

European Day of Languages 2024

Ideas for Early Years and Primary

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Let us know how you celebrate the European Day of Languages and we will post it on our **EDL 2024** blog!
Email scilt@strath.ac.uk with all your EDL news.



European Day of Languages 2024

Ideas for Early Years and Primary

Create and celebrate

All signed and spoken languages merit celebration because 26 September is the European Day of Languages (not the Day of European Languages)


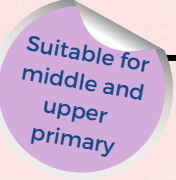
Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
<p><i>Suitable for all ages and stages</i></p> <p>Celebrate EDL with the Council of Europe</p>	Varied	Pick one of the activities from the varied collection on the official EDL website.
<p>Language Portraits and Multilingual Me</p>	20-30 minutes	<p>Language Portraits are a tried and tested way to encourage children to talk about their different languages, and how they form a part of their identity. The premise is simple – children choose one colour for each language they consider part of their identity, and colour in the outline of a person, in any way they want.</p> <p>Multilingual Me build on the languages portrait work.</p>
<p>Class or whole school languages audit</p>	1-2 weeks in total	<p>Carry out an audit of all the different languages spoken in your class or school community – include staff, pupils and family members.</p> <p>Guess the total number of languages challenge.</p> <p>Then collect, display and interpret data.</p> <p>Share the information in a display for a prominent location in your school/on your school website/in your school newsletter/at an assembly.</p>
<p>Art and Design</p>	Half a day / homework task	<p>Children study works by artists from a country and create a piece of art in the same style. Incorporate instructions in the target language.</p>



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Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
 <p>Eurovision!</p>	Half day event	Arrange a Eurovision-style song contest in your school with songs performed in home/taught languages.
Masked Multilingual Singer	Half day event	Take the music a step further with a masked singer- style competition. Record members of your school community singing a song in a language other than English. Use digital tools to add a mask to hide their faces.
Design and engineering	Half day event	Research famous landmarks from different countries. Use problem-solving strategies to construct models using a range of different media. Incorporate some target language for materials, tools and verbs for making.
 <p>Research challenge</p>	30+ minutes	Challenge to discover the many countries of the world/how many people around the world where your target language(s) is/are official languages. Could be a challenge done against the clock or as a homework task, individually or collaboratively.
Daily life around the world	1 day - 1 week	Research daily life in a country and present in a media of choice. Include target language around routines, meals, school and leisure activities.
Games inventors	Up to 1 week	Groups or individuals create a board game to promote/celebrate languages for others to play i.e.: What does the Spanish word 'zanahoria' mean in English? Which languages are spoken in Switzerland? You must know the answers to your questions!

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Activity

Suggested timeframe

Description

Suitable for middle and upper primary

Multilingual tongue twister challenge

15 mins +

Choose a language and learn a tongue twister in that language. How many times can you say your tongue twister in a minute? Can you make a whole class film of all the different tongue twisters?
Examples: <https://youtu.be/S11J2bbbOt4>
<https://edl.ecml.at/Activities/Multilingualtonguetwisterchallenge/tabid/3268/Default.aspx> and <https://www.omniglot.com/language/tonguetwisters/index.htm>

Cultural activities

Activity

Suggested timeframe

Description

Suitable for all ages and stages

Languages in your community

Half an hour

Invite a linguist from your class/school or the local community to share knowledge and experiences with a group of learners. Share photos, clothing, food, music, dance, customs & festival.
Alternatively create a display (map/graph) to capture all the languages used by members of your school community.

Multilingual approaches through art

30 mins per activity

Dip into this pack of ten different creative activities that recognise that integrate interdisciplinary, cross-curricular and cultural elements. Each come with step by step teacher instructions.



