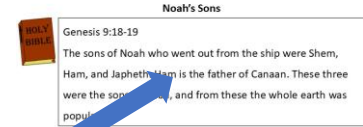


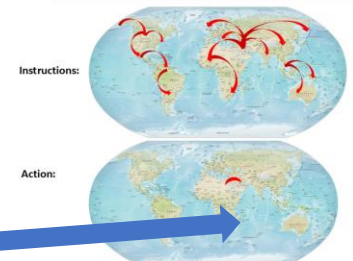
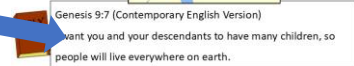
Upper Elementary

All scripture quotations are taken from the World English Bible, 2020.

Topic:	Babel
Props:	stepladder, offering plate, heart-shaped box or print-out, food can, timer or watch
Intro:	Who speaks another language? Have students name the languages and say a few words in them. There are over 6,000 languages in the world. That is more than any person could ever learn in a lifetime. So no matter how hard you try, you will never be able to communicate with every single person on the planet.
Genesis 9:18-19	The sons of Noah who went out from the ship were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Ham is the father of Canaan. These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.
Mt. Ararat	This is what Mount Ararat looks like. It is in the country of Türkiye.



Map of Mesopotamia	After the flood, Noah's sons had had children, who had children, who became tribes. This area is commonly called the Fertile Crescent. It is also known as the Cradle of Civilization.
Genesis 9:7 (CEV)	I want you and your descendants to have many children, so people will live everywhere on earth.
World Map	The place where the Tower of Babel is believed to have been built is only about 1,000 miles away from the Mt. Ararat. Does it look like Noah's descendants spread out over the whole earth? If you were one of these people, what are some reasons you might not want to spread out? (The unknown is scary, it's easier to stay where we are, it is easier to live as one big group). Was this obeying or disobeying God's command?



Genesis 11:1	The whole earth was of one language and of one speech.
Language Map	People who study languages are called linguists. Linguists notice how some languages are related. For example, Italian, French and Spanish are all related. You can notice this in the words for one, two, three: uno, dos, tres in Spanish; uno, due, tre in Italian; un, deux, trois in French. Linguists believe that all languages today come from one original language, which they call a Proto-Language. Unsurprisingly, the Bible tells us the same thing: that all the people who descended from Noah's sons spoke one language. Have students look for English on Language Map.
Genesis 11:2	As they traveled east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they lived there.
Map of Ark to Babel	Babylonia (also called Mesopotamia or the Fertile Crescent) is believed to be the birthplace of farming. People began to keep animals like sheep penned up with fences instead of roaming with them as they grazed from place to place. They began to plant grains (the plants that make breads) instead of just picking the fruits and vegetables that grew from the ground.

3

Genesis 11:1
The whole earth was of one language and of one speech.

i Linguists are people who study languages. Linguists call an original, unknown language that is believed to have been the source of a known, modern language, a **proto-language**.



Genesis 11:2
As they traveled east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they lived there.

i Known as the **Cradle of Civilization**, the **Fertile Crescent** is regarded as the birthplace of farming, cities, writing, business, science and history. The unusually fertile soil of the plain helped people grow wheat, rice and barley in the cities along the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The priests were the rulers of the cities at first.




Genesis 11:3-4	They said to one another, "Come, let's make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. They said, "Come, let's build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top reaches to the sky, and let's make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad on the surface of the whole earth."
Ziggurat	One of the reasons the Fertile Crescent is called the Cradle of Civilization is because it is where the first cities were built. In these cities, people built great towers with brick and mortar, called Ziggurats. We don't know if the Tower of Babel was a ziggurat, but they have many things in common. The people who built ziggurats did not worship God, but instead worshiped the things they saw in the heavens: the sun, moon, stars and planets. They believed each of these lights was a god or goddess. The ziggurats were temples where they believed the gods would come to visit. The priests of this religion were originally also in charge of their cities.

