


## Ideas for Early Years and Primary

Create and celebrate

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
 <p>Suitable for all ages and stages</p> <p><a href="#">Language Portraits</a> and <a href="#">Multilingual Me</a></p>	20-30 minutes	<p><b>Language Portraits</b> 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><b>Multilingual Me</b> build on the languages portrait work.</p>
Class or whole school languages audit	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. Guess the total number of languages challenge. Then collect, display and interpret data. 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>
Art and Design	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>

### Create and celebrate

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Suitable for all ages and stages

Eurovision!

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.

Suitable for middle and upper primary

Research challenge

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 ie 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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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

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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.

### Cultural activities

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Suitable for all ages and stages

Cultural day

Whole day

Plan a whole day of activities to celebrate based on a selection from these LWS 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.


### Cultural activities

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 Suitable for all ages and stages		
Social wellbeing playlist	20 mins +	From the Social wellbeing video playlist on BBC Bitesize watch one of the following clips. All come with accompanying teaching ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>·<a href="#">My identity – being half-Polish and half-English</a></li> <li>·<a href="#">Communicating with sign language</a></li> <li>·<a href="#">Bilingual storytelling</a></li> <li>·<a href="#">New child in class – Raimunda's story</a></li> </ul>
Multilingual Poetry	10 mins +	Check out SCILT's <a href="#">multilingual poetry resources</a> for National Poetry Day or listen to the Mother Tongue Other Tongue poems read by children in Scotland on the <a href="#">Children's Poetry Archive website</a> .
 Suitable for middle and upper primary		
Languages Café	Half day event	<b>Suitable for P5-P7</b> 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.
Country profile	Up to 1 week	<b>Suitable for P5-P7</b> 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.

### Cultural activities

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
 Suitable for upper primary		
Fashion Show	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
 Suitable for all ages and stages		
Social media	10 mins	<p>During LWS, post on social media about language learning in English or, better still, in the target language. Use hashtag #ScotlandLovesLanguages</p>
Digital storytelling	30 mins +	<p>Use a free app like <a href="#">Puppet Pals</a> or <a href="#">Chatterpix Kids</a> to create a short animated conversation or story in a home or taught language.</p>

### Activities involving ICT


Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
 Suitable for all ages and stages  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 <a href="#">here</a> .
		<a href="#">Global Storybooks Portal</a>
 Suitable for middle and upper primary  <a href="#">Links between languages</a>	10 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 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).
 Suitable for upper primary  Virtual tours	1 hour +	Use <a href="#">thinglink</a> or <a href="#">genial.ly</a> 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 <a href="#">How to guide for thinglink</a> and <a href="#">How to guide for genial.ly</a> .

### Learning languages

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
 <p>Suitable for all ages and stages</p> <p><a href="#">Welcome to a journey through Europe's languages!</a></p>	20 mins +	<p>Join Lara on a language journey across Europe. As you voyage, you will encounter lots of similarities between languages while encountering the diversity of cultures and traditions that exist side by side in Europe.</p> <p>Available to download: Two books, a teacher guide, a poster a selection of audio files in a variety of the languages and jpgs of Lara to use in story writing.</p>
How multilingual is your class/school library?	30 mins +	<p>How many or what percentage of the books in your class/school library are in languages other than English? How many are bilingual (in two languages)? How many are multilingual (three or more languages)?</p> <p>Create a plan and write a persuasive letter to your Headteacher or Parent Council asking for permission and help to make your class/school library more multilingual.</p> <p><a href="#">Check out these ideas for making a multilingual library</a></p>
<a href="#">Read the World bingo</a>	20 mins +	Explore literature from around the world that you find in your class/school/local library. Choice of mini and mega bingo charts for children of different ages free to download from World Kid Lit.