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Cultural activities

Suitable for
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stages

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
Cultural day	Whole day	Plan a whole day of activities to celebrate based on a selection from these SCILT EDL suggestions.
Explore biscuits	45-60 mins per section	Explore the tasty treat that can take you round the world. Six part resource from MFL Mentoring in English/Welsh with French, German & Spanish.
The Great Languages Challenge	Group and/or homework task	Challenge sheets are free to download and can be completed during a planned lesson or also set as a language-themed homework task. We even have a blank version available that students can use to design their own challenges for their classmates. [This activity may contribute towards British Council International School Award. Not an obligation.]
NYCOS British Sign Language Songs	10 mins +	Collection of over 20 video tutorials with presenters from National Youth Choir of Scotland for a Wee Summer Sing. British Sign Language version of English language and Scots language children's songs.
BBC Bring the Noise	10 mins +	Five films with songs in British Sign Language (BSL). Why not learn to sign and dance-a-long to the songs of different genres.



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Cultural activities

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Screening Shorts

10 mins +

Free to access with your Glow account details. Browse the short film library and filter for a) signed or spoken or no language and/or b) appropriate age and stage. All short films can be streamed and downloaded for educational use. Accompanied by teaching activities. You could write a review or design a poster for the film.

Alternatively, [into film](#) has EDL specific resources and other teaching resources to accompany the feature length films in languages other than English from their curated lists. Free to register for a school account.

Suitable for middle and upper primary

EDL Language quiz

30 mins +

EDL quiz with 7 categories.

Also a wide range of language facts, languages games and language fun on this webpage.

Marvellous Menus

Half a day/
homework task

Suitable for P5-P7

Research school meals in the country of your choice. Label the dishes or ingredients of a meal in one (or more) language spoken in that country or in your class. Create a multilingual menu for your favourite school meal in one or more language.

Languages Café

Half day event

Suitable for P5-P7

Pupils host a café with food, drink, menu, ordering and decorations in the appropriate target language. Invite pupils, staff, parents & visitors who are encouraged to order in the target language.

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Cultural activities

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
<p>Suitable for middle and upper primary</p> <p>Country profile</p>	Up to 1 week	<p>Suitable for P5-P7</p> <p>Carry out research to create a detailed profile in any format about one of the countries where your school's L2 or L3 language is an official language.</p>
<p>Suitable for upper primary</p> <p>Fashion Show</p>	Up to 1 week	<p>Celebrate traditional clothing from countries of the world.</p> <p>Use presentation software to present a digital fashion show</p> <p>Present a multilingual class fashion show in real life, describing the outfits in the home/taught languages represented by the children in your class.</p> <p>Remember to be respectful and avoid harmful stereotypes.</p>




Activities involving ICT

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
<p>Suitable for all ages and stages</p> <p>Social media</p>	10 mins	On social media around 26th September post on Twitter or Instagram about language learning in English or better still in the target language. Use hashtag #coeEDL
Digital storytelling	30 mins +	Use a free app like Puppet Pals or Chatterpix Kids to create a short animated conversation or story in a home or taught language.

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Activities involving ICT

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
 QR code treasure/scavenger hunt	1 hour + to prepare and try out	Create a treasure hunt around classroom/school/school grounds using QR codes. Questions or answers to incorporate target language(s) as appropriate to learners' ages and stage. Find step-by-step instructions for how to create a QR code treasure/scavenger hunt here .
Global Storybooks Portal	5 mins +	A free online multilingual library of ebooks for children and young people of all ages. Read, teach, download, and listen to illustrated stories in many languages from all over the world.
 Links between languages	10 mins +	Links between languages activities on the 'Passeport pour la Francophonie' site. Discover where words came from and how they have travelled and influenced many different cultures including our own.
Digital game	1 hour +	Use your favourite digital tool to create a quiz or other interactive activity including questions in or about home/taught language(s).
 Virtual tours	1 hour +	Use thinglink or genial.ly or equivalent interactive digital presentation platform to create a virtual tour of places where home/taught language(s) are used. If it's your first attempt, why not watch the recording How to guide for thinglink and How to guide for genial.ly .

