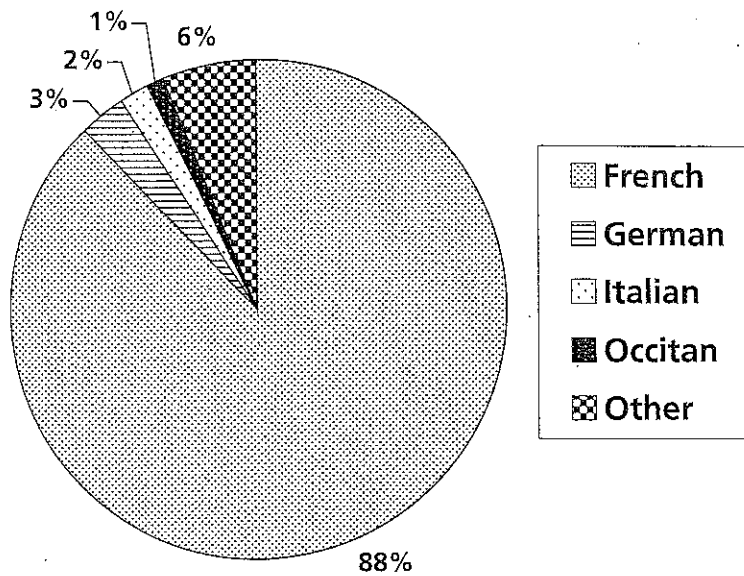


Native Language of People in France



336. Which question can be answered using the graph?

- A. How many people in France speak Italian?
- B. How many people in France speak French?
- C. What part of the French population speaks English as a second language?
- D. What percentage of people in France have Italian as their native language?

337. How many of the people in France speaks German as their native language?

- A. 3 percent
- B. 6 percent
- C. 12 percent
- D. 88 percent

SS6G11 The student will describe the cultural characteristics of Europe.

- a. Explain the diversity of European languages as seen in a comparison of German, English, Russian, French, and Italian.

COMPARING THE LANGUAGES OF GERMAN, ENGLISH, RUSSIAN, FRENCH, AND ITALIAN

The continent of Europe is slightly larger than the United States in land area. However, Europe's population is more than double the population of the United States. In the United States, English is the dominant language. Other languages are spoken by immigrants and by Native Americans, but only in small numbers. Europe is much different. It is home to more than two hundred native languages. A few languages are dominant, but many more are spoken by large numbers of people.

Most European languages are in three main categories: **Germanic** languages, **Romance** languages, and **Slavic** languages. The Germanic language group has the most native speakers. European native speakers of this group live mostly in northwest and central Europe. About 20 percent of Europeans speak one of two languages—English and German—as their native language. Most Europeans learn English as a second language in their schools even if they don't speak English at home.

Another large group is the Romance languages, which includes French, Italian, and Spanish. These languages are found in the south and west of Europe. These languages come from Latin, the language of the ancient Roman Empire. The Roman alphabet is used to write both Romance and Germanic languages, although not every language has the exact same characters and punctuation. The words on this page are written using the Roman alphabet.

Slavic languages include Russian. Slavic languages are found in central and eastern Europe. These languages do not always use the Roman alphabet. Instead, they are written with a **Cyrillic alphabet**. Russian, for example, uses the Cyrillic alphabet.

Russian Alphabet

Аа Бб Вв Гг Дд Ее Ёё Жж Зз Ии Йй Кк Лл Мм Нн Оо
Пп Рр Сс Тт Уу Фф Хх Цц Чч Шш Щщ Ъъ Ыы Ьь Ээ
Юю Яя (Іі Өө Vv ЪЪ)

Having so many languages can be a problem. It is difficult to live, work, and trade with people who cannot communicate with each other. Europeans have worked hard to solve this problem. Most schoolchildren learn one or two other languages besides their own. The European Union has twenty-three "official" languages to make sure that people can understand laws and decisions made by the government. There are special laws to protect languages too. Europeans want to keep alive the languages spoken by only a few people. At the same time, they are working to build a unified Europe.

