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.
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  
2. promoting linguistic  
3. languages around the world that are in  
4. The day has its origins  
5. students were killed by police  
6. their protests  

Paragraph 2

1. deciding to celebrate mother  
2. an essential part of  
3. 6,000 languages are spoken  
4. people commemorated Braille  
5. Languages are the mirror of the  
6. humanity's most precious and  

a. for campaigning  
b. every year  
c. in Bangladesh  
d. and cultural diversity  
e. were peaceful  
f. danger of dying out  

a. around the world today  
b. souls of the societies  
c. and sign languages  
d. fragile treasures  
e. tongues  
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.

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 __________."
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."
INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

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. auucllr 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 Isreatednis part
8. human vitcteiayr
9. 6,000 languages are eospnk
10. a special meteh
11. Languages are the iromrr 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,

(  ) 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
INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

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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INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

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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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>STUDENT 1</th>
<th>STUDENT 2</th>
<th>STUDENT 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q.1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.2.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.5.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Write about International Mother Language Day for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other’s work.

______________________________________________________________________________
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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 what 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.