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Learning languages

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
<p><i>Suitable for all ages and stages</i></p> <p>Fun language facts and Reality check</p>	5 mins +	Try these two activities collated by NICILT. Free to download.
<p>Languages take you further</p>	10 mins +	Use this interactive animated phrase book – free to download. Practice useful phrases in 26 different European languages.
<p><i>Suitable for middle and upper primary</i></p> <p>Learning languages and the four capacities</p>	10 mins	Discuss the statements on this poster from Education Scotland which explains how learning, knowing and using more than one language contributes to the development of the four CfE capacities.
Multilingual English	Homework task	<p>Identify the origin language of words and phrases widely used in English language. eg. Do you know which languages words such as ballet, moped, kindergarten and chocolate come from?</p> <p>Sources: https://www.dictionary.com/e/borrowed-words/ and https://www.fluentu.com/blog/english/english-words-from-other-languages/</p> <p>Can the bilingual children in your class identify words with an English origin that are widely used in the language(s) they use at home?</p>
<p>Languages Facts and Quiz</p>	<p>Facts = Homework task</p> <p>Quiz = 30 mins</p>	Learn language related facts then try out the quiz in groups, pairs or one on one!



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Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
 Languages all around you	Over several weeks	This booklet raises awareness of languages in everyday life. It comprises a collection of activities showing how modern languages are part of everyday life. The idea is to make pupils more aware of the importance of languages, the role they play in many aspects of young people's experience and how languages can be learned while having fun and playing.
Scottish European Languages Portfolio (ELP)	Ongoing	Use the Scottish ELP to record achievements and experiences with different languages at home, at school and beyond.

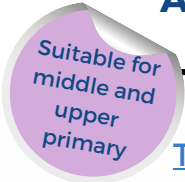
Learning together

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
 Lost Wor(l)ds - Activities	Varied	Try out one or more of the Lost Wor(l)ds activities that actively enable multilingual children to use their languages in formal education contexts, and for non-multilingual children to develop language awareness and utilise any growing understanding of taught languages.
Lost Wor(l)ds - Stimulus Activities	ranging from 10 mins to a series of activities over 30 days	Try out these outdoor learning activities with a multilingual twist as a group, a class, a whole school or a family: 30 Days Wild Multilingual 10 minutes other language stimulus 10 minutes English stimulus

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 The Rights of the Language Learner	5 mins	Download and display this free poster from small publishing to encourage a positive approach to language learning.
Hello! Talk to me!	5 mins	Watch and work out which languages are used by the people in this short film from the European Centre for Modern Languages.
Teach your families	EDL week	Involve parents and carers in EDL. Promote a simple phrase of the L2/L3 taught language each day for children to practise at home with their families. Invite multilingual children and/or family members to read a story or teach a little of their home language to classmates.
Languagestones	Open ended	As a class, school or club, collect stones. Wash them and paint a design including a word or phrase in your target language on each stone. When complete, hide each stone in a different place around the school building, wider community or beyond for others to find. When you find someone's Language Stone, take a photo of it and then post it on the Languagestones Facebook group page and/or on social media using the #languagestones hashtag, before hiding it again. You will be able to follow the stone you made or found and to see how far it travels.

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Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
Sharing language learning	30 mins	Suitable for P6-P7 Upper school pupils plan and carry out a language learning activity with younger children. The activity could be to teach a song/rhyme, read a simple story or play a game in home/taught spoken or a signed language
Language Ambassadors Fun Day	Preparation/ planning time Half day event	With support from languages department in associated secondary Invite senior pupils to help plan and deliver language activities for EDL for primary learners. Preparation/planning time required between primary and secondary staff/senior pupils

View our EDL blogs from previous years for even more practical ideas from Scottish schools:

[EDL 2023](#)

[EDL 2022](#)

[EDL 2021](#)