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## 7. THE BLACK SEA AND THE RED SEA

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### Notes for the teacher

1. This Worksheet gives the students the opportunity to take a closer look at two water formations, namely the Red Sea and the Black Sea, and the countries around them.
2. The text in Worksheet 1 builds up the students' competence in English, in dealing with geography issues.
3. In addition to the geographical information, there are tasks that provide stimuli for a further exploration of languages around the globe.
4. In Worksheet 2 and Worksheet 3 it is worth noting the different alphabets, other than the Latin, used by some of the countries included in the worksheets. Those alphabets are the Greek, Arabic, Cyrillic (for Russian, Bulgarian, Ukrainian), Georgian and Hebrew.
5. Worksheet 4 adds a more profound cultural element to the project by exploring colour symbolisms in different cultures, through metaphorical expressions that include "red" and "black".
6. In discussing colour symbolism the teacher should always have in mind that there is nothing intrinsically connected to colours but all symbolism has its roots to different experiences of the different nations and how a colour has been connected to them. The teacher should make that clear to the students and should explain that liking one or another colour has nothing to do with a person's character being good or bad. Colours bring beauty in our lives and aesthetic appreciation and our preference of one over the other is a matter of personal taste and nothing more. Any reference to skin colour should be avoided.

**Duration:** 60 minutes

### Necessary material:

- Photocopies of the Worksheets
- Dictionaries (on line and hard copies)
- Access to the Internet (optional)
- Geography books
- World map and a globe



## WORKSHEET 1: LEARNING ABOUT THE LOCATION AND THE NAMES OF THE BLACK SEA AND THE RED SEA IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

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**Grouping:**  (individual)

- 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/Black_Sea#Name) , [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red\\_sea](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 favored 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.