
Unit 3

Cultural Patterns and Processes



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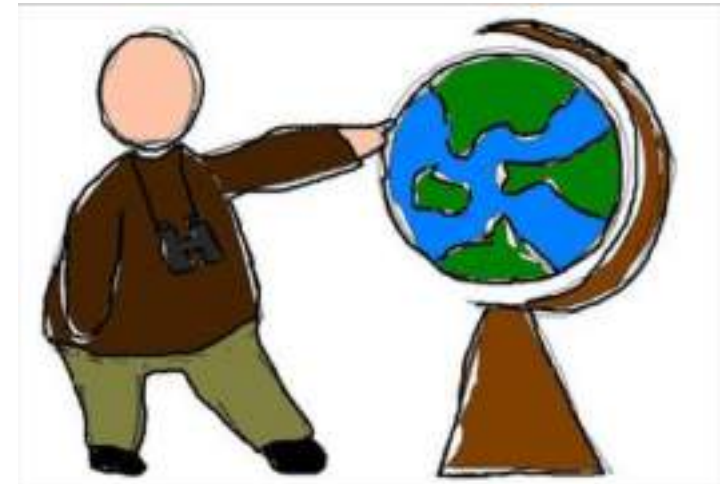
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UNIT 3 – CULTURAL PATTERNS AND PROCESSES
PART 2: LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING (3.B)

- By the end of this section, you will *understand* that **culture varies by place and region.**



In 1979, [schools on the Navajo reservation had about] 80 percent of students speaking Navajo – ten years later, 5 percent. There’s just too much English influence to really be effective in keeping our language. [If the Navajo language is lost] we will not be a unique people. We will have no culture; we will have no prayers.

– Marilyn Begay, 5th grade teacher, The Navajo Language Immersion School, Navajo Nation reservation, Arizona

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- **Essential Question**

- What do the spread of and changes in languages tell about the cultures of the world?



LEARNING OBJECTIVE (3.B.1.A)

- By the end of this section, you will *be able to* **explain cultural patterns and landscapes as they vary by place and region.**
 - Regional patterns of **language**, religion, and ethnicity contribute to a sense of place, enhance place making, and shape the global *cultural landscape*.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Adobe Ruins, Peru



- Remember, the cultural landscape refers to the earth's surface as modified by human action. Naturally occurring phenomena (forests, shorelines, wetlands, mountains) are not included.

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

- 7,000 languages that people speak around the world, most by small, isolated groups
- By the end of the century, about half will be gone
- As these groups integrate into larger societies, people often learn the language of the majority and their traditional language becomes extinct
- As languages become extinct, a central part of the group's history identity is also lost.

RELATIONSHIPS AMONG LANGUAGES

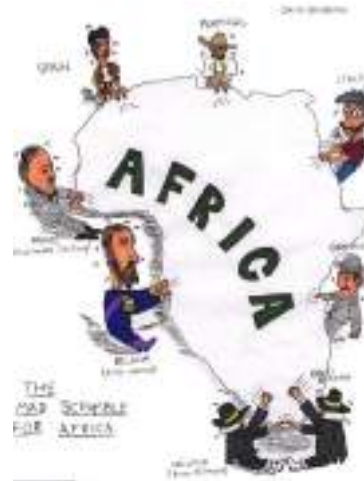
- Language is essential to a group's culture as it creates a sense of place (belonging) and a cultural landscape.
- Current communication technologies are reshaping cultures and bringing drastic change to age-old practices and languages.

Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RELATIONSHIPS AMONG LANGUAGES

- Language, like all elements of culture, has long been changing
- Earliest languages have spread from their hearths and faced many local, international, and global forces, including conquest, colonialism, imperialism, and trade. (3.B.2.a)



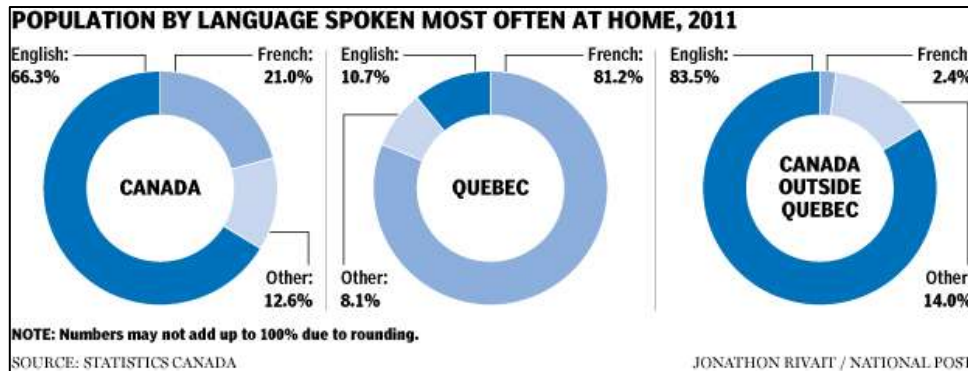
LANGUAGE FRAGMENTATION

The Caucasus region is located at the border of Europe and Asia, between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea

