Latin, Greek and Cyrillic alphabets

Age recommendation:	9–14 years
Key Stage:	KS2–KS3
Duration:	35–40 minutes (video: 13 minutes; activity: 20–25 minutes)
Key words:	Latin alphabet, Greek alphabet, Cyrillic alphabet, history of alphabets
Languages:	English (references to other European languages)
Resources provided:	• Video on the Latin alphabet
	• Transcript of the video
	• Activities sheets
Other materials:	Florian Coulmas: The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Writing Systems
	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/book/10.1002/9781118932667%20
	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serbian_Cyrillic_alphabet
	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_alphabet
	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_alphabet

AIM

The aim of this activity is to teach children about two alphabets widely used in the Eastern and Southern parts of Europe, namely, Greek and Cyrillic. The video familiarises children with the story of how and when two alphabets came about and children then learn more about different Cyrillic alphabets. They are also taught how recognize some Cyrillic letters focusing on the Serbian Cyrillic alphabet.

PREPARATION

This activity is slightly modified activity of *Match the letters* from 'Activities to support multilingualism at school' (https://www.skolapelican.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Activities-to-support-multilingualism-at-school.pdf).
The teacher should prepare Latin, Greek and Cyrillic alphabet letters before the activity starts. A sheet with the Latin, Cyrillic and Greek alphabets can be found on the next page. The alphabets should be printed 1/ as a whole, for guidance, and 2/ letters individually for the matching exercise.
The teacher prints out the alphabets in accordance with the number of groups in the class.

ACTIVITY

1. The teacher gives a sheet with three alphabets and asks children to guess which is which. Then, children are invited to look at the alphabets and try to notice at least three similarities and three differences between them. Then each group is given the letters of all three alphabets but mixed up. Each group has to separate the letters from the same alphabet into a single pile, ending with 3 piles. A further challenge could be to ask the children to arrange the letters in alphabetical order (this is optional), with the help of the guidance sheet. They could also try to read them out loud, should students like to have a go at that.

2. Watch the interactive video and pause when a question is asked in the video and give children an opportunity to present their answers.

3. After the video is played children in the class should be divided in groups and presented with an envelope in which 20 Serbian words written in Latin alphabet and their equivalents written in Cyrillic are all mixed up (mostly loan words, internationalisms, that children will be able to recognise easily). A sheet with words is supplied and teacher needs to cut the words out in advance. Children need to match identical words written in two different alphabets. The group who finishes the pairing first is a winner.

	bicikl	бицикл *bicycle*			Б	б	*Б*	*б*		B	b	boo
										C	c	cat
ица	Ћ	ћ	*Ћ*	*ћ*	Ć	ć	roughly tj			ćirilica	ћирил
	Д	д	*Д*	*д*	D	d	day			da	да *yes*
	juice										
bed	Evropa	Европа *Europe*			E	e	*E*	*e*		E	e
вала *thanks*	X	x	*X*	*x*		H	h	his, loch		hvala	x
ne, miracle	igla	игла *needle*			И	и	*И*	*и*			i
you, yellow	jaje	jaje *egg*			J	j	*J*	*j*		J	j
к	K	k	kind	kuća	кућа *house*					K	к	*K*
		look	lav	лав *lion*						л	л	*л*
										M		M
	ne	ni										
	Ni	ni	onion	njegov	његов *his*					Њ	њ	*Њ*	*њ*
oblak	облак *cloud*			O	o	*O*	*o*		O	o	hot, door