

# Saving Languages From Extinction

# Wikítongue

## A Great Big Story

**Instructions:** Watch a short video about saving dying languages. Finish the activities.



*Discuss*

1. Can a language "die"? How exactly does this happen?
2. Do you know a language that has very few speakers and is at risk of dying?
3. What can we do to save a language from dying? Why is this important?



*While*

1. Wikítongues is a \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ volunteers.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the most linguistically diverse city in the world.
3. There are more than \_\_\_\_\_ languages spoken in and around New York.
4. Sometimes people just talk about their \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Daniel makes sure all the content gets recorded, \_\_\_\_\_ and archived.
6. Wikítongues has recorded over \_\_\_\_\_ languages from \_\_\_\_\_ countries.
7. Wikítongues is a way of ensuring future \_\_\_\_\_ can revive their languages.



*vocabulary*

- |                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. roughly     | 1. variety              |
| 2. dwindles    | 2. bring back to life   |
| 3. dispatching | 3. categorize           |
| 4. pass on     | 4. decreases, goes down |
| 5. diversity   | 5. collect and keep     |
| 6. oral        | 6. give to the future   |
| 7. classify    | 7. forever              |
| 8. posterity   | 8. approximately        |
| 9. archive     | 9. spoken               |
| 10. revive     | 10. sending             |

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### A Great Big Story

**Instructions:** Watch a short video about saving dying languages. Finish the activities.

**Before**

*Discuss*

1. Can a language "die"? How exactly does this happen?
2. Do you know a language that has very few speakers and is at risk of dying?
3. What can we do to save a language from dying? Why is this important?



*While*

1. Wikítongues is a non-profit with 1,000 volunteers.
2. New York City is the most linguistically diverse city in the world.
3. There are more than 800 languages spoken in and around New York.
4. Sometimes people just talk about their daily job.
5. Daniel makes sure all the content gets recorded, tracked and archived.
6. Wikítongues has recorded over 435 languages from 70 countries.
7. Wikítongues is a way of ensuring future generations can revive their languages.

**AFTER**

*vocabulary*

- |                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. roughly     | 1. variety              |
| 2. dwindles    | 2. bring back to life   |
| 3. dispatching | 3. categorize           |
| 4. pass on     | 4. decreases, goes down |
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# LET'S TALK LANGUAGES

1. How many languages do you speak?
2. Which nations don't speak many languages?
3. Is a foreign accent attractive to you?
4. Are multilinguals smarter than other people?
5. China is growing. Should more people learn Chinese?
6. What language apps do you recommend for learning a language?
7. What language do you find most attractive? Why?
8. What are the benefits of speaking another language?
9. What's the best way to learn a language?
10. What is the hardest language to learn, for you?
11. What should you learn first? Reading or Writing? Why?
12. How long does it take to learn a language so you can do most things?
13. Is it good to learn a language with or without subtitles on films?
14. What is the most exotic language in the world?
15. Many languages are dying? Why is it important to save languages?
16. Do you think they'll ever be a universal language everyone speaks?
17. One day, will everyone just use an autotranslator and not learn a language?



*Merci Grazie Obrigada Danke sehr Mahalo Gracias*  
*Thanks Arigato Xièxiè Salammat*