

## **Romania**

### *Culture, Language and Traditions*

#### **Language Lizard Book Used:**

[Fox Fables](#) in Romanian/English

\*\*Lessons can be adapted to use different books in Romanian and English. Many bilingual Romanian/English books are available at <http://www.LanguageLizard.com>.

**Focus Languages:** Romanian, English

**Grades:** 1-3

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#### *Teaching about Romania:*

These two lessons have been designed to help students

- learn about different cultures and customs of people in Romania and in the United States;
- hear and see new languages and texts;
- learn several basic words in Romanian;
- build an appreciation of the diverse languages present in the world and in the United States;
- introduce important Social Studies concept such as Culture and Geography;
- build positive relationships among students in the classroom by promoting the acceptance of diversity while demonstrating teacher support of linguistic diversity.

The Language Lizard book used in these lessons is [Fox Fables](#). Additional books in Romanian/English may be substituted for or used in addition to the book used in these lessons. These lessons are easily aligned with state standards, and national standards in Social Studies and Language Arts. The National Council for the Social Studies Themes that these lessons support include: Culture, People, Places and Environment, Individual Development and Identity, Global Connections and Individuals, Groups and Institutions.

***Lesson Plan One: Romanian Culture: Traditions and Values***

**Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to identify vocabulary words in both Romanian and English.
2. Students will be able to answer comprehension questions based on a story.
3. Students will be able to create designs on wooden eggs to represent the Romanian tradition of egg dying, and explain this Romanian tradition.

**Lesson Introduction/Anticipatory Set:**

Before beginning the lesson, make “beaks” with the students by rolling a piece of construction paper and taping the ends together. Collect the “beaks” until it is time for the vocabulary game. Ask students the following questions: Has anyone heard of Romania? What do you know about Romania? What is the language spoken in Romania? Show Romania on a map. Share facts about Romania and pass around pictures and cultural artifacts as visuals. Explain that Romania is a country like the United States is a country. Tell students they will be learning about some traditions important to people from Romania.

**Procedures:**

**Before Reading:**

1. Ask, “Does anyone know any words in a different language?”
  - a. Call on volunteers. Share any other examples with the class.
2. Today, we’re going to learn a few words in Romanian.
  - a. These words are very important in the story we’re going to read.
  - b. Also, you may notice that some of the words are actually similar to words spoken in Spanish.
  - c. Once you learn the words we’re going to play a game
3. Show students first vocabulary card “FOX”
  - a. Does anyone know what kind of animal this is?
  - b. It is a FOX, can everyone say FOX?
  - c. The Romanian word for fox is “VULPE”. Can everyone say “VULPE”?
  - d. When the teacher says FOX or VULPE, put your two pointer fingers behind your head like ears.
  - e. Let’s practice. The teacher will say the words and the class will do the motion → FOX, VULPE
  - f. Call on a student to put the card up on the Velcro board.
4. Show the students the second vocabulary card “CRANE”
  - a. Does anyone know what kind of animal this is?
  - b. It is a CRANE, can everyone say CRANE?
  - c. The Romanian word for crane is “COCOR”. Can everyone say “COCOR”?
  - d. When the teacher says CRANE or COCOR, hold up your beak to your face.
    - i. Distribute construction paper beaks to the children.
  - e. Let’s practice. The teacher will say the words and the class will do the motion → CRANE, COCOR
  - f. Call on a student to put the card up on the Velcro board.