### Learning languages

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
 <p>Suitable for all ages and stages</p> <p>The L.A.B. Scotland</p>	5 mins +	<p>The L.A.B Scotland collection of short films made with children and young people in Scotland's schools and ranging from 49 seconds to 3 minutes 47 seconds featuring different languages including Gaelic, Scots and BSL. <a href="#">BBC Scotland - The L.A.B Scotland. Languages</a> and <a href="#">The Wee Poland clips</a>.</p>
Surveys	30 mins +	<p>In the last census of Scotland's schools in 2024, it was recorded that 198 different languages were spoken across the whole of Scotland by children attending our schools. How does your school compare to that figure? How many different languages are used (at home and at school) by the children and adults in the school? Can you make an eye-catching display of your own school's language census data?</p> <p>Classes at complementary schools usually take place at weekends. Do you know how many of the pupils in your class/school go to a complementary school to learn about their home language and culture? Carry out a survey.</p>
<a href="#">Fun language facts</a> and <a href="#">Reality check</a>	5 mins +	Try these two activities collated by NICILT. Free to download.
Speed Talking	45 mins (+ 15 mins prep for some children)	<p>If you have a class where a few different languages are spoken at home, ask the multilingual children to teach the rest of the class 5 key words (e.g. Hello, Goodbye, Yes, No, Please, Thank You). Arrange the class into small groups to move around the multilingual mini teachers when a buzzer sounds.</p>

### Learning languages

#### Activity

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#### Description

Suitable for all ages and stages

Languages take you further

10 mins +

Use this interactive, animated phrase book – free to download. Practice useful phrases in the 26 different European languages included in the booklet. Does anyone in your class use a language that does not appear in the phrase book? If yes, then why not use your digital skills to make your own illustrated page for that/those languages too! Even better if you can add audio clips to help with pronunciation!

Suitable for middle and upper primary

Learning languages and the four capacities

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

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? Sources: <https://www.dictionary.com/e/borrowed-words/> and <https://www.fluentu.com/blog/english/english-words-from-other-languages/> 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?



### Learning languages

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
 <b>Suitable for upper primary</b> <a href="#">Languages all around you</a>	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.
<a href="#">Scottish European Languages Portfolio (ELP)</a>	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
 <b>Suitable for all ages and stages</b> <a href="#">Lost Wor(l)ds - Activities</a>	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.
<a href="#">Lost Wor(l)ds - Stimulus Activities</a>	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: <a href="#">30 Days Wild Multilingual</a> <a href="#">10 minutes other language stimulus</a> <a href="#">10 minutes English stimulus</a>

### Learning together

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
 <p>Suitable for all ages and stages</p> <p>Speed Talking</p>	45 mins (+ 15 mins prep for some children)	<p>If you have a class where a few different languages are spoken at home, ask the multilingual children to teach the rest of the class 5 key words (e.g. Hello, Goodbye, Yes, No, Please, Thank You). Arrange the class into small groups to move around the multilingual mini teachers when a buzzer sounds.</p>
 <p>Suitable for middle and upper primary</p> <p>Job search</p>	40 mins	<p>Split the class into small groups and give each group a different economic sector ( e.g. Tourism/ Sport &amp; Leisure/ Agriculture/ Energy/ Health/ Transport/ Manufacturing). Ask each team to list as many jobs as they can where people in their sector have to speak a different language. Ask each team to present their lists. Ask children to discuss with a partner which sector(s) they would like to work in.</p>
Teach your families	Languages Week Scotland	<p>Involve parents and carers in Languages Week Scotland. Promote a simple phrase in any language used by a member of your school community 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.</p>
<a href="#">Languagestones</a>	Open ended	<p>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 <a href="#">Languagestones Facebook group page</a> 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.</p>

### Learning together

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
 <b>Suitable for upper primary</b> Sharing language learning	30 mins	<b>Suitable for P6-P7</b> 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	<b>With support from languages department in associated secondary</b> Invite senior pupils to help plan and deliver language activities for LWS for primary learners. Preparation/planning time required between primary and secondary staff/senior pupils



Let us know how you celebrate  
Languages Week Scotland  
Use the hashtag #ScotlandLovesLanguages