4

The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11:3-4
They said to one another, "Come, let's make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. They said, "Come, let's build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top reaches to the sky, and let's make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad on the surface of the whole earth."

i **Ziggurat** is the Akkadian word for "to build on a raised area." Ziggurats were giant structures built in the ancient Mesopotamian valley and western Iranian plateau, in the form of a terraced step pyramid (a pyramid made of levels which get smaller as it goes up). The people who built Mesopotamian ziggurats believed they were dwelling places for the gods and each city had its own patron god. Only priests were allowed on the ziggurat or in the rooms at its base, and it was their responsibility to care for the gods and attend to their needs. The priests were very powerful people in Mesopotamian society.



Model of the Ziggurat of Ur, rebuilt by King Nabonidus between 555 and 539BC

Genesis
11:5-9

The LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men built. The LORD said, **“Behold, they are one people, and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do. Now nothing will be withheld from them, which they intend to do. Come, let’s go down, and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.”** So the LORD scattered them abroad from there on the surface of all the earth. They stopped building the city. Therefore, its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. From there, the LORD scattered them abroad on the surface of all the earth.

Genesis 11:5-9
The LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men built. The LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do. Now nothing will be withheld from them, which they intend to do. Come, let’s go down, and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” So the LORD scattered them abroad from there on the surface of all the earth. They stopped building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. From there, the LORD scattered them abroad on the surface of all the earth.

The word **Babel** in Hebrew sounds like the word ‘confused.’

1. **God told people to:**
 - a. stay in one place
 - b. fill the earth
2. **People in Babel spoke:**
 - a. over 6,000 languages
 - b. one language
3. **People settled:**
 - a. on top of a mountain
 - b. in a plain
4. **People built the tower to:**
 - a. make a name for themselves
 - b. give glory to God
5. **God chose to:**
 - a. confuse their languages
 - b. let them keep building

Hello Cards

Give each child a card with one way to say hello in another language (written phonetically). Tell them not to let any of the other children see their card. Ask the children to pretend that they are at the Tower of Babel and all of the sudden they start to speak another language. Have them form pairs by saying hello in the language of their card to everyone, until they meet the person with the same language.

Konichiwa (koh-nee-chee-wah) ~Japanese~	Ya at ee (yah aht ay) ~Navajo~
Hola (oh-la) ~Spanish~	Shalom (shah-lohm) ~Hebrew~
Ciao (chow) ~Italian~	Dia duit (dee-ah doo-it) ~Irish~
Aloha (ah-loh-ha) ~Hawaiian~	Ni hao (nee how) ~Chinese~
Hujambo (hoo-jam-bo) ~Swahili~	Geia sas (gay-ah sas) ~Greek~

God knew what these people were up to. He knew they were not building this tower to bring glory to Him. They were building it to make a name for themselves, to show how important they were. This is called pride. The Bible tells us being prideful is a sin. God saw that nothing would be impossible for them. They would keep advancing. It was as if they wanted to be their own gods. So now they had disobeyed God's command, and were prideful, and were trying to act on their own, without God. That's three strikes! God stopped them right then and there. He confused their languages so that only those who spoke the same language could work together. We can imagine that this finally got them to start spreading around the world, like they were supposed to in the first place.

Closing:

Where is heaven? Do you think you could ever climb there by building a tower high enough? Why not? Sometimes people will try to climb to heaven in another way. Have one child put can of food on first step. People will give to the poor as a way to get into heaven. Have another child put the offering plate on next step. Other people will give money to church to try to get into heaven. Have another child put timer or watch on next step. Other people will spend lots of time doing good deeds to try to get into heaven. Doesn't God want us to give to the poor and to church and with our time? (yes, of course) But He wants us to do those things for the sake of doing them, not because we can earn anything by it. No matter how many good deeds we do, it will never be enough to climb up all the way to heaven. It's too far. So, does that mean no one gets in? NO! God the Son came to earth as a tiny baby and died for everyone's sins so that we can get to heaven through Him. We could never climb up the ladder, so Jesus climbed down to us. All we have to do is love Him back.