5. Show the students the third vocabulary card “DISH”
  - a. Does anyone know what this picture is?
  - b. It is a DISH, can everyone say DISH?
  - c. The Romanian word for DISH is “FARFURIA”. Can everyone say “FARFURIA”?
  - d. When the teacher says DISH or FARFURIA, hold up your paper plate (PASS OUT PAPER PLATES).
  - e. Let’s practice. The teacher says the words and the class will do the motion → DISH, FARFURIA
  - f. Call on a student to put the card up on the Velcro board.
6. Show the students the fourth vocabulary card “SOUP”
  - a. Does anyone know what this picture is?
  - b. It is a picture of soup, can everyone say SOUP?
  - c. The Romanian word for SOUP is “SOUPA”. Can everyone say SOUPA?
  - d. When the teacher says SOUP or SOUPA, pick up your dish and pretend you are eating soup.
  - e. Let’s practice. The teacher will say the words and the class will do the motions → SOUP, SOUPA
  - f. Call on a student to put the card on the Velcro board
7. Now we’re going to begin our vocabulary game. We’re going to say each of the vocabulary words as a class and try to remember the motions that go with the words.
  - a. First, we’ll say the words in English:
    - i. FOX
    - ii. CRANE
    - iii. DISH
    - iv. SOUP
  - b. Next, we’ll say the words in Romanian:
    - i. VULPE
    - ii. COCOR
    - iii. FARFURIA
    - iv. SOUPA

**During Reading:**

8. Read the story, *The Fox and The Crane*, from *Fox Fables*, by Dawn Casey.
  - a. Each page will be read in both English and Romanian
  - b. Emphasize the words fox, crane, dish and soup throughout the story
  - c. Stop at critical points to ask questions checking for student understanding of the story

**After Reading:**

9. Discuss the story and ask the following questions and reinforce the concepts essential to the story (golden rule, tradition, culture, customs, Romania, Romanian language)
  - a. Has anyone ever heard of the “golden rule”?
  - b. Golden rule: treat others the way you want to be treated

- i. **Share an example of the rule** → I know I don't like it when people say mean things to me because it hurts my feelings, so I wouldn't say mean things to other people.
    - ii. **Ask students a question** → If there was a new student in your class at school, what could you do to make him/her feel welcome?
    - iii. The "GOLDEN RULE" is very important in our story that we read today.
  - c. When the Crane went to Fox's house for dinner, do you think Fox was nice to her?
    - i. Why not? What did the Fox do?
  - d. How would you feel if you were the Crane?
  - e. When Crane had Fox over for dinner, how did Fox feel when he couldn't eat his soup?
  - f. Do you think Fox and Crane followed the "golden rule"?
11. In our story, it said that the Crane and the Fox decorated their house with very colorful dishes of every shape and size.
- a. Do you ever decorate your house, maybe for a certain holiday or celebration?
  - b. In Romania, at Easter time, people decorate eggs and display them in their house.
  - c. Talk about the tradition of decorating eggs. Show the students pictures of Romanian children decorating eggs. Pass around an example of a Romanian colored egg.
12. Tell the students the Romanian word for EGG, "OU". Have the students repeat the word. Select a student to place the vocabulary card on the Velcro board.
13. Explain to the students that today they will get a chance to decorate their own wooden eggs and draw designs on them with markers.
14. As students decorate their eggs, share additional information with them about Romanian culture, language, people and customs.

**Closure:**

Ask the students the following questions:

- a. What is one thing that you learned about Romania today?
- b. What was your favorite activity that we did today?
- c. What is the Romanian word for Egg? Crane? Fox? Dish? Soup?
- d. What tradition is part of Romanian culture?
- e. What was the moral (or meaning) of the story that we read today?

**Assessment:**

1. Assess students' ability to identify vocabulary words in both Romanian and English throughout the lesson procedures and during the closure
2. Evaluate students' understanding of the story through questions posed during and after reading the story, *The Fox and the Crane*.
3. During the lesson closure, assess students' understanding of the relationship between egg painting and Romanian traditions.

**Materials:**

*Fox Fables* by Dawn Casey

Language Lizard Unit: *Culture, Language and Traditions in Romania*

Display board with Velcro pieces attached

Large vocabulary cards that have both the English word and the Romanian translation along with a picture of the object. Velcro should be placed on the backside of the card.

English

FOX

CRANE

DISH

SOUP

Romanian

VULPE

COCOR

FARFURIA

SOUPA

Pictures of the following items: fox, soup, crane, dish

Construction paper, Tape, Paper plates, Wooden eggs (1 per student), Markers

World Map

Various pictures of Romania and artifacts that symbolize the culture

Possible additional informational resources about Romania:

World Book Encyclopedia DVD

CultureGrams.com

***Lesson Plan Two: Romanian Culture: Colors, Clothing and Food***

**Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to identify vocabulary terms in both Romanian and English.
2. Students will be able to identify the colors of the Romanian flag.
3. Students will be able to describe foods commonly eaten in Romania.

