent. *Chanel, Tintin, Peugeot, Roquefort, Perrier, Lancôme, Brie, baguette, Cognac, Astérix, Yves Saint Laurent, Moët et Chandon, Renault, Stella Artois, Tour Eiffel, Louvre, Roland Garros, Lanvin, Tour de France, Citroën, Cointreau, crêpes, Beaujolais*
 - English and French have borrowed many words from each other. How many English words can students find which come from French? Carry out group research using French dictionaries, **eg** rendez-vous, fait accompli, garage, carte blanche. What do they mean?
 - Do students know that New Zealand has two towns with strong historical French links, one in the Bay of Islands and the other near Christchurch? What are their names?
 - Identify them and research the history of these early French settlements
 - Who were Bishop Pompallier, Suzanne Aubert? Google these names to learn about the important contribution these two French pioneers made to New Zealand history.
 - Finally, why not try making crepes at school? You need some camping gas rings, some medium-sized frying pans, a good, runny crepe recipe (store the batter in plastic milk bottles for less mess), a selection of spreads such as jam, nutella, lemon juice and sugar. Have fun trying to flip them!
- Bon Appétit !!!**



Spanish language activities over page ...

All languages are to be treasured