Key Issue 4: Why do people preserve local languages?

- Rubenstein argues that "the distribution of a language is a measure of fate of an ethnic group," meaning that isolated language groups reflect the physical isolation of the associated ethnic groups over time. Conversely, the wide distribution of a language such as English reflects the global economic and cultural dominance that the English speaking peoples have achieved over the course of the last two centuries. That being said, trace the preservation and restoration of the following languages:
 - a. Gothic:
 - b. American indigenous languages:
 - c. Hebrew:
 - d. Irish Gaelic:
 - e. Welsh:
 - f. Cornish:
 - g. Breton:
- Analyze the efforts of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, and of organizations such as the Welsh Language Society to preserve or restore endangered languages in Europe. Provide examples of specific actions taken in laws, media, education, labor practices, etc..

1. The southern portion of Belgium (Wallonia) suffers from higher rates of unemployment, industrial decline, and other economic problems compared to Flanders, in the north. How do differences in language exacerbate Belgium's regional economic differences?

1. How did Switzerland avoid the political and social turmoil that has characterized other multi-lingual nation states in Europe, such as Belgium or Spain?