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LANGUAGE FRAGMENTATION



In historical linguistics, the North Germanic family tree is divided into two main branches, West Scandinavian languages (**Norwegian**, Faroese and **Icelandic**) and East Scandinavian languages (**Danish** and **Swedish**)

LEARNING OBJECTIVE (3.B.1.B)

- By the end of this section, you will *be able to explain cultural patterns and landscapes as they vary by place and region.*
 - Language patterns and distributions can be represented on maps, charts, and language trees.



RELATIONSHIPS AMONG LANGUAGES

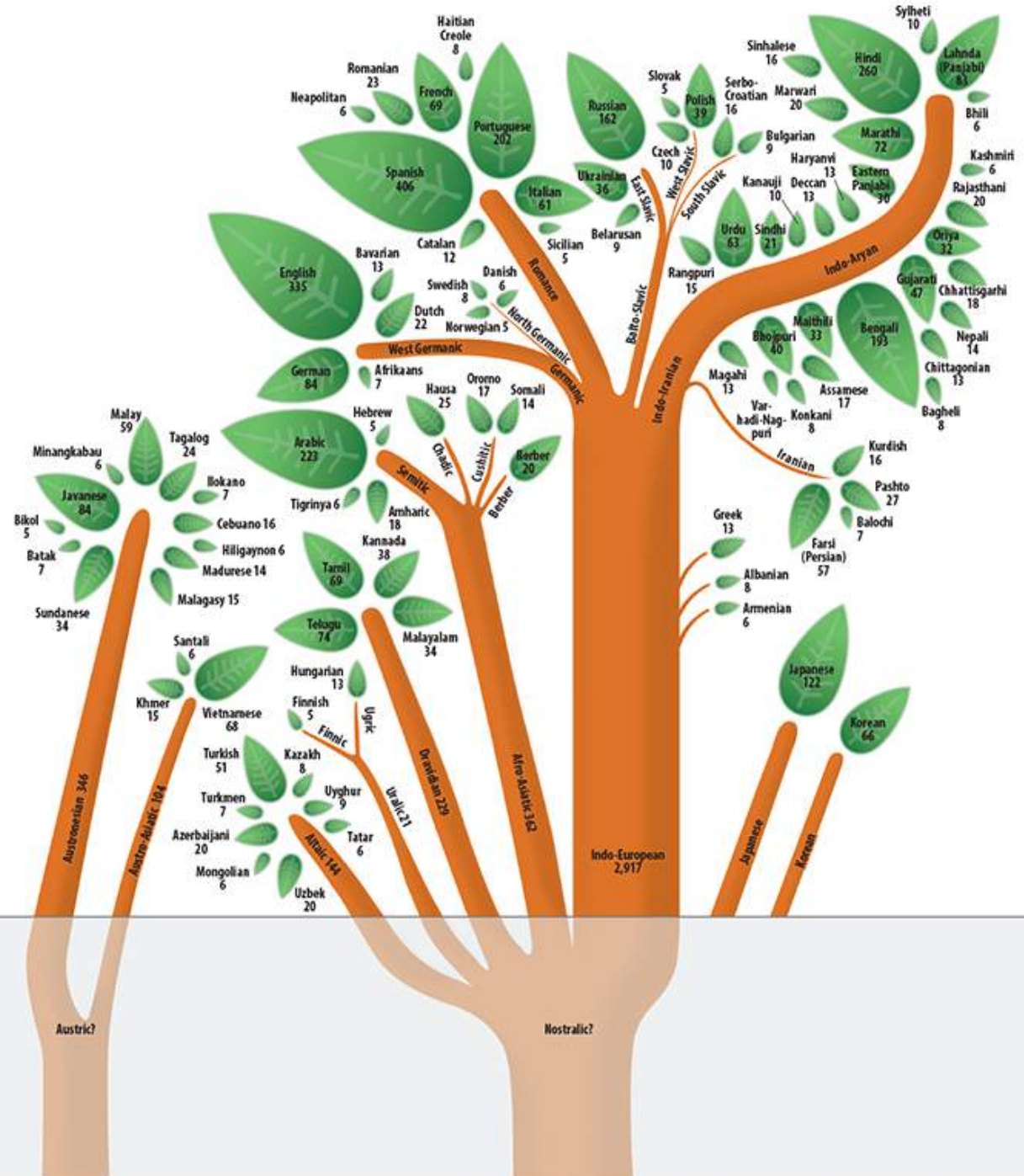
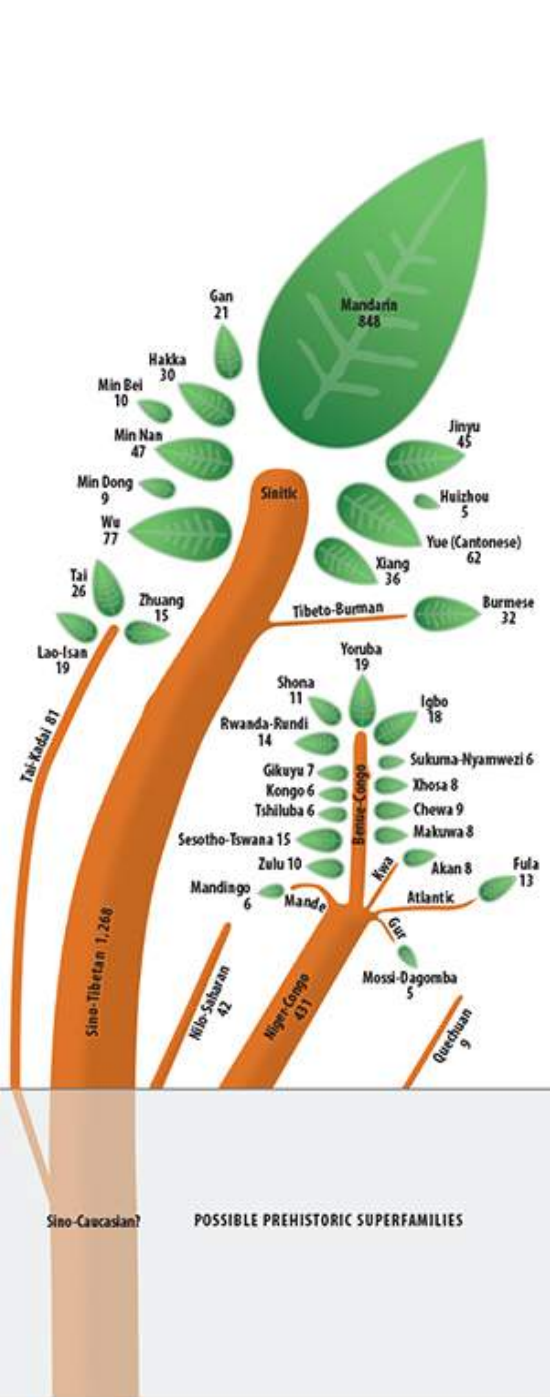
■ **Origins of Language**

