

Lesson plan

2nd learning package (two class hours – 90 minutes)



Didactic tools: Computer classroom or tablets or smartphones connected to the Internet

Target group: Students from 12 to 14 years old

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A) Countries and languages

The teachers displays the front page of <http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopedia/> which includes the map of Europe.

1. The students search for their country and show it on the map.
2. The students show neighbouring countries and say what their official languages are.
3. The students select three countries, say their names, show them on the map and say which languages are spoken there. They motivate why they chose the countries they chose.

The teacher loads this page: <http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopedia>

1. The teacher shows if the answer was correct or not by moving the mouse over the country in question.
2. The teacher shows if the answers were correct or not by clicking on the dots of the countries in question.
3. The teacher shows if the answers were correct or not by moving the mouse over the countries in question and clicking on the dots.

B) Official and minority languages

4. The teacher and the students select one of the before mentioned languages. If possible the one that seems the most interesting.

5. The teacher and the students look at the world map without peeking at the solutions on the top of the page.

The teacher asks:

- a) What does the map show?
- b) In which places does the selected language exist?
- c) Why is the map coloured with different colours? What do the colours mean?

The teacher and the students together figure out that on the map blue means that the language is

4. By clicking the dot of the selected country and clicking the button "read more" the teacher and the students can read through a detailed description of the language.

5. The teacher should not show the text above the map!

Possible answers:

- a) The world with countries colour-coded.
- b) The students name the continents and/or the continents pertaining to the language.
- c) Blue - the chosen language is the official language in the country. Red - the chosen language is a minority language in the country. Green - the chosen language is spoken by a small community, usually



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the official language of the country, that red means that it is a minority language and that green means that it is a language of diaspora*.

6. The students select two additional languages and respond to the question:

- a) Where does the language appear as an official language, a minority language or a language of immigrants?

immigrants.

* In this age group the term "language of diaspora" is to early. Instead one can say that at the concerned locations, indicated by green, the chosen language is used by small groups of native speakers, so called immigrants.

6. The students names the countries or continents associated with the selected language.

C) Looking at the site

7. Finally, everyone together looks through what is hidden on the four differently coloured parts of the site: Lingvopedia, Babylon, Lingvopolis kaj GeoLingvo. They can discuss the contents or simply out of curiosity look at all the pages.

The teacher returns to the main page (<http://lingvo.info/en/>), and opens up the four parts one after the other.

Lingvopedia contains interesting things about languages, Babylon contains easy-to-follow articles on diverse linguistic phenomena, Lingvopolis links to interesting sites about different languages and GeoLingvo is an interactive game about languages.

D) Independent activity

8. The students form groups of two or three and receive material consisting of three parts:

1. Instructions
2. Tasks
3. Worksheets

9. The teacher reads through the instructions

The students work in groups of two or three to solve the prepared tasks with the help of the page (<http://lingvo.info/>)

8. The teacher divides the students into groups of two or three. The prepared examples can be found at the end of this document.

9. All students receive the page: Instructions (see



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with the students and clarifies them if needed.

10. The students look through the tasks in their groups and select two or three of the non-mandatory to solve in addition to the mandatory.

11. The students solve the mandatory and the selected tasks.

below)

10. All students receive the page: Tasks (see below)

11. All students receive worksheets for filling in their responses.

E) Presentation of group work

12. The students present what they've learned during their explorations.

12. The teacher should make sure that all members of the group present a part of the explorations.

F) Homework

13. The plays the game GeoLingvo in groups of two or three before the next lesson.

14. On the following lesson one could have a discussion about the game and the site.

13. The teacher presents how the game is played and creates groups of two or three students who will play together. The students can play as guests, which is recommended, or using Facebook if they already have an account there.

14. This final discussion fills a purpose as it enables a critical evaluation of the site and the game.

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SHEET 1 – INSTRUCTIONS FOR GROUP WORK

1. Work in groups of two or three. Divide the work so that everyone does something. Share your work with the others in the group so that everyone has all the responses to the task.
2. Look through the tasks and decide with the other students which of the non-mandatory tasks you want to solve. Select two or three of the non-mandatory tasks.
3. Go to the site lingvo.info and select your language on the right side. (<http://lingvo.info>)
4. Using the site work together two or three and solve the mandatory and non-mandatory tasks.
 - Read through the instructions carefully and find the responses to the questions using the site.
 - Discuss the acquired information with the others in your group.
 - Write down the responses in your worksheet.
5. All groups present their findings.
6. You have 20 minutes available for the task.

GOOD LUCK!

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SHEET 2 – TASKS FOR GROUP WORK

Look through the tasks and the worksheet we received with the tasks. The starting point for finding the answers is <http://lingvo.info/>. Write down all requested information on the worksheet, where you can also find detailed instructions.

