Languages Across Borders

Map language patterns and shared languages across world regions

WG.4.7 "Map the distribution pattern of the world's major languages. Map and explain the concept of a lingua franca in various parts of the world."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each language and the places where the passage says it is used. Circle the three examples of a lingua franca and number their regions 1, 2, and 3.

More Than One Language Map

1 A world map of languages would not look like a map of country borders. Mandarin Chinese is concentrated in China in East Asia, while Hindi is widely spoken across northern and central India in South Asia. Arabic stretches across North Africa and into Southwest Asia. Spanish reaches from Spain in Europe across much of Central and South America, but Portuguese is the main language of Brazil. English is widely spoken in the United States, Canada, Britain, Australia, and New Zealand. These patterns reflect migration, empire, trade, and local histories. Many places contain several languages, so no single color could tell the whole story.

2 A language spread across a region is not always everyone's home language. A **lingua franca** is a shared language used by people with different first languages. In East Africa, Swahili connects speakers of many home languages, especially in Tanzania and Kenya. People use it in markets, schools, and public life. Its reach crosses language community boundaries, not just lines between countries. On a map, you could mark the East African area where Swahili is used as a shared language, then note that smaller home-language areas overlap it. This pattern is different from coloring each country with only one language.

3 English plays a similar connecting role in parts of South Asia. India has many first languages, including Hindi, Tamil, and Bengali. English is used in some universities, businesses, and government work, allowing people with different first languages to communicate. Across parts of West and Central Africa, French also links speakers of different home languages in government, schools, and trade. These languages spread partly through colonial rule, but their present-day uses vary by place. When mapping a lingua franca, label both its shared use and its region. Do not assume that everyone in that region speaks it, or that it replaces local languages.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How would you label Spanish and Portuguese on a map of South America?

2. Which two adjoining world regions would you mark for Arabic, and which continents are they on?

3. Where would you label Swahili as a lingua franca? Why would that label overlap areas with other home languages?

4. Besides Swahili, which two lingua francas does the passage describe? Give the region where you would label each one.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In the box, sketch a simple world map and label three language areas from the passage on at least two continents. Circle one lingua franca you labeled, then write one sentence explaining why people in that area use it.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each language and the places where the passage says it is used. Circle the three examples of a lingua franca and number their regions 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How would you label Spanish and Portuguese on a map of South America?	**Label Spanish across much of South America and Portuguese in Brazil.**
2	Which two adjoining world regions would you mark for Arabic, and which continents are they on?	**Mark North Africa on the continent of Africa and Southwest Asia on the continent of Asia.**
3	Where would you label Swahili as a lingua franca? Why would that label overlap areas with other home languages?	**Label East Africa, especially Tanzania and Kenya. Swahili connects people who speak different home languages.**
4	Besides Swahili, which two lingua francas does the passage describe? Give the region where you would label each one.	**Label English in parts of South Asia and French in parts of West and Central Africa.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The sketch labels Arabic in North Africa, Hindi in northern and central India, and Swahili in East Africa. Swahili is circled. People with different first languages use Swahili to communicate in East African markets and public life.

Accept rough map outlines if the three labeled areas are placed on at least two appropriate continents. The circled language must function as a lingua franca in its labeled region, and the sentence must explain its shared use across first-language groups.