

Language activities for **Early** learners



**Early**



suggested for Pre-Primary-Year 2

## Bilingual book hunt

**Did You Know?** Local libraries often run story times celebrating other countries and cultures. Can you find a story time in your area?

You might also like to check out the following books, which explore and compare the lives of children around the world:

- **Mirror**, by Jeanie Baker
- **Children just like me**, by Dorling Kindersley
- **A life like mine**, by Lisa Magloff

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 **Research & Explore** Search for a bilingual book in your school or local library. Read it in English and then try reading it in the other language!

Are there words you know? Keep a record of books you've read and your thoughts using the Reading log template on the following page.

# Early

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## Reading log

“One language sets you in a corridor for life.  
Two languages open every door along the way.”  
Frank Smith

	TITLE	AUTHOR	SOMETHING NEW I LEARNED
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

My favourite book was.....

My favourite bilingual book was in English and.....

Learning about other languages is great because.....

.....

.....

## My special word

Love is important throughout the world.

What does the word 'love' mean to you?

- Does it make you think about people you love?
- Does it make you think about things you love to do?
- What makes you feel good?

See if you can find out how words about love look and sound in another language.



**Create**

In the template below, draw and write what 'love' means to you!



## Creatures and features

Download and print the sea animal cards provided.

### Play a Memory Game

1. Mix all the cards then lay them out face down.
2. Take turns with a partner and turn over cards in pairs to match the animals.  
If you get a wrong match, replace the cards for the next player.
3. As you reveal cards, practise the English and Nyoongar/Noongar words for each animal.
4. The player with the most pairs wins!



**Have  
a go**

Learn the Nyoongar/Noongar words for each sea animal.

Sea animal Memory Game card examples



## Research & Explore

Find out more at the **Noongar Language Centre** or visit the WA Museum Discovery Zone at the State Library of WA.

Learn about the features and behaviour of the animals on the cards.

Do other plants or animals live in similar places?  
Can you find their names in Nyoongar/**Noongar**?



## Create

Draw a picture or write a story about the animal and its habitat (place it lives in).

## Unique sayings

All cultures have special celebrations and rituals, and these traditions often have special words and expressions associated with them.

Many people celebrate Christmas and wish each other a '**Merry Christmas!**' even though we don't use the word 'merry' much anymore.

Cantonese speakers greet people with **sihk jō faahn meih a? 食咗飯未呀?** which means '**Have you eaten rice today?**'

This is like asking if you are well and if all is good in the world for you today.



### Discuss

Interview a family member or friend who grew up in another country. Find out if there are special traditions, sayings or proverbs that are unique to their country.

## Who is in your neighbourhood?

Western Australia includes people from many different cultures. Culture is a word we use to describe the ideas, customs and behaviours of a particular people or society.

The people of WA come from many different countries and they bring with them ways of doing things, favourite foods, and special clothes. Many people speak other languages.

Some languages are more common in WA than others. Mandarin, Italian and Vietnamese are the most common languages spoken besides English. **See page 4** to learn more about languages spoken in WA.



## Discuss

Hold a discussion about people's backgrounds and heritage.

Here are some things you might want to find out about the people you know:

- Which countries do they, or their family come from?
- What special foods or traditions do they have in their family?
- When did they come to Western Australia?
- Do they speak another language?
- Have they visited the country their family is from?
- What is it like? How is it different from, or similar to, Western Australia?



## Research & Explore

Print off a map of the world and mark on it the countries where the people you know come from.

## Sign me a rainbow

Auslan is the language used by the Australian deaf community.

Pick a poem, song or nursery rhyme, like '*I can sing a rainbow*', and use **Auslan signs** to sing the song.

## Did You Know?

Auslan is a language unique to Australia. If you go to another country in the world they have a different type of sign language.