

The languages of Africa

1 New words for this article

Nouveaux mots pour cet article

- | | | |
|---|-----------|---|
| 1 | continent | a large section of land with many countries on it |
| 2 | alphabet | the way we write letters of the language |
| 3 | click | sounds you make with your tongue and mouth |

2 Comprehension Questions

Questions de compréhension en lecture

- How many language are there in Africa?
- How many language families are there in Africa?
- Which is the largest language family in the world?
- Which is the biggest language in Africa?
- Which language has its own alphabet?

3 Speaking activities - Activités orales

Pratiquez vos compétences orales - répétez ces phrases.

- Africa is very big continent with a very long history.
- People have lived in African for hundreds of thousands of years, in many different groups.
- So the different groups of people in Africa speak many different languages.
- There are about 2000 languages in Africa. That's about 30% of all the languages in the world.

4 Speaking activities - Activités orales

Exercez-vous à parler - répondez à ces questions en anglais:

- Where do people speak Swahili?
- What is the real name of the Swahili language?
- How do you say 'hello' in Yoruba?
- What language family is Amharic part of?

5 Match the sentences (A-D) and (E-H) – *Faire correspondre les phrases (A-D) et (E-H).*

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| A | Hausa is a big language |
| B | It is one of |
| C | People speak it in |
| D | You can say hello in Hausa |
| E | Nigeria's official languages |
| F | Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, CAR, Chad |
| G | with the word 'Sannu'. |
| H | with more than 40 million speakers |

6 True or False? - Vrai ou Faux?

- people speak Khoisan languages in Namibia and Botswana
- people speak Niger-Congo languages in Sudan and Chad
- Arabic, Amharic, Hausa are all Nilo-Saharan languages
- Niger-Congo is the largest family of languages in the world

7 Fill in the gap - Remplir le vide

Many people in Nigeria, Benin and Togo ...1... Yoruba. About 30 million people speak Yoruba. It is one of Nigeria's ...2... languages. You can say ...3... in Yoruba with the word 'Bawo'. Igbo is a big language with more than 20 ...4... speakers. It is one of Nigeria's official languages. People speak it in Nigeria and Cameroon. It is part of the Niger-Congo ...5... of languages.

Answers –

2 Comprehension questions

Questions de compréhension en lecture

- 1 There are about 2000 languages in Africa
- 2 The African languages are in four big families of languages
- 3 The Niger-Congo family is the largest family of languages in the world
- 4 Swahili is the biggest language in Africa.
- 5 Amharic has its own alphabet

4 Speaking activities - Activités orales

Exercez-vous à parler - répondez à ces questions en anglais:

- 1 in many countries, like Kenya and Uganda
- 2 Kiswahili'
- 3 You can say hello in Yoruba with the word 'Bawo'.
- 4 It is part of the family of Semitic languages

5 Match the sentences (A-D) and (E-H) –

Faire correspondre les phrases (A-D) et (E-H).

- A=H
- B=E
- C=F
- D=G

6 True or False? - Vrai ou Faux?

- 1 True
- 2 False
- 3 False
- 4 True

7 Fill in the gap – Remplir le vide

- 1 speak
- 2 official
- 3 hello
- 4 million
- 5 family