

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/02/international_mother_language_day.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is observed every year by member states of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It started in 1999 with the purpose of promoting linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. It also aims at protecting the hundreds of languages around the world that are in danger of dying out. The day has its origins in Bangladesh, who had celebrated its own language with its own Language Movement Day in 1952. Several Bangladeshi students were killed by police for campaigning for the Bangla language to be included as a main language in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Even though their protests were peaceful, the police opened fire.

UNESCO stated that "by deciding to celebrate mother tongues...member states wished to recall that languages are not only an essential part of humanity's cultural heritage, but the irreducible expression of human creativity and of its great diversity." IMLD celebrates the fact that 6,000 languages are spoken around the world today. Each year has had a special theme. In 2002, UNESCO promoted its '3,000 Languages in Danger' campaign. In 2005, people commemorated Braille and sign languages. A UNESCO spokesperson said "Languages are the mirror of the souls of the societies in which they are born." The former President of Iceland said languages were "humanity's most precious and fragile treasures."

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. IMLD is observed | a. for campaigning |
| 2. promoting linguistic | b. every year |
| 3. languages around the world that are in | c. in Bangladesh |
| 4. The day has its origins | d. and cultural diversity |
| 5. students were killed by police | e. were peaceful |
| 6. their protests | f. danger of dying out |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. deciding to celebrate mother | a. around the world today |
| 2. an essential part of | b. souls of the societies |
| 3. 6,000 languages are spoken | c. and sign languages |
| 4. people commemorated Braille | d. fragile treasures |
| 5. Languages are the mirror of the | e. tongues |
| 6. humanity's most precious and | f. humanity's cultural heritage |

LISTENING GAP FILL

International Mother Language Day (IMLD) _____ year by member states of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It started in 1999 _____ promoting linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. It also aims at protecting the hundreds of languages around the world that are _____ out. The day _____ Bangladesh, who had celebrated its own language with its own Language Movement Day in 1952. Several Bangladeshi students were killed by police for campaigning for the Bangla language to be included _____ in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Even though their protests were peaceful, _____ fire.

UNESCO stated that "by deciding _____ tongues...member states wished to recall that languages are not only _____ of humanity's cultural heritage, but the irreducible expression of human creativity and _____." IMLD celebrates the fact that 6,000 languages are spoken around the world today. Each year has _____. In 2002, UNESCO promoted its '3,000 Languages in Danger' campaign. In 2005, people commemorated Braille and sign languages. A UNESCO spokesperson said "Languages are the _____ of the societies in which they are born." The former President of Iceland said languages were "humanity's most _____ treasures."

WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL**Put the words into the gaps in the text.**

International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is _____ every year by member _____ of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It started in 1999 with the _____ of promoting linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. It also aims at protecting the hundreds of languages around the world that are in danger of _____ out. The day has its _____ in Bangladesh, who had celebrated its own language with its _____ Language Movement Day in 1952. Several Bangladeshi students were killed by police for campaigning for the Bangla language to be included as a _____ language in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Even though their protests were peaceful, the police _____ fire.

own
purpose
origins
main
observed
dying
opened
states

UNESCO stated that "by deciding to celebrate _____ tongues...member states wished to recall that languages are not only an essential _____ of humanity's cultural heritage, but the irreducible expression of human _____ and of its great diversity." IMLD celebrates the _____ that 6,000 languages are spoken around the world today. Each year has had a special _____. In 2002, UNESCO promoted its '3,000 Languages in Danger' campaign. In 2005, people commemorated Braille and _____ languages. A UNESCO spokesperson said "Languages are the mirror of the souls of the societies in which they are _____. The former President of Iceland said languages were "humanity's most precious and fragile _____."

fact
born
part
sign
mother
treasures
theme
creativity

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is *observation / observed* every year by member *states / statements* of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It started in 1999 with the purpose *at / of* promoting linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. It also aims at *protection / protecting* the hundreds of languages around the world that are in danger of dying out. The day has its *origins / original* in Bangladesh, who had celebrated its own language with its own Language Movement Day in 1952. Several Bangladeshi students were *killed / dead* by police for campaigning for the Bangla language to be included as a *mainly / main* language in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Even though their protests were peaceful, the police *closed / opened* fire.

