Thank you, merci, takk!

What you'll need:
• Paper
• Pens
• Sticky tack

Aim of activity
Have you ever been on holiday to a country where they speak a different language and you didn't know how to say thank you? Discover ten different languages.

1 Did you know there are thousands of languages spoken all over the world? All together, think about what the most useful phrases are to know in another language.

2 There are ten ways of saying thank you in ten different languages stuck up around your meeting place. Take a couple of minutes to look at them all. Are there any you already know? Together, have a go at saying them.

3 Stand in small groups and close your eyes. Your leader is going to take down one of the ten words. Open your eyes. In your group, you need to decide which thank you has disappeared. Once you think you know, sit down together so your leader knows you've got an answer. Did you get it right?

4 Move around the space. Every so often your leader will count down from three. Get into pairs with the Brownie nearest to you and start shaking hands. When your leader shouts 'here you go!' say thank you in one of the ten languages. You must choose a language you didn't know before the game.

5 If you both pick different languages, guess what language the other Brownie spoke in, then carry on moving around the space. If you pick the same language, both of you must sit down for one turn.

Before you start
Write ten different ways of saying thank you and the language they are from on separate sheets of paper and stick them up around the space. Here are a few to get you started:
French – Merci
Icelandic – Takk
Portuguese – Obrigada
Welsh – Diolch
Thai – Kob khun ka

Did you know...?
In some languages, people start or finish words differently depending on whether a male or female is speaking. For example, in Thai, females finish their thank you with 'ka' whereas males finish with 'krap'. And in Portuguese, females say 'obrigada' and males say 'obrigado'.