**Lesson Introduction/Anticipatory Set:**

Have the students view traditional Romanian clothes (pictures or artifacts).

Describe traditional Romanian clothes to the students. Make sure to tell students that the different colored clothing represents different areas of Romania. Show the students pictures of the clothing that children wear in Romania on special holidays and as everyday clothing. Make a Venn diagram and ask the students how these clothes are similar and different to clothes worn in the United States currently and to clothing they may wear on special holidays.

**Procedures:**

1. Tell the students that today we will learn new words in Romanian, but first we need to review our vocabulary words.
2. Review with the students the Romanian vocabulary words from the previous lesson. Ask the students if they remember how we say each of the words in Romanian: Fox → Vulpe, Crane → Cocor, Dish → Farfură, Soup → Soupa, Egg → Ou
3. Have a student Velcro each of the vocabulary cards onto the board.
4. Tell the students that today's vocabulary words will deal with colors. Ask the students if they know how to say any colors in another language. Share with the students that the word "green" in Italian *and* Spanish is "Verde". That's actually how we say green in Romanian too! Put the "green" vocabulary card on the board.
5. Tell the students that today we will learn how to say other colors as well, and these colors are actually represented in the Romanian flag.
6. Show the students the Romanian flag and talk about what each color represents and any other facts about the flag.
7. Now we will learn how to say blue, red, and yellow in Romanian. We will then play a game using the Romanian words.
8. Ask the students what color is shown on the first card, "BLUE". Have the students repeat the word "BLUE". Tell the class that the Romanian word for "BLUE" is "ALBASTRU". Have the students repeat the word "ALBASTRU". Call on a student to place the "BLUE" vocabulary card on the Velcro board.
9. Ask the students what color is shown on the second card, which is "RED". Have the students repeat the word "RED". Tell the class that the Romanian word for "RED" is "ROSU". Have the students repeat the word "ROSU". Call on a student to place the "RED" vocabulary card on the Velcro board.
10. Ask the students what color is shown on the third card, which is "YELLOW". Have the students repeat the word "YELLOW". Tell the students that the Romanian word for "YELLOW" is "GALBEN". Have the class repeat the word "GALBEN". Call on a student to place the "YELLOW" vocabulary card on the Velcro board.

11. Next, we will play a game using the colors. Our game is similar to “SIMON SAYS”. First, make sure to explain to the students that they will be using Popsicle sticks for the game.
12. Pass out one set of colored Popsicle sticks (1 blue, 1 red, 1 yellow, 1 green) to each student. Model the game first in English. Tell the students that when the teacher says the Romanian word for each color, they are to hold up that color Popsicle stick.
13. Say each of the Romanian colors slowly at first. Then speed up how fast you say the colors once the students seem to understand the game.
14. Collect the Popsicle sticks from the children.
15. Next, we will review the story that we read in our last lesson. Ask the students if anyone remembers anything from the story. Does anyone remember our characters? Can anyone tell us what the Fox and the Crane were eating?  
Read the story a second time, pointing out both the Romanian and English text.
16. Once the story has been discussed or reread, share with the students information about Romanian foods (soup is commonly eaten every day for lunch. The parts of a sandwich are eaten separately, etc...).
17. Now, we will all pretend that we are chefs today. We are going to pretend to make Romanian potato soup! Tell the students that they will repeat the ingredients of our soup in Romanian and then come to the board and Velcro the picture of each ingredient in our “soup pot”.  
\*\*\*Adaptation: Students create the soup with actual ingredients.
18. The first ingredient for our soup is water. We want to fill our pot with water. Let’s pretend we’re pouring our water from the pitcher into our pot.
19. In Romanian, the word for “WATER” is “APA”. Can everyone say “APA”? Have the students repeat the word. Select a student to Velcro the water pitcher into our soup pot.
20. Next, we want to chop up all our different vegetables for our soup. We’re going to use green peppers, red peppers, onions, and potatoes. Let’s pretend to chop our vegetables.
21. We’ll add our peppers to the soup first. In Romanian, the word for “PEPPER” is “ARDEI”. Can everyone say “ARDEI”? Have the students repeat the word.
22. Tell the students that two of our other vocabulary words are used when we talk about the peppers because we are using different colors to describe the peppers. We are using GREEN PEPPERS and RED PEPPERS in our soup today. Ask the students if anyone remembers the Romanian words for GREEN and RED. Select a student to Velcro the green and red peppers into our soup pot.
23. Now we want to add another vegetable to our soup. We’re going to add our ONION to our pot. In Romanian, the word for “ONION” is “CEAPA”. Can everyone say “CEAPA”? Have the students repeat the word. Select a student to put the onion in the soup pot.
24. Let’s add our “TOMATO” to the pot! In Romanian, the word for “TOMATO” is “ROSIE”. Can everyone say “ROSIE”? Have the students repeat the word.
25. Now it’s time to add our main ingredient to the soup pot, our potatoes! In Romanian, the word for “POTATO” is “CARTOF”. Can everyone say “CARTOF”? Have the students repeat the word. Select a student to Velcro the potatoes in the pot.
26. We need to add flour to our soup to make it thick. This isn’t the type of flower that grows in the ground during the spring. This is an ingredient that is used in cooking and baking. Show the students a bag with baking flour. The Romanian word for “FLOUR” is

