The following information corresponds to Chapter 6 in your textbook. Fill in the blanks to complete the definition or sentence. Note: All of the following information in addition to your reading is important.

What are Languages, and What Role Do Languages Play in Cultures?

• **Language** = a systematic means of communicating ideas or feelings by the use of conventionalized signs, gestures, marks, or especially articulate vocal sounds; language binds a ________ identity.

• **Official Language** = variant of a language that a country’s political and intellectual elite seek (or sought) to promote as the norm for use in 1) government, 2) schools, 3) the media, and 4) in other areas (”King’s English”).

• **Regional Variance** = a regional variance of a standard language.

• **Geographic Boundary** = a geographic boundary within which a particular linguistic feature occurs.

• **Mutual Intelligibility** - the ability of two people to understand each other when speaking.

*“A language is a dialect with an army” (e.g. China ruled a state of speakers of different languages (but similar Sino-Tibetan tongues) - often why consider Chinese to be one language).

Why Are Languages Distributed the Way they Are?

• Language ________ are thought to have a shared, but distant, origin;

• Language _________ have a more definite commonality;

• These subfamilies are divided into language _________, which consist of sets of individual languages.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Family</th>
<th>Major Language</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Americas, Europe, Southwest Asia, Australia, South Africa</td>
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<td>China, Southeast Asia</td>
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<td>Japan, Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Africa, Arabian Peninsula</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Madagascar</td>
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<td>Russia, Northern Asia, Finland, Turkey</td>
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<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
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Language Formation

• **Phonetic Change** - one way of charting the diversification of languages over time (e.g. octo (Latin), otto (Italian), ocho (Spanish), huit (French), … eight (English)).

• **Etymology** was observed to be closely related to ancient Greek & Latin (late 1700s).

• Jakob Grimm observed that related languages have similar (but not identical) consonants (1800s); soften over time (e.g. *vater* (Ger) … *vader* (Dut), *father* (Eng)) – he used ____________ ____________.

• ________ - deduce a large part of an ________ language (no native speakers) and go even further to re-create the language that preceded it; linguists look for ________ clues in the vocabulary (landforms, vegetation).

• ________-Indo-European – ancestral Indo-European language; ________ - even more ancestral language.

Locating Language Hearths

• Language ________ - differentiation over time and space; languages branch into dialects, become isolated, then new languages develop.

• Language ________ - when long-isolated languages made contact; linked to human mobility (relocation diffusion); complicates the rules of reconstruction.

• Language ________ - modification or supplanting of a language by stronger cultures (acculturation); Ex) Hungarian surrounded by Indo-European; the origin of Basque spoken around northern Spain is unknown (?)
**Diffusion of the Proto-Indo-European Language**

- ______ theory: the hearth was modern-day Ukraine (> 5,000 yrs. ago); people used horses, wheel, and trade, spread language westward toward Western Europe.
- ______ theory: the hearth was Anatolia (Turkey - > 10,000 yrs. ago); Ukraine relied on nomadic pastoralism, not farming; more words for mountains and other high-relief landforms (few for plains); leading hearth for agriculture was Mesopotamia; drawbacks - Anatolia was not ideal for farming, the ______ ______ ______ ______ states Proto-Indo-European language spread eastward first, around the Caspian Sea, then westward into Europe.

**Examples of Language Distinction**

**North America:**
- In bilingual Canada, regional divisions can be found between ________ and the rest of the country.
- The ________ have been diligent in passing several language laws (e.g. French signs, menus,…).
- 1995 – came within a few thousand votes of seceding from the rest of Canada.

**Europe (Indo-European mostly):**
- ________ languages (French, Spanish, Italian,…) – areas controlled but not overwhelmed by Romans.
- ________ languages (German, English, Danish,…) – expansion of peoples from Northern Europe.
- ________ languages (Russian, Czech, Slovak,…) – developed as Slavic people migrated from Ukraine.
- Other – Uralic, Altaic, … Basque (______) – Basque never blended with other Europeans (autonomy in 1979).
- Belgium is divided into a ________-speaking region in the north (Flanders) and a ________-speaking region in the south (Wallonia), with ________, the capital, officially bilingual; some pressure to devolve.

**Sub-Saharan Africa:**
- ________ - ________ - most dominant language family in the region; ________ - includes “click” sounds.
- Nigeria is a much more complicated case study than either Canada or Belgium. Major languages; ________ in the north (35 million speakers), ________ in the southwest (25 million), and ________ in the southeast (20 million) – are strongly associated with regional cultures and are unsuitable as national languages.
- When Nigeria became independent, its leaders chose ________ as its official language (India did this earlier).

**How Do Languages Diffuse?**

Two developments in the late Middle Ages were key in developing the modern language pattern:

1) Johannes Gutenberg invented the movable-type ________ ________ around 1450; allowed for an unprecedented production of written texts & promoted ________ ________ (e.g. Gutenberg Bible)
2) The rise of ________ - ________ was important because they had a strong interest in promoting a common culture (more unity), and asserted their interests in faraway places at times (colonialism).

**Creolization:**

- ________ ________ = “Frankish language”; convergence of several languages through trade (e.g. French, Italian, Arabic,…); today it denotes any common language spoken by people of different native tongues.
- ________ = two or more languages that have been simplified and modified through contact w/ each other.
- ________ language = a pidgin may develop a more complex vocabulary & become a mother tongue of a region.

**Language on the International Scene:**
- Only a few ________ states (e.g. Japan, Venezuela, Iceland, Portugal, Poland, Lesotho)
- Most countries are ________ - in which more than one language is used.
- ________ ________ – often selected by the educated and politically elite to promote national cohesion (usually language of courts and government); commonly language of colonial power. There has been a growing interest in establishing English as the ________ language of the U.S.
- ________ ________ - common language of trade and commerce (English is the closest); ________ ________ = an artificial tongue that was developed in the early 1900s based on Latin and a combination of other European languages; attempt to bring cultures together (failed).

**Place-Names:**

- ________ – systematic study of place-names (can elicit strong passions).
- When many African and Asian colonies became ________, they changed the names of places; this has even happened recently (e.g. Bombay was changed to Mumbai).
- Give examples of toponyms for the following:
  - Post-Colonial –
  - Post-Revolution –
  - Memorial –
  - Commodification –