Mandatory tasks (N)

N1 LANGUAGE FAMILIES

- Go to the section Babylon and explore which language families exist (http://lingvo.info/en/babylon/language_families). Look up which language family your mother-tongue belongs to and which other languages belong to the same family.
- With the help of the map you will find in Lingvopedia (<http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopedia>), write the list of all the languages that belong to the same family.

N2 HISTORY OF LANGUAGES

- Select one language from every language family in Europe and write down where and when the first text in the language was found.
- Look for three additional historical events that seem important to you.

N3 SEARCHING INFORMATION IN LINGVOPOLIS

- In Lingvopolis (<http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopolis>), find out where you can learn Turkish.
- Find out where you can find an Italian dictionary using the same collection.
- Find a website with something that surprised you a lot and write down its name and address.

Non-mandatory tasks (IN)

N4 DIALECTS

- In Lingvopedia (<http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopedia>) look for information about the number of dialects in your country and write it down on the work sheet.
- Read the text that explains why there are so many dialects.
- Write the name of the biggest city in each region which has a specific dialect.

N5 ALPHABET

- In Lingvopedia (<http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopedia>) look up two or three languages from different families and compare their alphabets (number of letters, number of vowels and consonants), look for new letters and check how many letters are the same as in your language. Write your conclusions.



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N6 LOANWORDS

- a) In Babylon (<http://lingvo.info/en/babylon>) read the page about word borrowing.
- b) Write what a loanword is and try to find examples of loanwords in your language.

N7 PROVERBS

- a) In Lingvopedia (<http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopedia>) choose two or three languages from different families and read a few proverbs. Try to explain their meanings
- b) Try to find out if there is a similar proverb in your language.

N8 LONGEST WORDS

- a) In Lingvopedia (<http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopedia>) choose five languages and find out the longest word in this language.
- b) Listen to the recordings of these words and try to pronounce them yourselves.
- c) What is the longest word you have found? Write it down. How many letters does it have? Can you pronounce it?
- d) Which words seems the most interesting to you? Why? Write it down.

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SHEET 3 - WORKSHEET

On this worksheet you write down the facts asked for in the tasks. Read through the tasks carefully search for the necessary information and write it down adequately.

Mandatory tasks

N1 LANGUAGE FAMILIES

- Go to the section Babylon and explore which language families exist (http://lingvo.info/en/babylon/language_families). Look up which language family your mother-tongue belongs to and which other languages belong to the same family.
- With the help of the map you will find in Lingvopedia (<http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopedia>), write the list of all the languages that belong to the same family.

	Answer
Language family your language belongs to:	
Other languages belonging to the same family:	

N2 HISTORY OF LANGUAGES

- Select one language from every language family in Europe and write down where and when the first text in the language was found.
- Look for three additional historical events that seem important to you.



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Chosen language	Family of this language	First text in this language	2-3 historical events that seem important to me

N3 SEARCHING INFORMATION IN LINGVOPOLIS

- In Lingvopolis (<http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopolis>), find out where you can learn Turkish.
- Find out where you can find an Italian dictionary using the same collection.
- Find a website with something that surprised you a lot and write down its name and address.

	Answer
Websites where you can learn Turkish:	
Websites with an Italian dictionary:	



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Websites that look interesting to me:

Why they look interesting:

Non-mandatory tasks

N4 DIALECTS

- In Lingvopedia (<http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopedia>) look for information about the number of dialects in your country and write it down on the work sheet.
- Read the text that explains why there are so many dialects.
- Write the name of the biggest city in each region which has a specific dialect.

Answer

Dialects spoken in your country:

Dialect – region – city in this region:

N5 ALPHABET

- In Lingvopedia (<http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopedia>) look up two or three languages from different families and compare their alphabets (number of letters, number of vowels and consonants), look for new letters and check how many letters are the same as in your language. Write your the most surprising or interesting facts.



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Chosen language	Language family	Number of letters	Number of vowels	Number of consonants	Different letters	Number of letters that are the same as in your language

The most surprising or interesting facts:

N6 LOANWORDS

- In Babylon (<http://lingvo.info/en/babylon>) read the page about word borrowing.
- Write what a loanword is and try to find examples of loanwords in your language.

Answer



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What is a loanword?

Examples of loanwords in your language:

N7 PROVERBS

- In Lingvopedia (<http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopedia>) choose two or three languages from different families and read a few proverbs. Try to explain their meanings.
- Try to find out if there is a similar proverb in your language.

Chosen language	Language family	Proverb	Similar proverb in your language, if any

N8 LONGEST WORD

- In Lingvopedia (<http://lingvo.info/en/lingvopedia>) choose five languages and find out the longest word in this language.



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- b) Listen to the recordings of these words and try to pronounce them yourselves.
- c) What is the longest word you have found? Write it down. How many letters does it have? Can you pronounce it?
- d) Which words seems the most interesting to you? Why? Write it down.

Chosen language	Longest word

The longest word I found is: _____

This word contains _____ letters.

Can you pronounce this word? YES / NO / PARTIALLY

The word that seems the most interesting to me is: _____

Why? _____



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