**Slavic**- Russian is the most widely spoken Slavic language; Russian is the largest native language in Europe. Found in Central and Eastern Europe. Many Slavic languages (such as Russian) use the Cyrillic alphabet instead of the Roman alphabet.

**Russian**- Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrguzstan, United Nations, Commonwealth of Independent States; 140 million people speak Russian.

**Romance**- derived from Latin, the language of the Roman Empire; Latin is no longer spoken as a native language in any country. Found in the South and West of Europe.

**French**- France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland, United Nations, European Union; 65-80 million people speak French.

**Italian**- Italy, San Marino, Switzerland, Vatican, European Union; 63 million people speak Italian.

Having so many languages in Europe can be a problem. It is hard to live, work and trade with people who do not speak your language. To help solve this problem, European children learn more than one language in school. The European Union has 23 official languages to make sure people can understand laws and decisions made by the government. Although they want a unified Europe, there are laws in place to protect the languages and cultures of the people.

Journal Response:

Journal prompt: 50 words…Other than your primary language, which language do you feel is the most important and why?

**Germanic**- largest of the three language categories; derived from the Germanic tribes 750 BC- AD1; found in Northwest and Central Europe

**German**- spoken in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, European Union; 100 million people speak German

**English**- United Kingdom, Ireland, European Union; 62 million speak English

1) What are some of the problems of having over 200 languages in Europe?

2) Which languages come from the Ancient Roman Empire language?

3) What is the prominent Germanic language in Europe?

4) What is the prominent Slavic language in Europe?

5) What is the prominent Romance language in Europe?

6) What do the French and Italian languages have in common?

7) Which language has the most native speakers?

8) What is unique about the Russian language?

9) Which language do people in the Vatican speak?

10) Which language do people from Kazakhstan speak?

**A. Comparing the languages of German, English, Russian, French, and Italian**

Three main categories- Germanic, Romance, and Slavic

Europe is home to more than 200 native languages.

SS6G11 The student will describe the cultural characteristics of Europe