

TEACHER ANSWER KEY

Can you identify the language of each of these alleluias?

Alleluia: English, Italian, French

הללויה: Hebrew

Aleluya: Spanish, Swahili

할렐루야: Korean

Hallelujah: German, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Finnish

Аллуя : Ukrainian

Αλληλούια: Greek

哈利路亚: Chinese (simplified)

हल्लिलूय्याह: Hindi

هللویا: Arabic

Trace every alleluia. Two of them are meant to be read from right to left (Arabic and Hebrew).

- Pick up a book and demonstrate that languages read from right to left begin at the back cover and are read from "back" to "front" in addition to reading right to left on the page.
- Search for a video of a rabbi reading a scroll in Hebrew from right to left and show it to the students.

Use the internet to help you practice pronouncing each alleluia.

- Google Translate has an icon users can press to hear the word read aloud. 

Which form of alleluia is most likely to be heard in Rome? (Italian) Athens? (Greek) Seoul? (Korean) Nairobi? (Swahili or English) Delhi? (Hindi) Kiev? (Ukrainian) Caracas? (Spanish) Copenhagen? (Danish) Cairo? (Arabic) Your city or town? Discuss the richness of the language diversity in your own school or community.

Which of these forms of alleluia are cognates?

- A cognate is a word that is similar in two languages (i.e., excellent in English and exelente in Spanish). Alleluia, hallelujah and aleluya are all cognates. Even though it's not as recognizable visually, so is the Greek version. Listen to the pronunciation in Greek online and listen for the similarity!

In which language do we communicate with God?

- God hears and speaks to us in whatever language is in our hearts.
- Read about the stories of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11: 1-9) and Pentecost (Acts 2: 1-13).

Ask the students if they know of any other ways to communicate alleluia. Perhaps one of them knows the American Sign Language sign. If not, it's easy to find a video online.