

Teachers Guide for “Aboco”



“Aboco” is a colourful representation of a foreign alphabet, and a fun way to initiate discussion with young children about the ways that languages are the same and different.

Here are some discussion questions and activities to make the most of “Aboco”.

1. Handling it as a book- What kind of book is it? (an alphabet book)
2. Ask children why they think that it is an alphabet book (one word per page A, B, C start, board book format)
3. Spreading the book out, ask them what seems different about this alphabet? (several letters missing, and a few extras, with accents, inserted).
4. Ask why this might be different. (Errors, different language)
5. Ask about other languages they may know or have heard of. Do they have alphabets or whole-word symbols? (It might be good to show some characters and heiroglyphs at this point)



Tree



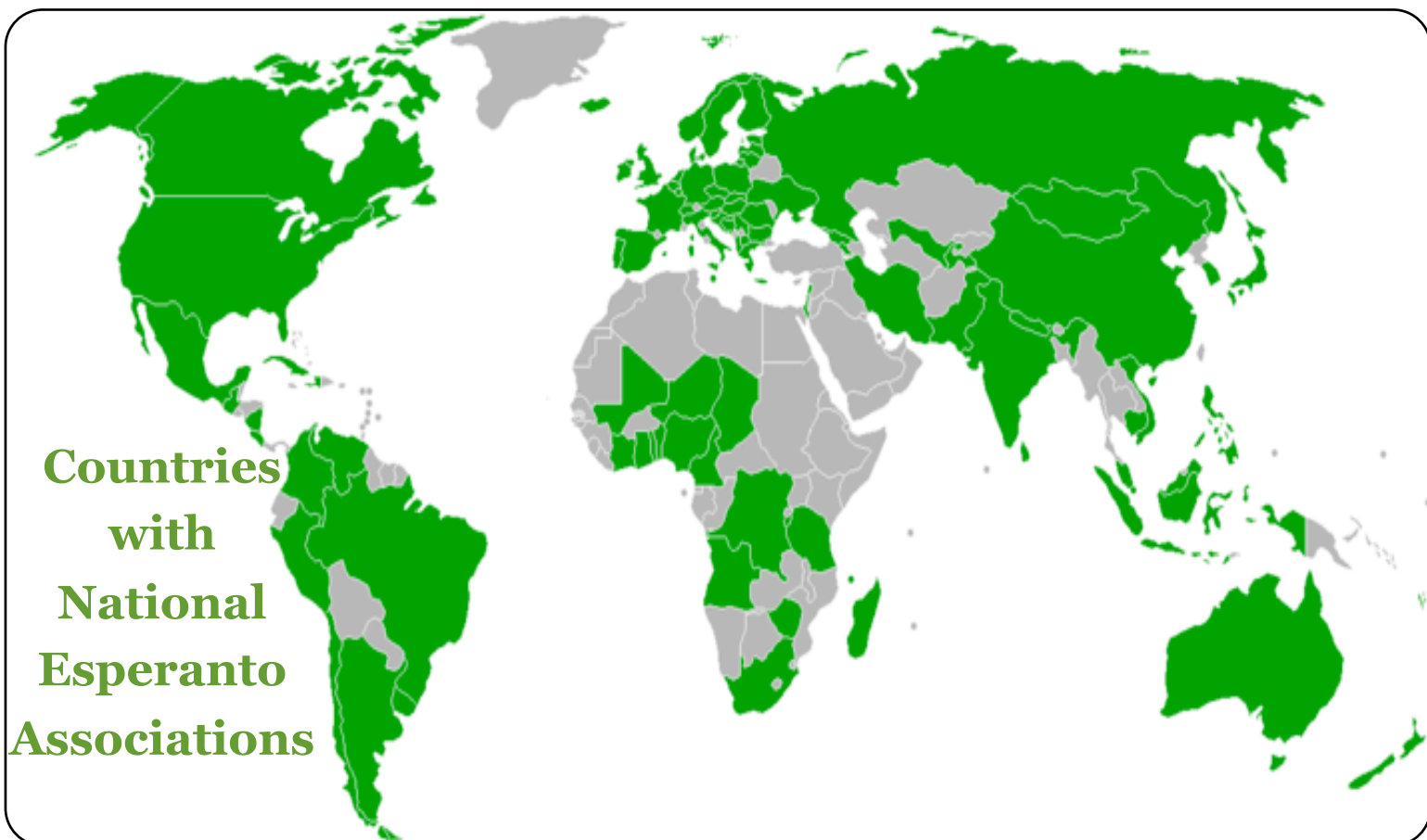
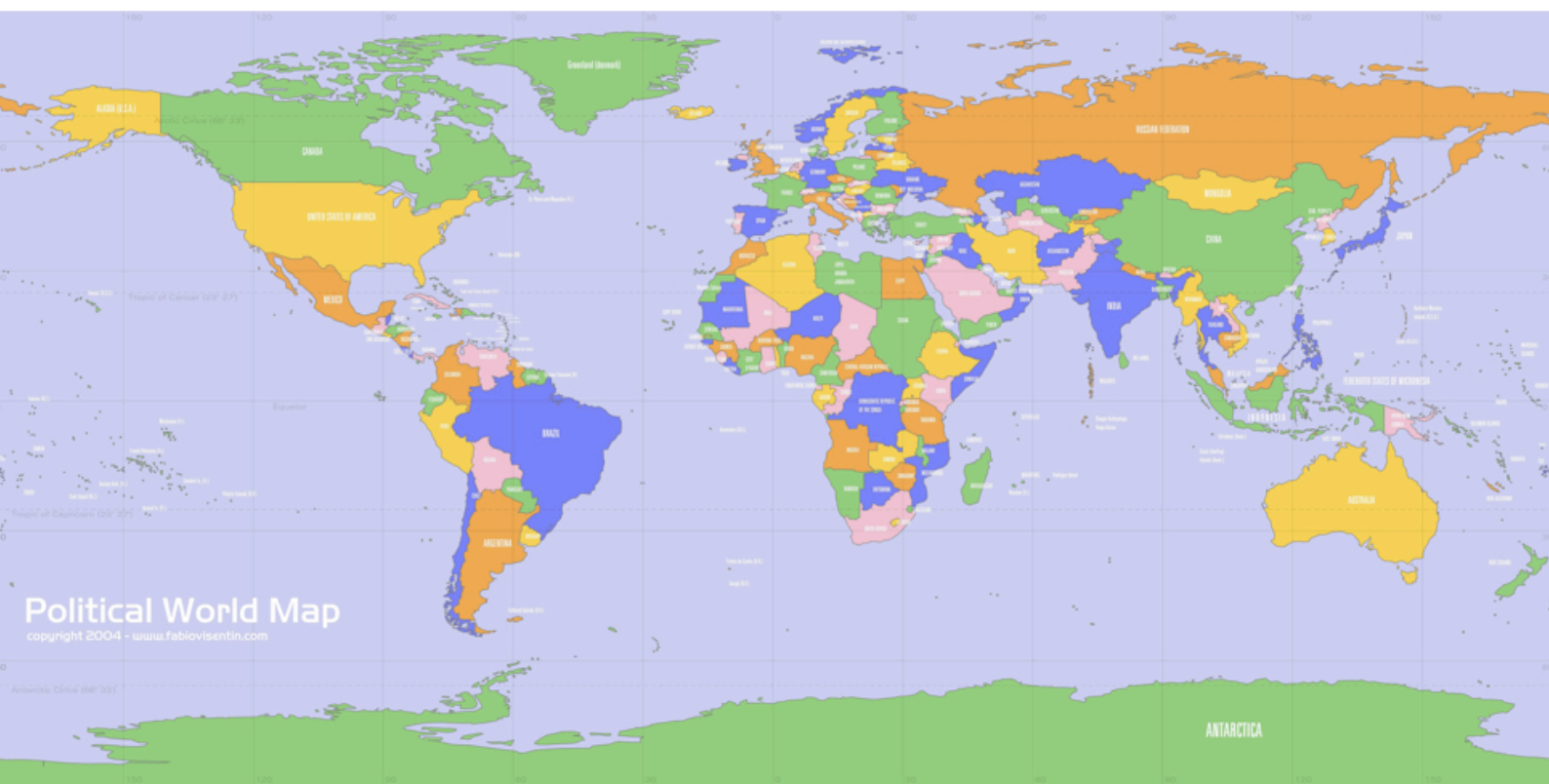
Sun



Girl



6. Show a world political map (there's a small one overleaf) - What do the colours represent? (Countries) If children are old enough you could make some connections between countries and languages- and explain that some languages are only spoken in a part of a country, and others are spoken in several countries. “Aboco” is the alphabet of Esperanto, which is spoken by some people in many countries, to make friends in a wide variety of countries.