- **Linguist** – scientist who studies language
- Believe that humans first began communicating with spoken sound as recently as tens of thousands of years ago, or as long as a few hundred thousand years ago
- Unsure how language diffused – dispersion of people (carried language with them as they dispersed across the planet), transmission (people learned language from their neighbors), or conquest (imposing language on others)?

RELATIONSHIPS AMONG LANGUAGES

■ Language Families

- Have all languages descended from one original language?
- Linguists believe that nearly all of the languages spoken today can be grouped into about 15 families of languages.
- A **language tree** shows the relationship among these language families and suggests how several languages are related to each other and how one language grows out of another
- Distribution of languages reflects *human migration*.

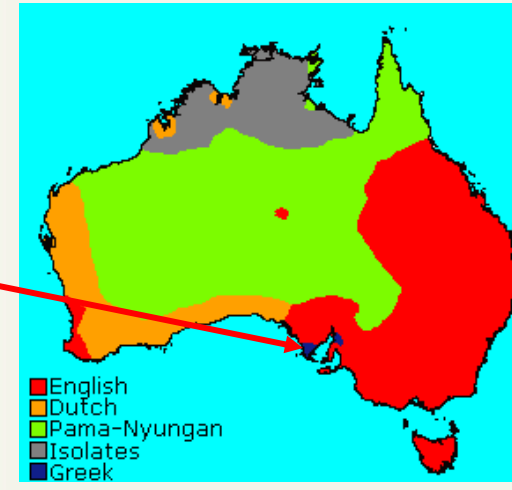
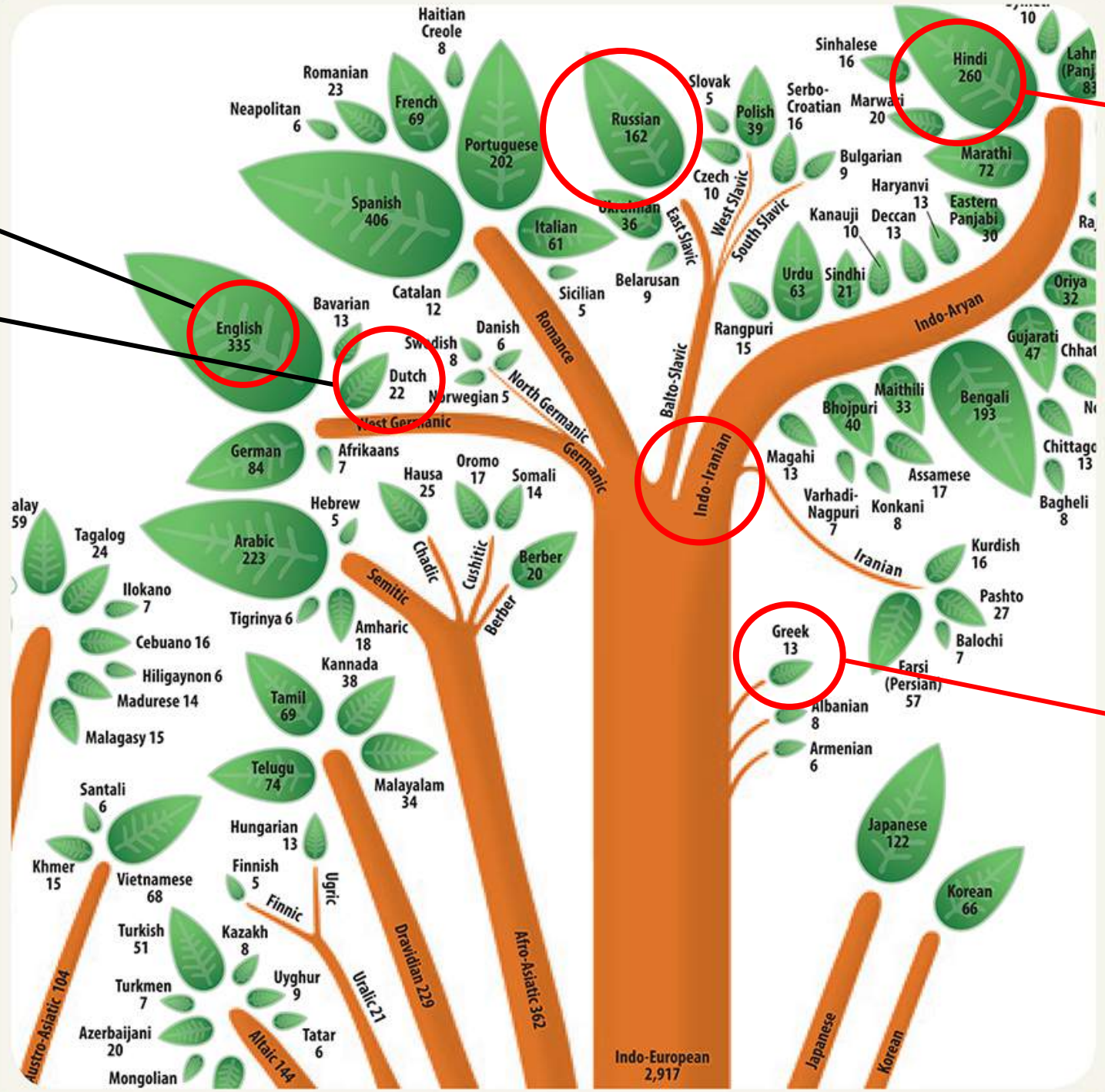
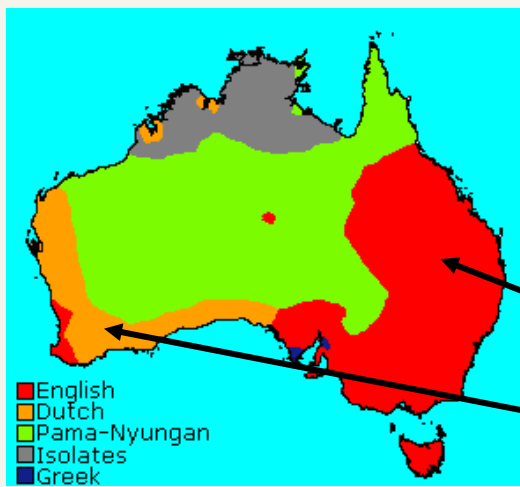


Sino-Caucasian?

