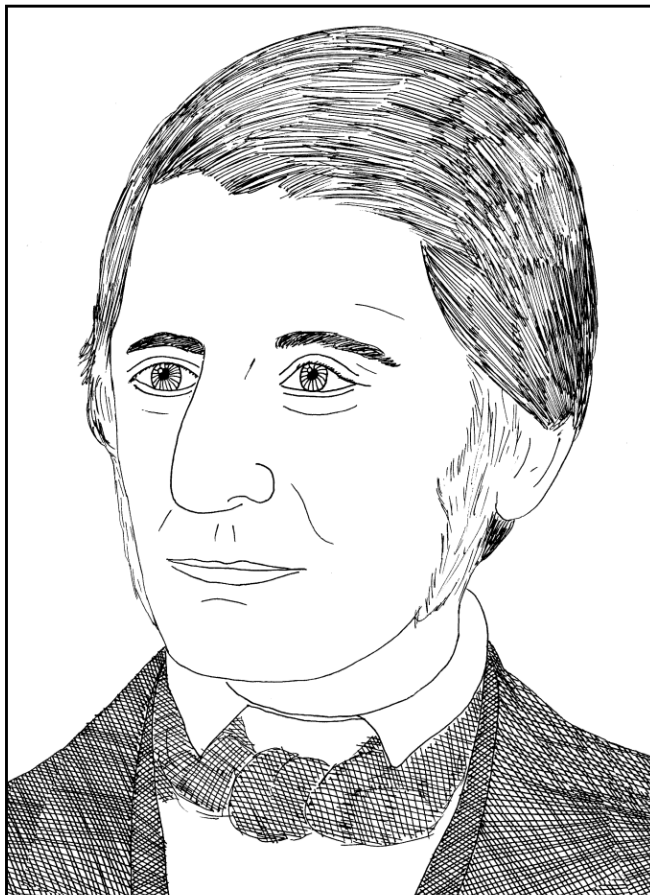


# WHAT'S YOUR BETTERWORLD ISSUE?

## LANGUAGE PRESERVATION



"Language is the archives of history"

"Thought is the blossom; language the bud;  
action the fruit behind it."

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

You probably know that many of the world's plants and animals are in danger of extinction, but did you know that many human languages are in danger of becoming extinct, too?

Globalization has helped to make the world a smaller place. But it has also contributed to the loss of many languages around the world. Now only 10 languages make up over half the world population's mother languages. Once there were about 8000 different languages spoken on our planet. Now there are only about 6500, and half of them are endangered. In fact, every two weeks another language disappears forever!

Languages are important. They do much more than help people communicate. A language helps define a culture, history and ancestry of a group of people. Once a language is lost, humanity loses a part of our rich culture and heritage. Preserving endangered languages is important to keep traditions alive.

UNESCO promotes events and activities on **International Mother Language Day** on February 21 to help encourage the recognition and celebration of the diverse heritage of humanity's mother tongues, especially minority ones, and to raise awareness about the need to preserve endangered languages. The Day provides a wonderful opportunity to discover and celebrate the rich diversity of languages spoken in our own communities.

*"Language is a city to the building of which every human being brought a stone."*

*-- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

### Do One Thing for a Better World

1. Find out more about saving languages
2. Learn about another language and culture
3. Find out how many languages are spoken in your community
4. Support organizations preserving language and culture

### Mother Language Links

- Ethnologue ([ethnologue.org](http://ethnologue.org))
- Foundation for Endangered Languages ([ogmios.org](http://ogmios.org))
- Modern Language Association ([mla.or](http://mla.or))
- Rosetta Project ([rosettaproject.org](http://rosettaproject.org))
- Terralingua ([terralingua.org](http://terralingua.org))
- UNESCO International Mother Language Day ([tinyurl.com/pchfr](http://tinyurl.com/pchfr))

## DO ONE THING

The Emily Fund - Education, Mentorship, Inspiration, Leadership, Youth for a better world

[DoOneThing.org](http://DoOneThing.org) - [EmilyFund.org](http://EmilyFund.org)

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