**The purpose of the following activity is for you to examine the versatility, variety and diffusion of language. Please indicate which of the activities you have chosen by checking them off in the boxes. You must complete 4 activities**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Go to: <http://www.mla.org/map_single>  Look at different states in the U.S. and the number of language speakers by country, state, county or zip code. Think about the connection between language speakers and the process of immigration over time.  \*Pick THREE different languages (other than English) and write a short description of your observations.  \*Take a look at ONE specific language and discuss how it you think it may have diffused across the U.S. by looking at different states. | Go to Pop vs. Soda: <http://www.popvssoda.com/>  Take a look at the survey results found on this page and discuss how a study such as this can reflect the cultural preferences related to “drinking” beverages in two different regions of the U.S./Canada?  Finally, take the survey yourself! | **Watch:**  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0h18Rdhb44>  What type of writing system is Chinese? What is this type of system based on?  How many Chinese Characters are there? Do you really need to know all of them? | Go to: <http://www.ancestry.com/learn/facts>  Take a look at the distribution of your last name throughout the U.S. in 1920, 1880 and 1840. You can even look at the distribution in the U.K. and Scotland. What can this pattern tell you about the migration of your family?  \* If this site does not work for your family name you can either pick a last name of a famous person or pick another box. |
| Go to:  <http://esl.about.com/library/vocabulary/blbritam.htm?once=true&terms=british-american>  Come up with two sentences in American English and translate the words into British English.  Why do you think different words are used in the same language?  **Watch:**  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmxHfRCrMCM>  How did American English develop? Why? | Go to  <http://www.jimwegryn.com/Names/BaseballTeams.htm>   1. Pick three MLB team names and three other professional sports team names (look in left margin for links) and briefly discuss their origins. | Go to: <http://www.mla.org/map_data>  Do a query using U.S. Census data that looks at the actual numbers and percentages of speakers of over 300 different languages. You can look at this data at different scales. Pick a language go to the prompt box named Language by State and compare the diffusion of this language in the years 2000 and 2010. Then go to the box labeled City or Town and enter a name (its best to pick a larger city/town – like Boston). What were the largest language groups? Why do you think this is? \*Briefly discuss your findings. | **Go to:**  [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8b6\_3Yn1OEU&list=PLJicmE8fK0EjR\_iVOzgiJfvRuDPqKlPQt&index=2**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8b6_3Yn1OEU&list=PLJicmE8fK0EjR_iVOzgiJfvRuDPqKlPQt&index=2)  Watch the TED ed video on the Vernacular of Yankee. Then answer the questions below.  How does a Vernacular term develop?  Explain the development of one other Vernacular term. |
| **Place names:**  Go to:  [**http://www.infoplease.com/spot/wackytowns.html**](http://www.infoplease.com/spot/wackytowns.html)  Pick one of the place names from the list and google where this name came from.  Go to:  <http://hubpages.com/education/Origin-Name-United-States-America-Greensleeves>  Where does Connecticut’s name come from? Pick another state and explain the origin of that name. | Go to: <http://www.ethnologue.com/web.asp>  Use this site to get a sense of how many languages are spoken in the world! (There are over 7,000!) Click on the Country Index with Maps, click on one country that you are interested and briefly discuss how many languages are spoken in that country and what that information can tell you about the population makeup of the country (immigration, impact on traditional cultures etc…) | **Watch:**  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YBbBbY4qvv4>  What are some of the main differences between the pronunciation of the number system? Did any surprise you? Why do you think some of these differences might have developed?What might be the impact of these differences? | Go to Virtual Bangladesh: <http://www.virtualbangladesh.com/bd_bhasha.html>  Write a short sentence in Bengali.  Even though Bengali is an Indo-European language how do you perceive it to be different than other Indo-European languages such as English?  Learn a basic greeting:  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJ34xfoHJC8> |

For Fun: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OC83NA5tAGE>

Evolution of the English Language

Task: As we watch the English language videos as a class answer the questions below.

1. Before Watching: Have you noticed evolution in the English language? Explain your observations (including reasons you think they happened).

2. **Where did English come from?**

**-** How do we trace the history of language?

- What is the Proto Indo-European language family?

3.**How languages evolve:**

* Why did different languages develop? Why do languages change?
* Why are words that sound similar and have similar meanings not enough to establish a relation between languages?
* What are some reasons that it’s impossible to give an exact number for how many different languages there are?

4. **A Brief history of plural words**

**-**  How did plural words change from old English to modern English? Why did this change occur?

\*Over thanksgiving ask your relatives the dialect survey\*

**Conclusion**:

1. Do you think English is still changing? Explain why or why not.