POSSIBLE PREHISTORIC SUPERFAMILIES

Austrie?

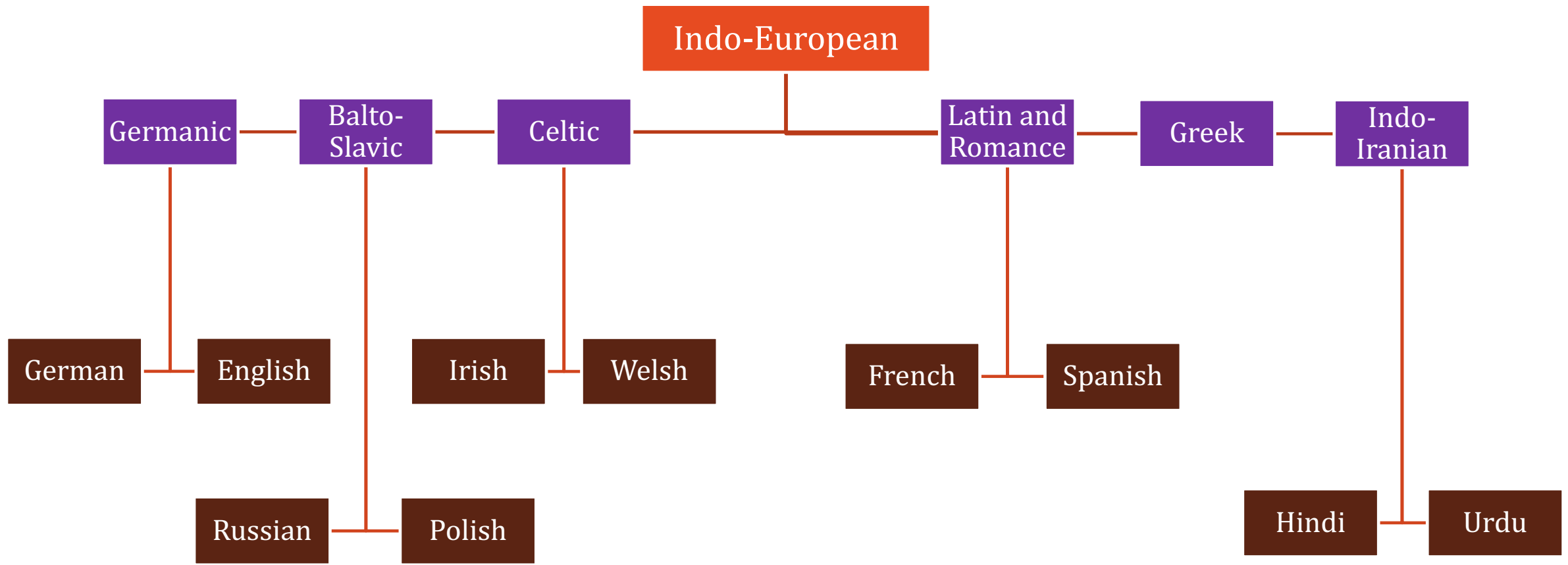
Nostralic?



INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGE FAMILY

- **Indo-European Language Family**
 - One of the 15 major language families
 - Nearly *half* of the world's population speaks one of the languages of the Indo-European language family
 - About 2.8 billion native speakers of between 400 and 500 languages

INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGE FAMILY



English evolved out of a combination of a Latin language (French) and a Germanic language (Anglo-Frisian) beginning about 1,000 years ago.

INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGE FAMILY

■ Indo-European Language Family

- Latin – the history of Latin shows how difficult the study of language is: languages constantly evolve as people move away from the languages' cultural hearths, because of contact with other languages or isolation from other languages
- Two thousand years ago, when the Roman Empire dominated what is now Europe, people in the empire spoke Latin. As the empire dissolved and transportation became more dangerous, trade declined and Latin speakers became geographically isolated from each other
- This led to distinct regional languages called **Romance languages**, many of which later disappeared, although some survived (Portuguese, Spanish, French, Italian, and Romansch)

INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGE FAMILY

LATIN WORDS RELATED TO WORDS IN OTHER LANGUAGES					
English	Father	Mother	Bread	Wolf	Day
Latin	Pater	Mater	Panis	Lupus	Die
Portuguese	Pai	Mae	Pao	Lobo	Dia
Spanish	Padre	Madre	Pan	Lobo	Dia
French	Pere	Mere	Pain	Loup	Jour
Italian	Padre	Madre	Pane	Lupo	Giorno
Romansch	Tata	Mama	Paine	Lup	Zi

Note that some English words are similar to Latin words and some are not. This suggests that English is not a direct descendant of Latin – it evolved from a Germanic language – but has been heavily influenced by Romance languages, such as France

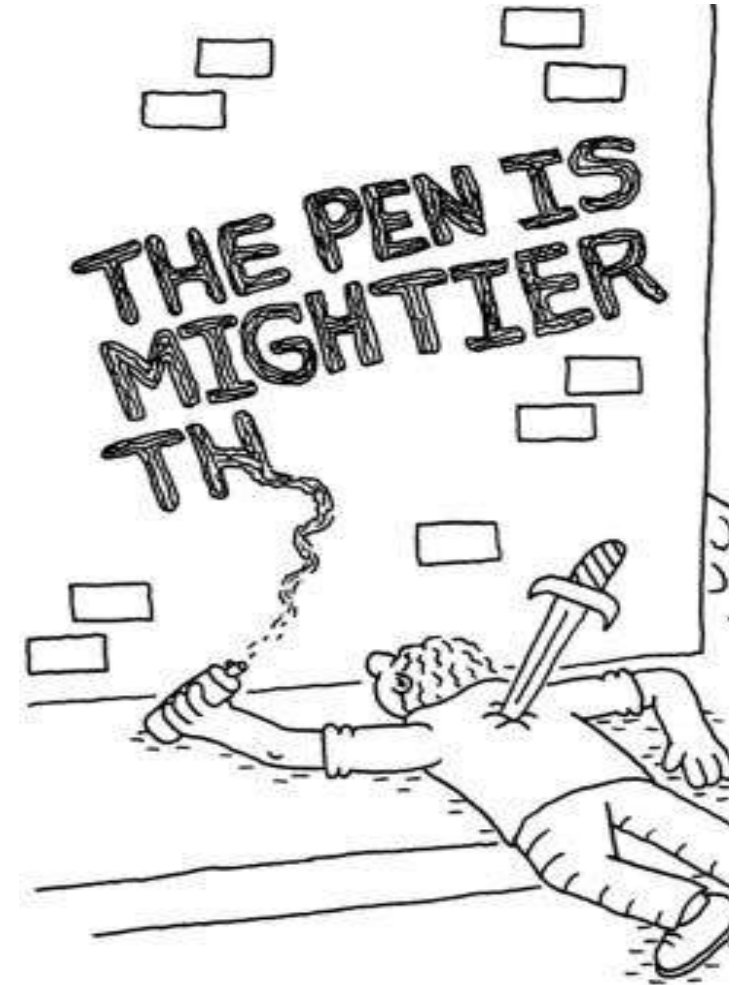
ACCENTS AND DIALECTS

- Languages can be divided into smaller categories: accents and dialects
- **Accents** often reflect social class or geographic region and the geographic boundary of a certain linguistic feature is called an **isogloss**.



ACCENTS AND DIALECTS

- Variations in accent, grammar, usage, and spelling create **dialects**, or regional variations of a language
- Different enough to tell the difference but similar enough that they are still understood
- “Hello, everyone” vs. “Hi, y’all” and “Hi, yous guys”
- **Adages** are sayings that attempt to express a truth about life



ACCENTS AND DIALECTS

DIALECTS OF AMERICAN ENGLISH AND BRITISH ENGLISH		
Category	American English	British English
Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elevator• Apartment• Parking lot• Trunk (of a car)• Gas (for a car)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lift• Flat• Car park• Boot• Petrol
Pronunciation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lieutenant (loo-TEN-uhnt)• Schedule (SKED-juh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lieutenant (lef-TEN-uhnt)• Schedule (SCHEDZH-uh)
Spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meter• Color• Tire• Center• Theater	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Metre• Colour• Tyre• Centre• Theatre
Common Phrases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "I'm tired."• "I'll call you."	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "I'm knackered."• "I'll ring you."



