

# ROMANI

## Activity 1a



### A secret language? A dying language?

**Y**ou are going to hear some people talking about, but not in, the language of the Romany people, Romani. Use the following questions to help you think more about the language and why it is important to the Romany people. Remember to explain your answers.

1. **Do you think** that Romani is important to the Romany people?
2. **Why do you think** that some Romany people do not want other people to learn, know about, or understand Romani?
3. **Why do you think** that the Romani language is dying out?
4. **What suggestions were made** that might help to preserve the Romani language?
5. **Did you manage** to pick up any Romani words from the recordings?

# ROMANI

## Activity 1b



### A secret language? A dying language?

**Y**ou are going to hear some people talking about, but not in, the language of the Romany people, Romani. Use the following questions to help you think more about the language and why it is important to the Romany people.

**1. Do you think** that Romani is important to the Romany people?

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**2. Why do you think** that some Romany people do not want other people to learn, know about, or understand Romani?

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**3. Why do you think** that the Romani language is dying out?

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**4. Did anyone make** any suggestions to help keep alive the Romani language?

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**5. Did you manage** to pick up any Romani words from the people speaking?

- a 

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- b 

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- c 

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- d 

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- e 

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# ROMANI

## Activity 1c



### A secret language? A dying language?

**Y**ou are going to hear some people talking about, but not in, the language of the Romany people, Romani. Use the following questions to help you think more about the language and why it is important to the Romany people.

**1. Do you think** that Romani is important to the Romany people?

■ I think that Romani **is/is not** important to the Romany people because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Why do you think** that some Romany people do not want other people to learn, know about, or understand Romani?

■ I think that some Romany people do not want other people to learn, know about, or understand Romani because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Why do you think** that the Romani language is dying out?

■ I think that the Romani language is dying out because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Did anyone make** any suggestions to help keep alive the Romani language?

■ It might be possible to keep alive the Romani language by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Did you manage** to pick up any Romani words from the people speaking?

a \_\_\_\_\_  
b \_\_\_\_\_  
c \_\_\_\_\_  
d \_\_\_\_\_  
e \_\_\_\_\_

# ROMANI

## Activity 4



### Can you rokker Romani?

**C**an you rokker Romani? is a traditional rhyme, often sung by Romany Gypsy children.

It is in what's called Angloromani, which is the form of Romani spoken mostly by British Romany Gypsies today. It uses English sentence structure but Romani words. Can you translate the rhyme?

### Can you rokker Romani?

Can you rokker Romani?

Can you fake the bosh?

Can you dik the vesher,

While mandi chins the kosh?

Can you rokker Romani?

Can you puv a grai?

Can you chor a kanni

While the mush is jelling by?

Can you rokker Romani?

Can you dukker a rai?

Can you rokker Romesa

And pukker as good as I?

The musgroves avved along one day,

To atch us on the drom,

But when they dikked how many we was,

They turned around and ran.

I can pukker Romani,

I can fake the bosh,

I can dik a gavver mush,

While tutti chins the kosh.

**atch:** camp

**av:** come

**bosh:** violin

**chin:** cut

**chor:** steal

**dik:** see, watch

**drom:** road

**dukker:** tell fortunes

**fake:** play

**gavver:** policeman

**grai:** horse

**jel:** go

**kanni:** chicken

**kosh:** wood (a piece of)

**mandi:** I, myself

**musgrove:** policeman, constable

**mush:** man

**pukker:** converse

**puv:** field (to puv the grai means to put the horse in a field)

**rai:** gentleman

**rokker:** speak

**Romesa:** Romani language

**tutti:** you

**vesher:** gamekeeper

# ROMANI

## Activity 4, Teacher's notes



### Can you rocker Romani?

Can you rocker Romani?  
Can you fake the bosh?  
Can you dik the vesher,  
While mandi chins the kosher?

Can you rocker Romani?  
Can you puv a grai?  
Can you chor a kanni  
While the mush is jelling by?

Can you rocker Romani?  
Can you dukker a rai?  
Can you rocker Romesa  
And pukker as good as I?

The musgroves avved along one day,  
To atch us on the drom,  
But when they dikked  
how many we was,  
They turned around and ran.

I can pukker Romani,  
I can fake the bosh,  
I can dik a gavver mush,  
While tutti chins the kosher.

### Can you talk Romani?

Can you talk Romani  
Can you play the violin  
Can you see the game keeper  
While I cut the wood

Can you talk Romani  
Can you put the horse in the field  
Can you steal a hen  
While the man is going by

Can you talk Romani  
Can you tell the fortune of a gentleman  
Can you talk the Romani language  
And speak as good as I

The constables came along one day  
To our camp on the road  
But when they saw  
how many we was  
They turned around and ran

I can speak Romani  
I can play the violin  
I can see a policeman  
While you cut the wood.