

Additional material to “Resan längs älven”-theme

1. Meänkieli (“our language”)

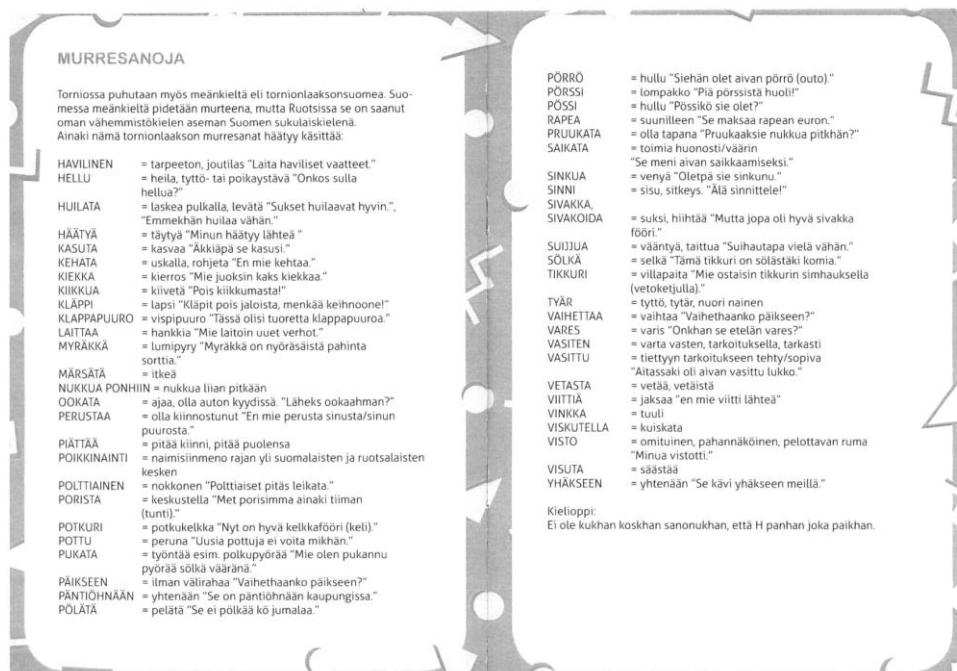
The video, Resan längs älven, is both in *Meänkieli* and in Swedish. Sweden recognizes Meänkieli officially as one of the country's five minority languages and it is treated as a distinct language from standard Finnish, in Finland, Meänkieli is treated as a dialect of Finnish.

Only last year, a truth and reconciliation commission published their findings, showing how the Meänkieli-speaking minority has been discriminated by the Swedish church and state. Using Meänkieli has historically been discouraged and sometimes punished. Even if this no longer is the case, this has led to many younger people not being able to speak the language today. It is difficult to know how many people actually speak Meänkieli, but according to the Swedish National Association of Tornedalians, around 75 000 individuals are able to understand Meänkieli on some level.

For a Finnish-speaking person, it is possible to follow and understand most parts of the speech, despite of some words that are not used at all in Finnish language.

If you speak Swedish: All Meänkieli-speaking parts are texted in Swedish, so it will be easy for you to follow the video even if you don't understand Meänkieli or Finnish. There are many loanwords from Swedish in Meänkieli, so you can listen in and see if there are some words that you can understand. (Some examples of loanwords in Meänkieli are: kööki 'kök', muuruutti 'morot', hantuuki 'handduk', kranni 'granne', kahveli 'gaffel', kruua 'gruva', styyka 'stuga', taattori 'dator' och piili 'bil'.)

If you speak Finnish: When watching the video, remember that it is not necessary for you to understand every word. Actually, we challenge you to collect some new (or old) words that you have not heard for a long time as a list for yourself as watching the video. Afterwards you can ask your parents or grandparents whether they understand the meaning (e.g. vanttuut, ruukaan, viekottelee, kläppi, vasiten, viruttaa, hööli, tulla völjyn/följyn..)



Here you can find more information about the lingual aspects of the area

FIN: <https://kielikello.fi/meankieli-yksi-ruotsin-vahemmistokielista/>

FIN: <https://meankielensanakirja.com/fi/about>

SWE: <https://www.minoritet.se/meankieli>

SWE: <https://www.isof.se/nationella-minoritetssprak/meankieli/lar-dig-mer-om-meankieli>

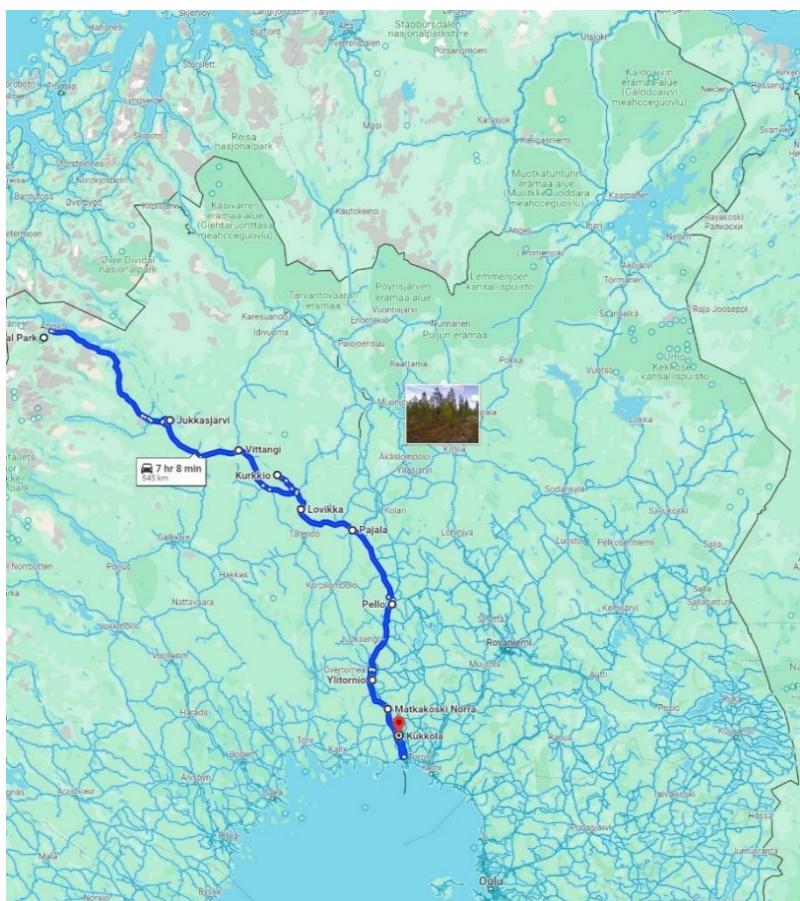
Additional information about the Torne River

in Finnish: <https://fi.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tornionjoki>

in Swedish: https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torne_%C3%A4lv

2. Map of the area “Resan längs älven”

You can use this map to follow the path of the story “Resan längs älven”.



3. Links to complete the pre-assingment

[Link to the video Resan längs älven](#)

[Link to the the quiz about the video](#)