

7. THE BLACK SEA AND THE RED SEA

Learning about the location and the names of the Black Sea and the Red Sea in different languages

Grouping: 

WORKSHEET 1

- **A.** Read the following text to find out interesting information about these two water formations, which are so important for many countries and nations: (Sources: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Sea#Name , http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_sea)

The **Black Sea** is located between Europe and Asia. It is surrounded by six countries and it is very important to all of them because it provides them access to the Mediterranean waters, through the Bosphorus straits.

The **Red Sea** is located in Middle East. It is a rich and diverse ecosystem. More than 1200 species of fish have been recorded in the Red Sea, and around 10% of these are found nowhere else.

- **B.** Why, do you think, they have these names? Do you know or can you guess? Read the following text to find out and check out your guesses.

Their names: A theory favoured by some modern scholars is that in the case of the Red Sea, the name *red* is referring to the direction South, just as the Black Sea's name may refer to North. The basis of this theory is that some Asiatic languages used color words to refer to the cardinal directions.

However, it is very possible that Black Sea owes its name to its dark waters and Red Sea to a kind of red- coloured bacteria, which bloom near its surface.