- “FAINA”. Can everyone say “FAINA”? Have the students repeat the word. Select a student to Velcro the picture in the pot.
27. Finally, we want to add herbs and spices to our soup to make it tasty. We’re going to add parsley, salt, and pepper. Has anyone seen parsley before? (Show parsley to the students.) In Romanian, the word for “PARSLEY” is “PATRINJEL”. Can everyone say “PATRINJEL”? Have the students repeat the word. Select a student to Velcro the picture of parsley into the soup pot.
  28. Now let’s pretend to sprinkle our pepper and salt into our soup. In Romanian, the word for “SALT” is “SARE”. Can everyone say “SARE”? Have the students repeat the word. Select a student to Velcro the picture of the salt shaker into our soup pot. We already learned the word “PEPPER” in Romanian, which is “ARDEI”. Can everyone say “ARDEI” one more time? Have the students repeat the word. Select a student to Velcro the picture of the pepper shaker into our soup pot.
  29. There are other popular types of soup in Romanian. Bean soup is another type of soup that people enjoy eating.
  30. The Romanian word for “BEANS” is “FASOLE”. Can everyone say “FASOLE”? Have the students repeat the word and Velcro the card on the board.
  31. Ask the class if they like any foods with beans. Call on student volunteers to share examples.
  32. Explain to the class that each student will have a chance to plant a bean in a small cup to represent a type of Romanian soup.

**Closure:**

Ask the students the following questions:

- a. What is one thing that you learned about Romania today?
- b. What was your favorite activity that we did today?
- c. What colors are in the Romanian flag?
- d. What is the Romanian word for: Blue? Red? Yellow?
- e. What is an important food eaten commonly at lunch in Romania?
- f. What is the Romanian word for Water? Pepper? Onion? Tomato? Potato? Flour? Salt? Beans? Parsley?

**Assessment:**

1. Assess students’ ability to identify vocabulary words in both Romanian and English throughout the lesson procedures and during the closure
2. Assess students’ understanding of the Romanian flag and foods through discussion in the lesson closure.

**Materials:**

Traditional Romanian clothing (or pictures of the clothing)

Romanian flag

Colored Popsicle sticks

Display board and vocabulary cards from previous lesson

Display board with a large soup pot picture and Velcro pieces

Laminated pictures of each soup ingredient and cards with vocabulary terms:

English

Romanian



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Blue	Albastru
Red	Rosu
Yellow	Galben
Water	Apa
Pepper	Ardei
Onion	Ceapa
Tomato	Rosie
Potato	Cartof
Flour	Faina
Salt	Sare
Beans	Fasole
Parsley	Patrinjel

Small bags with samples of soup ingredients  
Paper cups, Soil, Beans