

Taiwan's Indigenous Languages

Reading Worksheet — Level C | tahricteaches.com

Taiwan is a beautiful island with mountains, forests, and coastlines. Before many other people arrived, **indigenous** people already lived on this land. Today, Taiwan has sixteen official indigenous groups, and each one is called a **tribe**. Every tribe has its own name, history, and special way of life.

Each tribe speaks its own **language**. These languages sound very different from Mandarin Chinese, which most people in Taiwan use every day. Sadly, some indigenous languages now have only a few thousand speakers. Many young people grow up speaking Mandarin and never learn the words their grandparents once used.

Long ago, indigenous families built small villages near rivers and hills. They planted rice, hunted animals, and fished together. They learned important skills from their **ancestor**, the people in their family who lived long before them. Children listened carefully to stories about hunting, farming, and respecting nature.

Elders play a big role in every tribe. They teach songs, dances, and old traditions to young people. Through these lessons, children learn who they are and where they come from. Clothing, festivals, and music all show the rich culture that each tribe has kept alive for generations.

Today, the government and schools work hard to **protect** indigenous languages. Some schools now teach these languages in class. Radio programs and television shows use them too. Many indigenous people also share their language online. These efforts help keep old languages, and the culture behind them, alive today.

A. Vocabulary

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. indigenous ____ | a. beliefs, customs, art, and way of life of a group |
| 2. tribe ____ | b. older person respected for wisdom and experience |
| 3. language ____ | c. family member who lived long ago, before you |
| 4. mountain ____ | d. keep safe from harm or loss |
| 5. village ____ | e. very tall, high landform |
| 6. ancestor ____ | f. small town where people live and work together |
| 7. tradition ____ | g. custom or activity passed down through generations |
| 8. elder ____ | h. first people who lived in a place, before others arrived |
| 9. protect ____ | i. group of people who share language, culture, and land |
| 10. culture ____ | j. words and sounds a group of people use to communicate |

B. True or False

- | | |
|--|--|
| ____ 1. Taiwan has sixteen official indigenous groups. | ____ 2. All indigenous languages have millions of speakers today. |
| ____ 3. Every indigenous tribe in Taiwan speaks the same language. | ____ 4. Some indigenous languages now have only a few thousand speakers. |

- ___ 5. Indigenous families in the past lived only in big cities.
- ___ 6. Long ago, indigenous people fished, hunted, and grew rice.
- ___ 7. Elders do not teach young people any traditions.
- ___ 8. Clothing and festivals can show a tribe's culture.
- ___ 9. Schools in Taiwan never teach indigenous languages.
- ___ 10. Radio and television programs help keep indigenous languages alive.

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: tribe, language, village, ancestor, culture, elder, mountain, protect

1. Each indigenous _____ in Taiwan has its own name and history.
2. Long ago, families in Taiwan lived together in a small _____.
3. Every tribe speaks its own special _____.
4. Children learn stories from their _____, the family members who lived long ago.
5. Festivals and clothing show a tribe's rich _____.



D. Comprehension Questions

1. Why do some indigenous languages in Taiwan have very few speakers today?
2. How did indigenous families in Taiwan get food long ago?
3. What are two ways Taiwan helps protect indigenous languages today?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think it is important to keep old languages alive?
2. What traditions or customs are special in your own family or culture?

Answer Key

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A. Vocabulary: 1-h, 2-i, 3-j, 4-e, 5-f, 6-c, 7-g, 8-b, 9-d, 10-a

B. True/False: 1-T, 2-F, 3-F, 4-T, 5-F, 6-T, 7-F, 8-T, 9-F, 10-T

C. Fill Blanks: 1-tribe, 2-village, 3-language, 4-ancestor, 5-culture

D. Comprehension:

1. Many young people grow up speaking Mandarin and do not learn their tribe's language.
2. They planted rice, hunted animals, and fished.
3. Schools teach the languages, and radio and TV programs use them too.

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