

# 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 10 to 12 years old

**Authors:** Brigita Kacjan, Jožica Škofič, Saša Jazbec

## 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](http://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](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.

#### 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 Japanese.
- Find out where you can find a Turkish 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 GRAMMATICAL NUMBER

Go to the section Lingvopedia. Look for the country in which you live and click on the dot and read more.

- How many grammatical numbers exist in your language?
- Look for a language that has dual grammatical number.
- Look for at least one language that doesn't have dual grammatical number.

#### N4 CASES

Go to the section Lingvopedia. Look for the country in which you live and click on the dot and read more.

- How many cases does your language have? What are their names?
- Look for a language that has more cases than yours and write down how many it has.



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## N6 ALPHABET

Go to the section Lingvopedia. Look for the country in which you live and click on the dot and read more.

- a) How many letters does your alphabet have?
- b) Find out how many letters the alphabets of three different languages have. Look at the differences. What do you notice?

## N7 THE RUSSIAN ALPHABET

Get to know the Russian alphabet.

- a) How many letters does the Russian alphabet have? What is its name?
- b) Go to the section "Thematic words" in Lingvopedia. Can you read through the phrases?
- c) Listen to the recordings and try to repeat them out loud.

## N8 THE GERMAN LANGUAGE

The German language can be found also outside of Germany.

- a) In which states is German an official language?
- b) Go to the section *Writing system and pronunciation* and listen to the song *Three Chinese with a double bass*.
- c) Do you know a similar song in your language?

## N9 ANIMAL SOUNDS

Compare how animals sound in different language and write down the three most interesting sounds.

## N10 WORD ORDER

At <http://lingvo.info/en/babylon/typology> you can find the basic word order. Check the word order in a couple of other language and write down an example.

**N11 At [http://lingvo.info/en/babylon/writing\\_systems](http://lingvo.info/en/babylon/writing_systems) you can find descriptions of writing systems.**

- a) Which types of writing systems do you know?
- b) Which ways of writing do you know?
- c) Transcribe a sign from a logographic system.



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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

- a) Go to the section Babylon and explore which language families exist ([http://lingvo.info/en/babylon/language\\_families](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.

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

#### N2 HISTORY OF LANGUAGES

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



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



	Answer
The first selected language of the language family:	
The first text in the language:	
Three historical events that seem important to you:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>
	Answer
The second selected language of the language family:	
The first text in the language:	
Three historical events that seem important to you:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>



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	Answer
The third selected language of the language family:	
The first text in the language:	
Three historical events that seem important to you:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>

## N3 SEARCHING INFORMATION IN LINGVOPOLIS

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

	Answer
Website where you can learn Japanese:	
Website where you can find a Turkish dictionary:	
Website where you found something surprising:	

## Non-mandatory tasks

## N4 GRAMMATICAL NUMBER



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Go to the section Lingvopedia. Look for the country in which you live and click on the dot and read more.

- a) How many grammatical numbers exist in your language?
- b) Look for a language that has dual grammatical number.

Look for at least one language that doesn't have dual grammatical number.

	Answer
Number of grammatical numbers:	
Languages with dual:	
Languages without dual:	

## N5 CASES

Go to the section Lingvopedia. Look for the country in which you live and click on the dot and read more.

- a) How many cases does your language have? What are their names?
- b) Look for a language that has more cases than yours and write down how many it has.

	Answer
Number of cases in your language:	
Names of cases in your language:	



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Language with more cases than your language and number of cases:	
Language with less cases than your language and number of cases:	

## N6 ALPHABET

Go to the section Lingvopedia. Look for the country in which you live and click on the dot and read more.

- How many letters does your alphabet have?
- Find out how many letters the alphabets of three different languages have. Look at the differences. What do you notice?

	Answer
Number of letters in your language:	
Number of letters in three randomly chosen languages:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>
Differences:	

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Remarks:

## N7 THE RUSSIAN ALPHABET

Get to know the Russian alphabet.

- a) How many letters does the Russian alphabet have? What is its name?
- b) Go to the section "Thematic words" in Lingvopedia. Can you read through the phrases?

Listen to the recordings and try to repeat them out loud.

**Answer**

Number of letters in the Russian alphabet:

Yes, I can read / No, I cannot read because...

## N8 THE GERMAN LANGUAGE

The German language can be found also outside of Germany.

- a) In which states is German an official language?
- b) Go to the section *Writing system and pronunciation* and listen to the song *Three Chinese with a double bass*.

Do you know a similar song in your language?

**Answer**



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Countries where German is official:

Song in your language:

## N9 ANIMAL SOUNDS

Compare how animals sound in different language and write down the three most interesting sounds.

**Animal:**

**How it sounds:**

## N10 WORD ORDER

At <http://lingvo.info/en/babylon/typology> you can find basic word order in spoken phrases. Check the word order in a couple of other language and write down an example.

**Answer**

Basic word order:



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



Word order in another language:

Example:

**N11** At [http://lingvo.info/en/babylon/writing\\_systems](http://lingvo.info/en/babylon/writing_systems) you can find descriptions of writing systems.

- a) Which types of writing systems do you know?
- b) Which ways of writing do you know?
- c) Transcribe a sign from a logographic system.

**Answer**

Writing systems:

Types of writing systems:

Logographic symbol:



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