The Tower of Babel

My Language(s)...

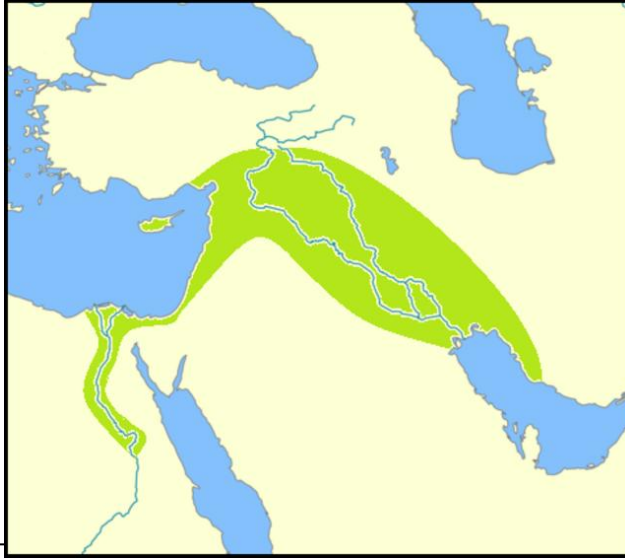
Noah's Sons

Genesis 9:18-19

The sons of Noah who went out from the ship were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Ham is the father of Canaan. These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

**Mt. Ararat,
Türkiye**





Genesis 9:7 (Contemporary English Version)

“I want you and your descendants to have many children, so people will live everywhere on earth.”

Instructions:



Action:



The whole earth was of one language and of one speech.



Linguists are people who study languages. Linguists call an original, unknown language that is believed to have been the source of a known, modern language, a **proto-language**.

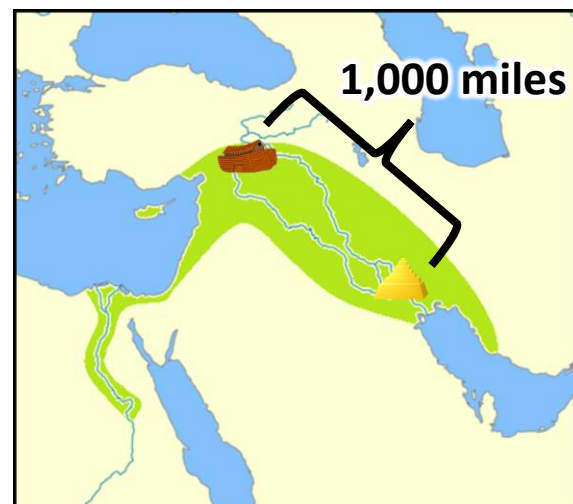


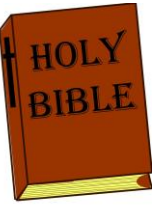
As they traveled east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar,
and they lived there.



Known as the **Cradle of Civilization**, the **Fertile Crescent**

is regarded as the birthplace of farming, cities, writing, business, science and history. The unusually fertile soil of the plain helped people grow wheat, rye and barley in the cities along the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The priests were the rulers of the cities at first.