UNESCO stated that "by *deciding / decision* to celebrate mother tongues...member states wished to recall that languages are not only an essential *apart / part* of humanity's cultural heritage, but the irreducible expression of *human / humanity* creativity and of its great diversity." IMLD celebrates the *fact / facts* that 6,000 languages are spoken around the world today. Each year has *has / had* a special theme. In 2002, UNESCO promoted its '3,000 Languages in Danger' campaign. In 2005, people commemorated Braille and *sign / signed* languages. A UNESCO spokesperson said "Languages are the mirror of the *soles / souls* of the societies in which they are born." The former President of Iceland said languages were "humanity's *most / some* precious and fragile treasures."

MULTIPLE CHOICE

International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is (1) _____ every year by member states of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It (2) _____ in 1999 with the purpose of promoting linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. It also aims at protecting the hundreds of languages around the world that are (3) _____ danger of dying out. The day has its (4) _____ in Bangladesh, who had celebrated its own language with its own Language Movement Day in 1952. Several Bangladeshi students were (5) _____ by police for campaigning for the Bangla language to be included as a main language in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Even though their (6) _____ were peaceful, the police opened fire.

UNESCO stated that "by deciding to celebrate (7) _____ tongues...member states wished to recall that languages are not only an essential part of humanity's (8) _____ heritage, but the irreducible expression of human creativity and of its great diversity." IMLD celebrates the (9) _____ that 6,000 languages are spoken around the world today. Each year has had a special theme. In 2002, UNESCO (10) _____ its '3,000 Languages in Danger' campaign. In 2005, people commemorated Braille and sign languages. A UNESCO spokesperson said "Languages are the mirror of the (11) _____ of the societies in which they are born." The former President of Iceland said languages were "(12) _____ most precious and fragile treasures."

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) observed | (b) observation | (c) observes | (d) observe |
| 2. | (a) starts | (b) started | (c) starting | (d) start |
| 3. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) of | (d) at |
| 4. | (a) originals | (b) originally | (c) origins | (d) originality |
| 5. | (a) killer | (b) killings | (c) kill | (d) killed |
| 6. | (a) protesting | (b) protest | (c) protests | (d) protestor |
| 7. | (a) mother | (b) mummy | (c) maternal | (d) mum |
| 8. | (a) culturally | (b) cultures | (c) cultured | (d) cultural |
| 9. | (a) facts | (b) factual | (c) fact | (d) fact of |
| 10. | (a) promotion | (b) promoted | (c) promotes | (d) promoting |
| 11. | (a) soulless | (b) souls | (c) soul mate | (d) soulfully |
| 12. | (a) humanity | (b) humans | (c) humane | (d) humanity's |

SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. ervdbeos every year
2. auuctlr diversity
3. in danger of indgy out
4. vlreeSa Bangladeshi students were killed
5. nieuddcl as a main language
6. the police nepode fire

Paragraph 2

7. an lseatenis part
8. human vitcteiayr
9. 6,000 languages are eospnk
10. a special meteh
11. Languages are the irromrr of the souls
12. precious and igarefl treasures

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () are not only an essential part of humanity's cultural heritage, but the irreducible expression of human creativity and of its
- () linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. It also aims at protecting the hundreds of languages around the world
- () though their protests were peaceful, the police opened fire.
- () for the Bangla language to be included as a main language in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Even
- () great diversity." IMLD celebrates the fact that 6,000 languages are spoken around the world today. Each year
- () UNESCO stated that "by deciding to celebrate mother tongues...member states wished to recall that languages
- () own Language Movement Day in 1952. Several Bangladeshi students were killed by police for campaigning
- () has had a special theme. In 2002, UNESCO promoted its '3,000 Languages in Danger' campaign. In 2005,
- (**1**) International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is observed every year by member states of the United Nations
- () that are in danger of dying out. The day has its origins in Bangladesh, who had celebrated its own language with its
- () languages were "humanity's most precious and fragile treasures."
- () Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It started in 1999 with the purpose of promoting
- () people commemorated Braille and sign languages. A UNESCO spokesperson said "Languages are the mirror
- () of the souls of the societies in which they are born." The former President of Iceland said

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. every observed states member by year

2. cultural and linguistic promoting of purpose the diversity

3. danger of dying out languages around the world that are in

4. Bangladeshi were by Several students killed police

5. were protests their though Even peaceful

6. essential of cultural an part humanity's heritage

7. the languages around today 6,000 spoken world are

8. had special Each has a theme year

9. of souls are mirror the Languages the

10. and precious most humanity's treasures fragile

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

THE INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY SURVEY

Write five questions about International Mother Language Day in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about International Mother Language Day. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about International Mother Language Day. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about International Mother Language Day. Write about will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.