“English is tough stuff”



Inglis Iz tɒf stɒf

LEARNING OBJECTIVE (3.B.2.B)

- By the end of this section, you will *be able to* **explain the diffusion of culture and cultural traits through time and space.**
 - Language families, languages, and dialects diffuse from cultural hearths, resulting in interactions between local and global forces that lead to new forms of cultural expression (e.g., **lingua franca**)

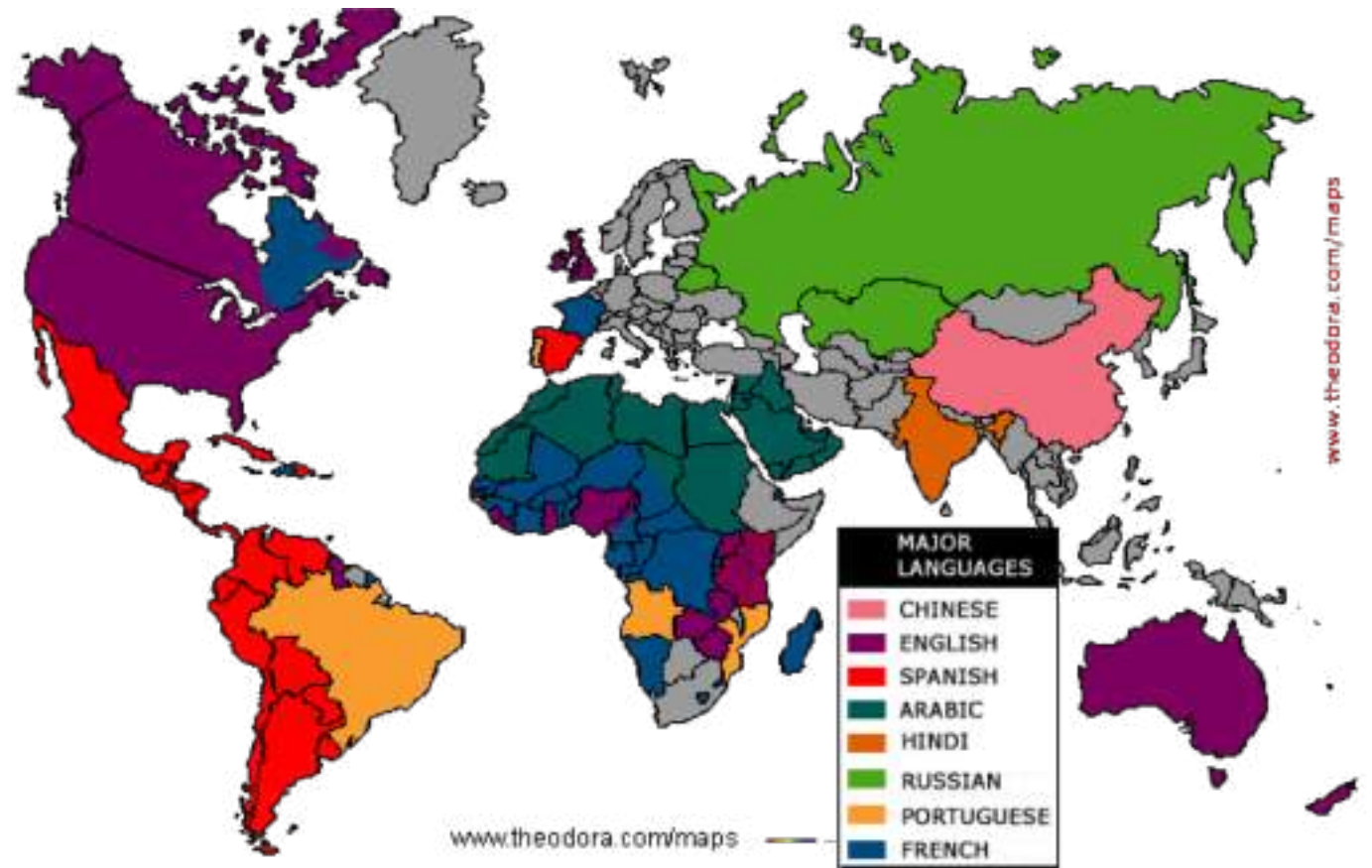
DIFFUSION OF LANGUAGES

- Languages often spread through **diffusion** (spread of culture over wide areas)
- Major globalized languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic
- These languages spread from their *hearths* largely because of conquest and colonialism
- Arabic is the standard religious language of Islam – contributed to its success



DIFFUSION OF LANGUAGES

- Some languages never diffuse widely
 - Mandarin Chinese – second most commonly spoken language
 - China never established colonies outside of Asia so Chinese speakers have always been concentrated in China



DIFFUSION OF LANGUAGES

- English is the most widely used language in the world – nearly 1.5 billion speakers
- Mostly concentrated in lands colonized by Great Britain: United States, Canada, South Africa, India, and Australia



