

369. The importance attached by mankind, in all quarters of the world, to the worship of the Deity, is most strikingly displayed by the numbers of costly and splendid edifices erected for religious purposes.

What nations are superior in knowledge and power to all others?

What will cause their religion to be spread over the greater part of the earth?

To what do mankind, in all quarters of the world, attach importance?

How is it most strikingly displayed?

370. These are called among Christians, churches, cathedrals, and chapels; amongst the Mahomedans, they take the name of Mosques; and among the Pagan Hindoos, they are termed Pagodas.

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LANGUAGES.

371. The diversities of language form one of the most striking points of distinction between the various nations of the earth, and their arrangement into a general system constitutes an important branch of geography. The languages of cultivated nations are both written and spoken; while those of savage and barbarous races are merely verbal, and are not reduced to writing.

372. The number of original languages in the world, is about 80, but the various dialects or branches derived from them, amounts to upwards of 3000, of which more than 1200 are American, and about 550 European. In Asia and Oceanica, there are nearly 1000, and in Africa, 276.

How many original languages are there in the world?

How many branches or dialects are derived from them?

How many of these are American?

How many are European?

How many are there in Asia and Oceanica?

How many are there in Africa?

373. The Chinese language is spoken by the greatest number of people, but the English is the most widely spread, and will probably become more general than any other. It is now spoken in every quarter of the globe, and is distinguished for its simplicity, conciseness, and strength.

374. The number of books printed in the English is, probably, greater than in any other language; and the influence of English literature is more extensive than any other existing.

What language is spoken by the greatest number of people?

Which is the most widely spread? Where is it spoken?

For what is it distinguished?

In what language is it probable that the greatest number of books is printed?