

\*\*Warm-up: The Silent Voices of History\*\*

\*\*Topic: Endangered Languages and Local Dialects\*\*

\*\*1. Discussion Questions (The "Opening" Chat)\*\*

- \* \*The Mother Tongue:\* What is your first language? Do your grandparents speak the same way you do, or do they use different words and accents?
- \* \*Vanishing Words:\* Have you ever heard a language or a dialect that is only spoken by older people? Why do you think young people are not learning it?
- \* \*The Power of English:\* Do you think the popularity of global languages (like English or standard Farsi) is the reason why local dialects are disappearing?
- \* \*Loss of Culture:\* When a language dies, what else is lost? (Think about stories, songs, and traditions).

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\*\*2. Cultural Context: The Iranian Landscape\*\*

\_Iran is a "treasure chest" of languages and dialects. Use these points to start a conversation about the local situation:\_

- \* \*Diversity:\* In Iran, besides Farsi, people speak many beautiful languages and dialects such as \*Azeri, Kurdish, Luri, Gilaki, Mazanderani, Balochi, and Arabic.\*
- \* \*The Endangered List:\* According to UNESCO, several Iranian dialects are "endangered." For example, some local dialects in the central desert or northern forests have very few speakers left.
- \* \*The "Grandparent Gap":\* Many students in Tehran or other big cities can understand their grandparents' local dialect (like Esfahani or Yazdi) but cannot speak it themselves. This is the first step toward a language becoming "extinct."

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### \*\*3. Key Vocabulary (To prepare for the reading)\*\*

- \* **Endangered (adj):**\* In danger of disappearing or dying out completely.
- \* **Native Speaker (n):**\* A person who has spoken a particular language since earliest childhood.
- \* **Dialect (n):**\* A particular form of a language that is peculiar to a specific region or social group.
- \* **Preserve (v):**\* To keep something valued alive or in its original state.
- \* **Extinct (adj):**\* (Of a language) no longer used by anyone as a living language.

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### \*\*4. Small Talk / Presentation Topic\*\*

\*"The Future of My Local Accent"\*

Instruction: "Think about the city or village your family comes from. Speak for one minute about whether the local accent there is still strong or if it is being replaced by 'Standard Farsi.' Do you think it is important to save these local ways of speaking? Why?"