

Name _____

Discovering Bangladesh's Linguistic Diversity

Short Answer Key

1. Possible Answer: Bengali (Bangla) is at the heart of Bangladesh's cultural identity. It serves as the official language and is deeply intertwined with the nation's heritage. Bengali literature, poetry, and art have played a significant role in shaping the culture, and the language connects people to their roots and traditions.
2. Possible Answer: Indigenous communities in Bangladesh contribute to linguistic diversity by speaking their native languages, which are distinct from Bengali. These languages, such as Chakma, Marma, Tripura, and Garo, add to the country's rich tapestry of languages and cultural traditions.
3. Possible Answer: The Bengali script is crucial in preserving the Bengali language because it provides a unique writing system tailored to the language's phonetics. It allows Bengali to be written and read accurately, ensuring the preservation of its literature, historical documents, and cultural heritage.
4. Possible Answer: Efforts to preserve and promote indigenous languages in Bangladesh include language education programs, cultural festivals celebrating these languages, and community initiatives. Schools and organizations in indigenous areas often offer education in the native languages to help pass down the linguistic and cultural traditions to younger generations.
5. Possible Answer: English is widely used as a second language in Bangladesh because it is essential for education, business, and international communication. Many educational institutions offer English-medium education, and proficiency in English opens up opportunities for higher education and employment, both domestically and internationally.

