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Opening extract from
**The Hello Atlas: Listen to 133
Different Languages!**

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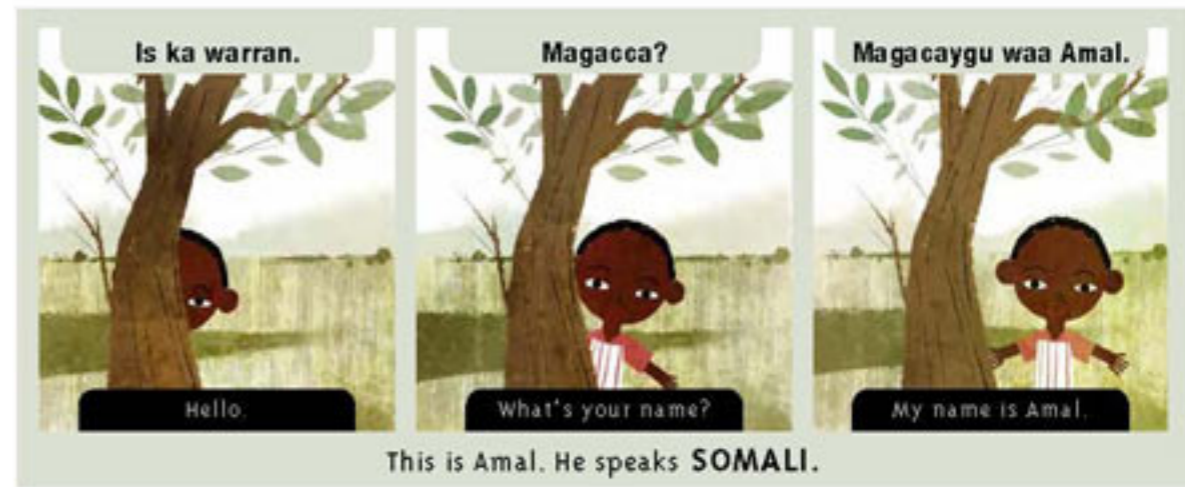
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WELCOME TO NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA

Like South America, languages spoken in North America include a large number of indigenous languages as well as imported languages from Europe and other parts of the world. Many language families are found here – more than one hundred!

Indigenous languages

With more than 500 languages spoken in Central and North America, you might have trouble saying hello to everyone! With geography that spans equatorial regions in Central America to the frozen lands of Alaska and northern Canada, there's a huge amount of variety in the languages that originate here. Whilst we celebrate this diversity today, many native peoples suffered at the hands of European colonisers who sought to take their land and suppress their culture.

Other languages

English, French and Spanish are the dominant imported languages of the region. English is spoken in the USA and Canada, French in parts of Canada, and Spanish throughout Mexico and Central America. All of these languages were brought to North and Central America through colonisation in the 15th century, when European immigrants brought their cultures and languages with them.

