



European Day of Languages 2026

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 2026** blog!
Email scilt@strath.ac.uk with all your EDL news.

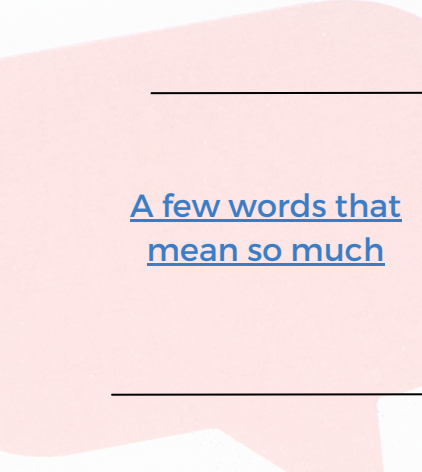
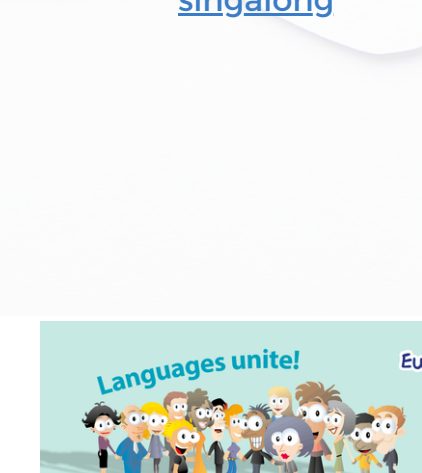


European Day of Languages 2026

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
 	10-15 mins	Find out why European Day of Languages was invented, and when. Watch this video by Twinkl, display this poster, explore the activities on this page on the BBC Bitesize website and check out the EDL motivation manifesto. Drawing on these sources, pupils can make their own EDL information text in a format of their choice. The Motivation manifesto is available to download in a range of European languages including English, if you wish to share with parents, caregivers and local businesses, service providers or community groups to raise the profile of EDL more widely.
	30 minutes +, in class or as a homework/family learning activity	Get involved in this UK-wide multilingual competition supporting National Year of Reading 2026. You've gotta be in it to win it!
	5 mins +	Join in with this multilingual Thank You song written especially for EDL by Ann at Lingobox Learning.

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Create and celebrate

Activity

Suggested timeframe

Description

Suitable for all ages and stages

[Celebrate EDL with the Council of Europe](#)

Varied

Pick one of the activities from the varied collection on the official EDL website.

[Language Portraits and Multilingual Me](#)

20-30 minutes

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.

Multilingual Me build on the languages portrait work.

Class or whole school languages audit

1-2 weeks in total

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.

Art and Design

Half a day / homework task

Children engage with work by any artist. Label or write a short description of one work of art, including words in home and/or taught languages where possible. Create a piece of art inspired by the artist. Label or write a short multilingual description of your artwork.



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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 i.e.: What does the Spanish word 'zanahoria' mean in English? Name the official languages of 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/SI1J2bbbOt4>
<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



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

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
 Into Film	10 mins +	EDL resources to accompany feature length films in languages other than English in their collection. Check age recommendations. Register for a free school account to access these and other Into Film resources.
 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.
Lunches around the world	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	30 mins +	Dip in and out of this teaching resource from our friends at MFL Mentoring in Wales to find out about school lunches around the world and in a variety of languages.



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Cultural activities

Activity

Suggested timeframe

Description

Suitable for middle and upper primary

Country profile

Up to 1 week

Suitable for P5-P7

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.

Suitable for upper primary

Fashion Show

Up to 1 week

Celebrate traditional clothing from countries of the world.
Use presentation software to present a digital fashion show
Present a multilingual class fashion show in real life, describing the outfits in the home/taught languages represented by the children in your class.
Remember to be respectful and avoid harmful stereotypes.

Activities involving ICT

Activity

Suggested timeframe

Description

Suitable for all ages and stages

Share your EDL adventures

10 mins +

Share your EDL fun with others in school and beyond through the usual class or school communications and/or on SCILT's [EDL26 blog](#).

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.

[Genial.ly Quiz](#)

15-30 mins

Explore, quiz and collect selfies, virtually with this languages celebration quiz on [genial.ly](#). Credit to Marie Alliot, [genial.ly](#) ambassador.



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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.
 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.
The Secret Agent's Handbook	As long as you need	As a class or individuals, complete 50 + 1 missions in the Secret Agent's Handbook of Language Challenges.

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Learning languages

Activity

Suggested timeframe

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 26 different European languages.

Get the EDL party started in Scots!

As much time as you have

Did you know that Scots, along with Gaelic, is one of the Indigenous languages of Scotland. For EDL, why not sing along, tap your feet, jine in. Find the best Scots sangs for primary pupils on the Scots Hoose Yaldi website. Play the videos and animations of Scots sangs like the ever popular Coulter's Candy, the lively cheeky Broon Coo, the classic Ye Cannae Shove Yer Granny Aff a Bus – and let's get this pairty started.

Suitable for middle and upper primary

Learning languages and the four capacities

10 mins

Discuss the statements on this poster shared by 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?



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Learning languages

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
<i>Suitable for middle and upper primary</i> Languages Facts and Quiz	Facts = Homework task Quiz = 30 mins	Learn language related facts then try out the quiz in groups, pairs or one on one!
<i>Suitable for upper primary</i> 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.
Language links	5 mins +	Check out the collection of language link posters from Lightbulb Languages. All are free to view or download. Choose a poster to discuss with the whole class or give pairs/trios a poster of their own to think, pair and share with peers. Think like a linguist, spot the connections between words in multiple languages. It's the perfect chance to discover more connections - and alternatives too - among the languages known by the children and adults in your class.
Gaelic in Scotland - Gàidhlig ann an Alba	As much time as you have	Did you know that Gaelic, along with Scots, is of the Indigenous languages of Scotland. For EDL, why not dip into one of the topics in the Gaelic in Scotland collection about the Gaelic language in Scotland, Scottish history and the Gaels. Then try out the Go! Gaelic site and learn some Gaelic language too.



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Learning languages

Activity

Suggested timeframe

Description

Suitable for upper primary

[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

Suitable for all ages and stages

[Lost Wor\(l\)ds - Activities](#)

Varied

Try out one or more of the Lost Wor(l)ds activities that actively facilitate language awareness and appreciation of home and taught languages among all children.

[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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Learning together

Activity

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Description

Suitable for middle and upper primary

[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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Learning together

Activity

Suggested timeframe

Description

Suitable for upper primary

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 older pupils to help plan and deliver language activities for EDL for primary learners.

Preparation/planning time required between primary and secondary staff/older pupils

Multilingual Maze

15 mins+

This activity can be done indoors or outdoors, and with natural, digital or everyday materials using home or taught languages as appropriate.

Pair 1 use (natural) materials to create a simple maze for another pair. Swap places with another pair.

In Pair 2, children take turns to give and act on instructions in home/taught language(s) to guide a plushie/Playmobil character/programmable robot through the maze from the start to the finish.

See this [social media post](#) for inspiration. Credit to Mr Minchin.

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

[EDL 2025](#)

[EDL 2024](#)

[EDL 2023](#)