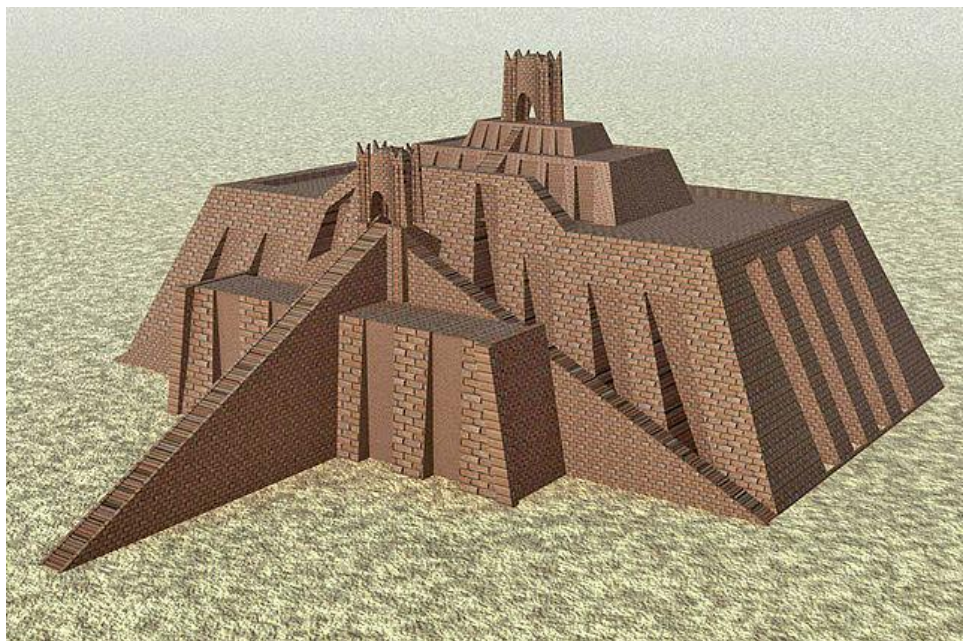


Genesis 11:3-4

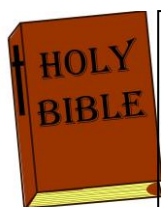
They said to one another, “Come, let’s make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. They said, “Come, let’s build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top reaches to the sky, and let’s make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad on the surface of the whole earth.”



Ziggurat is the Akkadian word for "to build on a raised area." Ziggurats were giant structures built in the ancient Mesopotamian valley and western Iranian plateau, in the form of a terraced step pyramid (a pyramid made of levels which get smaller as it goes up). The people who built Mesopotamian ziggurats believed they were dwelling places for the gods and each city had its own patron god. Only priests were allowed on the ziggurat or in the rooms at its base, and it was their responsibility to care for the gods and attend to their needs. The priests were very powerful people in Mesopotamian society.



Model of the Ziggurat of Ur,
rebuilt by King Nabonidus between 555 and 539BC



Genesis 11:5-9

The LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men built. The LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do. Now nothing will be withheld from them, which they intend to do. Come, let’s go down, and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” So the LORD scattered them abroad from there on the surface of all the earth. They stopped building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. From there, the LORD scattered them abroad on the surface of all the earth.



The word **Babel** in Hebrew sounds like the word ‘confused.’



1. God told people to:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| a. stay in one place | b. fill the earth |
|----------------------|-------------------|

2. People in Babel spoke:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| a. over 6,000 languages | b. one language |
|-------------------------|-----------------|

3. People settled:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| a. on top of a mountain | b. in a plain |
|-------------------------|---------------|

4. People built the tower to:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| a. make a name for themselves | b. give glory to God |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|

5. God chose to:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. confuse their languages | b. let them keep building |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|

Babel

Name: _____

Babel, Tower, Heaven, Shem, Ham, Japheth, Earth,
Scatter

vnhaee _____

mhes _____

hjhpaee _____

amh _____

trectsa _____

bblea _____

treah _____

woret _____

Konichiwa
(koh-nee-chee-wah)
~Japanese~

Ya at ee
(yah aht ay)
~Navajo~

Hola
(oh-la)
~Spanish~

Shalom
(shah-lohm)
~Hebrew~

Ciao
(chow)
~Italian~

Dia duit
(dee-ah doo-it)
~Irish~

Aloha
(ah-loh-ha)
~Hawaiian~

Ni hao
(nee how)
~Chinese~

Hujambo
(hoo-jam-bo)
~Swahili~

Geia sas
(gay-ah sas)
~Greek~