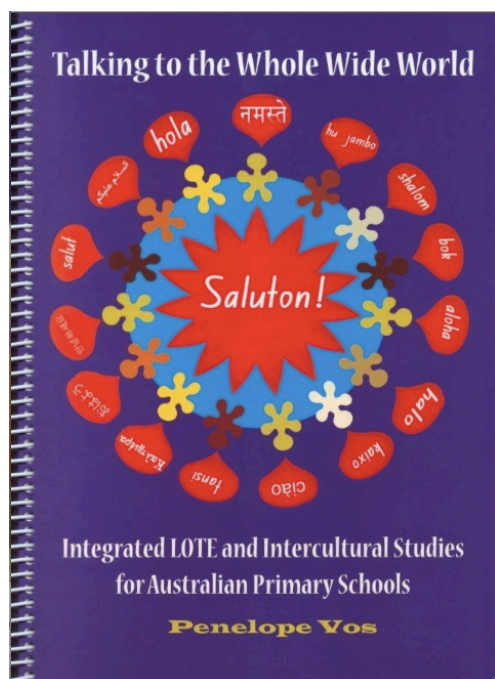
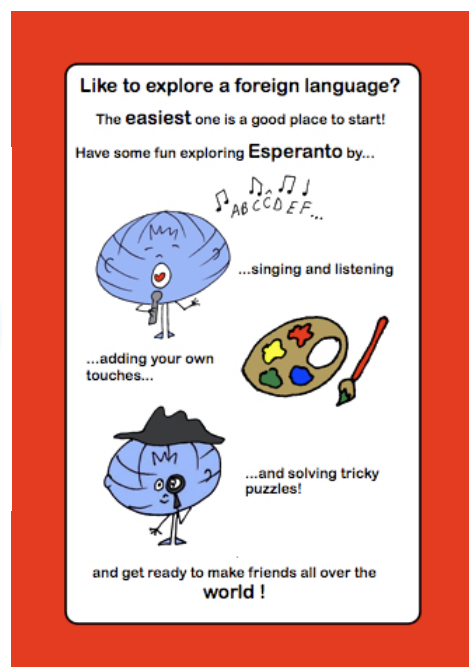
7. How many different languages are spoken in the World? (over 6000- see over)

8. If one child from each language was to enroll at your school, how many times bigger would your school have to be, to fit them in? (Can't help you with that one!)



9. Looking at the first page of “Aboco”, what is the picture? (a tree)
- 10.Does “tree” start with “A”? (no, not in English)
- 11.What is the Esperanto word for tree? (arbo)
- 12.Is that like any other words in any other languages you know? (Arbor day- for trees, because Esperanto, like French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and several other languages, is spoken by people who once spoke the old language of Latin, in which “Arbor” is a tree).
13. What is the second picture? (bubbles)
- 14.Is the word the same as ours? (not exactly, but similar).
- 15.The next picture starts with a letter that looks familiar, how do we say that letter?
(K or S) In Esperanto, when you see that symbol you have to say “ts”, can you say that sound?
- 16.The last letter to look at in this session is ĉ , which we don’t use in English. Can you guess what sound it makes? Why do you think so?(“Ch” because the picture is a chain)
How do we write that sound in English? (Usually “ch” but also “ti” or “si” in the last syllable of several words ending “-on or “-an”.
17. Listen to the recording of the alphabet song, sung in Esperanto, what do you notice about the letters? (Their names mostly end in “=o”-) If you have any junior sleuths you could ask which aren’t, and why? (vowels)
- 18.How many letters are there? (28)
- 19.Sing the English alphabet song. How many letters in English? (26)
20. Take a letter of the alphabet each and make it in plasticene or another medium, illustrate it if there is time.

If you would like to go a step further - to sing some songs and play some games - this little songbook, with audio CD, can help you do that.



You can find out much more, and order more resources from www.mondeto.com