ENGLISH AS A LINGUA FRANCA



- Most English speakers do not use it as their primary language, but as a **lingua franca** – common language used by people who do not share the same native language.
- Example: Nigerians commonly speak 1 of 500 indigenous languages at home but learn English to communicate with those who do not speak their language.
- Literally means *Frankish tongue* and is a mixture of Italian with French, Greek, Arabic, and Spanish, formerly used in the Levant.
- Why is English a common lingua franca? Globalization and technology

ENGLISH AS A LINGUA FRANCA

■ Globalization and Technology

- Multinational corporations based in the United States and Great Britain made English the common language for international business.
- Scientists and other scholars, airline pilots throughout the world, and many journalists began to use English to communicate across the globe.
- English evolved as the lingua franca of the Internet and is widely used in social media.
- Television shows and movies are often in English and they are shown around the world.
- Some critics feel resentment – American language/culture dilutes their own

OTHER LINGUA FRANCAS

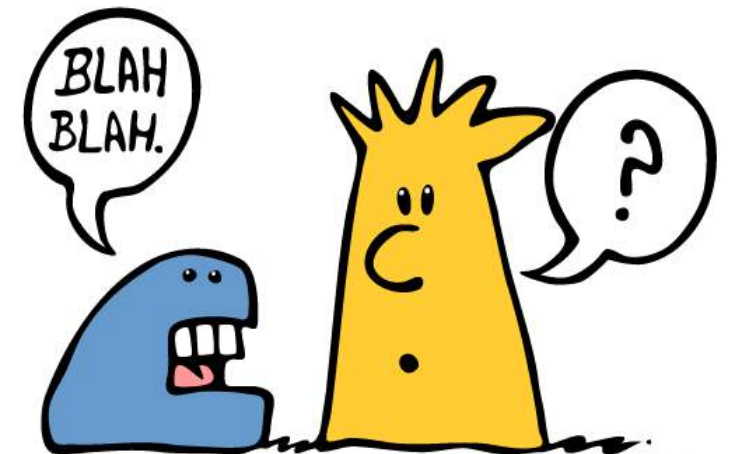
- Arabic
- Spanish
- French
- Swahili
- Russian



CREATING NEW WORDS AND LANGUAGES

■ Pidgin Languages

- Speakers of two different languages who have extensive contact with each other, often because of *trade*.
- A simplified mixture of two languages that has fewer grammar rules and a smaller vocabulary, but is not the native language of either group.
- Example: Papua New Guinea – combines English and Papuan languages
- Example: Spanglish



CREATING NEW WORDS AND LANGUAGES

■ Creole Languages

- Two or more separate languages mix and develop a more formal structure and vocabulary to create a new combined language called a **creole language**.
- Example: Afrikaans spoken in South Africa that combines Dutch with several European and African languages.
- Slaves were unable to transplant their languages so they combined their native African language with those of the European colonizers (English, French, Portuguese, Spanish)
- U.S. had less slaves than the Caribbean islands = fewer creole languages

CREATING NEW WORDS AND LANGUAGES

■ Swahili in East Africa

- 8th Century – trade between Arab-speaking merchants and Bantu-speaking residents resulted in the development of **Swahili**
- Still spoken in Africa
- The official language of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo



LEARNING OBJECTIVE (3.B.1.E)

- By the end of this section, you will *be able to* **explain cultural patterns and landscapes as they vary by place and region**
 - Language is essential to understanding landscapes symbolic of cultural identity (e.g. signs)

LANGUAGE POLICIES/CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

- Language becomes intertwined with a group's cultural identity
- Example: native Hawaiians, whose economy relies on fishing, have five dozen words for *fishing nets*.
- Signage in some places reflect linguistic heritage – single-language signs vs. bilingual signs
- Examples: Belgium and Quebec (French)



TOPONYMS

- **Toponyms**, the names of places, reflect culture.
- Example:
 - Greeks founded a colony (657 B.C.E.) and named it *Byzantium*, probably after a leader named Byzas.
 - After the city fell under Roman control, the Romans renamed it Constantinople, after emperor Constantine.
 - When the Turks seized the city in 1453, they started calling it Istanbul (“to the city”)



OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

- An **official language** is one designated by law to be the language of government.
 - Homogenous – made up largely of ethnically similar people (Iceland, Japan, Slovenia)
 - Some countries encourage assimilation – (English colonizers in Ireland, Scotland, Wales)
 - Several large ethnic groups wanting to honor all countries equally (Zimbabwe – 16 official languages with English as the lingua franca; Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, India)