- _____ **326. What have Europeans done to try to solve the problem of so many languages?**
- A. outlawed the use of languages spoken by only a few people
 - B. decided not to trade with people who do not speak the same language
 - C. made laws ensuring that English is the only official language of the European Union
 - D. required schoolchildren to learn one or two other languages besides their native language
- _____ **327. Which languages come from the language of the ancient Roman Empire?**
- A. Latin
 - B. Russian and Polish
 - C. French, Italian, and Spanish
 - D. English, German, and Dutch
- _____ **328. Besides differences in words, what other challenge do Europeans face in communicating with each other?**
- A. They use two different alphabets.
 - B. People in the United States speak mostly English.
 - C. Europe's population is double the size of the United States.
 - D. Most of the people in Europe do not want to learn another language.

Use these statements to answer question 329.

- Schoolchildren in Europe learn more than one language.
- The European Union records all its business in twenty-three languages.
- Laws have been written to protect languages spoken by only a few people.

- _____ **329. What do these statements show about Europeans?**
- A. Europeans want to have one common language.
 - B. Europeans respect the languages of other cultures.
 - C. The people in Europe want English to be the main language.
 - D. The European Union is working to get rid of languages that few people speak.

Use the table to answer questions 330-332.

Comparing Major Languages of Europe

Origin	Example Language	Official Language in	Approximate Number of European Native Speakers
West Germanic Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> largest of the three language groups derived from the Germanic tribes 750 BC-AD 1. 	German	Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, European Union	100 million people
	English	United Kingdom, Ireland, European Union	62 million people
Slavic Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Russian is the most widely spoke Slavic language Russian is the largest native language in Europe 	Russian	Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, United Nations, Commonwealth of Independent States	140 million people
Romance Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> derived from Latin, the language of the Roman Empire Latin is no longer spoken as a native language in any country 	French	France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland, United Nations, European Union	65-80 million people
	Italian	Italy, San Marino, Switzerland; Vatican, European Union	63 million people

- _____ 330. In what way are the French and Italian languages alike?
- The countries of France and Italy are close to each other.
 - They are both Romance languages that derived from Latin.
 - They are both the official language of the United Nations.
 - French and Italian share the roots of the Germanic languages.
- _____ 331. Which European language has the largest number of native speakers?
- French
 - Russian
 - English
 - German
- _____ 332. Which describes a way that Russian is different from the other languages?
- It is only spoken in Asia.
 - It is not spoken by as many people.
 - It is not an official language of the EU.
 - It is not a native language for any country.

DIVERSITY IN EUROPEAN LANGUAGES TODAY

Many European countries have more than one official language. Notice in the earlier chart that Switzerland has three. There is actually a fourth official Swiss language not shown! Multiple official languages are a part of life in many countries in Europe due to the ethnic background of the people living there. Many countries share borders, and people move back and forth across borders easily. About 400 million people in the world speak English because it is often the choice for a second language. It is chosen because it is considered the worldwide language of business. Many more people in Europe speak English as a second language than are noted on the chart of native speakers. In European countries, students are often required to master another language. In France, almost 66 percent of the population speaks some English. Over half of all Europeans speak some English.

Immigration has created pockets of other language speakers in countries where their native language is not an official one. In Russia, a large community of German Russians moved there in 1871. As is often the case, the Russian government required the children of those immigrants to learn the Russian language in school. As a result, many older citizens use their native language, while the younger population change to the language of their new country.

Problems occur when many languages are spoken in one place. Communication is difficult. Documents are printed only in the official language. Government workers often only speak the official language. In France, the official language is only French, but when you look at the earlier chart and at the graph that follows, you will note how many other languages are used by the people of France.

- _____ 333. Which group is less likely to learn the language of a new country?
- A. men
 - B. women
 - C. older citizens
 - D. young students
- _____ 334. What is a problem caused by many languages spoken in the same country?
- A. There are no problems.
 - B. Children can't talk to their parents.
 - C. Schoolchildren hate to learn other languages.
 - D. It's difficult to read and understand official forms.
- _____ 335. What did children of German immigrants to Russia have to do in school?
- A. learn the Russian language
 - B. agree not to speak German at home
 - C. attend classes away from Russian children
 - D. move to a school where only German is spoken