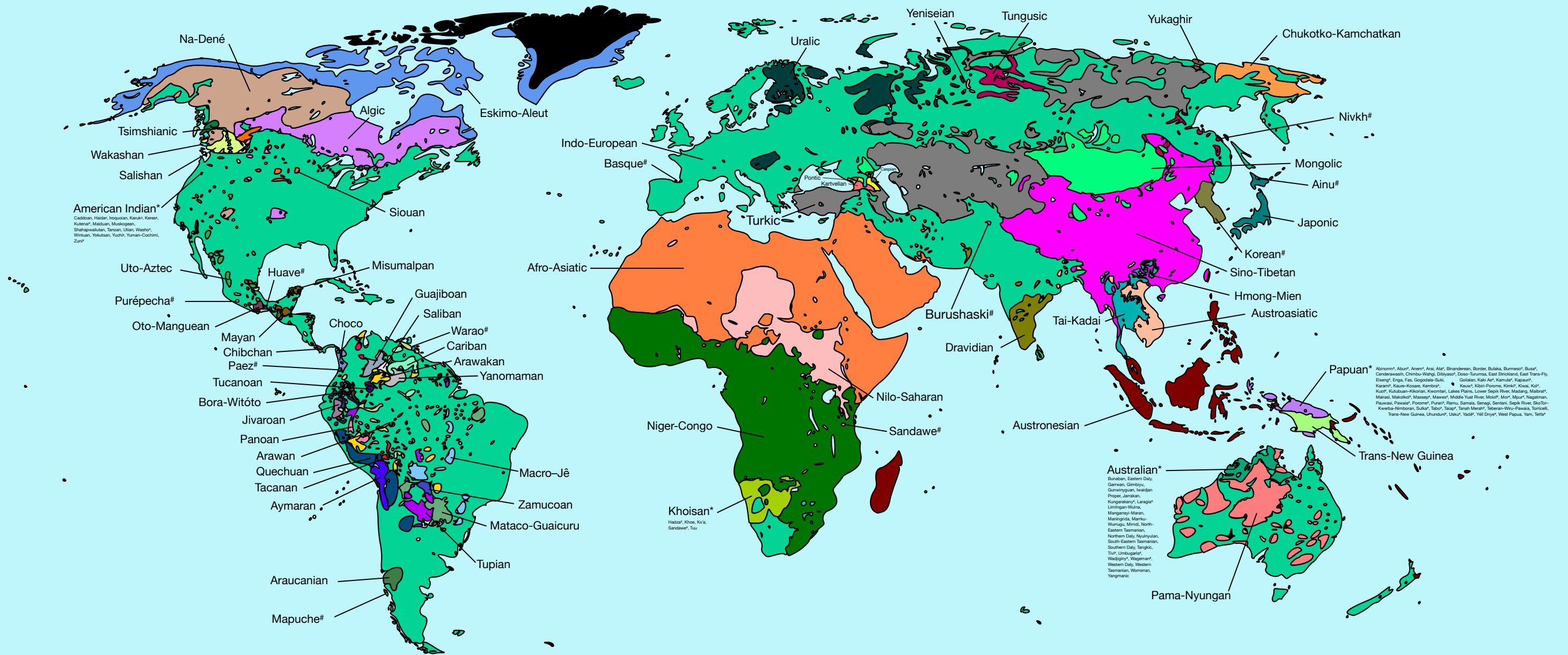


Language Families of the World



This map shows how languages around the world are grouped into language families. A language family is a group of languages that come from a common ancestor language. Think of it like a big family tree. Some language families, like Indo-European, have different branches, such as Germanic or Romance. Each branch can have many languages. For example, Indo-European has around 500 languages.

There are language families with lots of languages, like Niger-Congo and Austronesian, which have over 1000 languages. But there are also language families with only a few languages, like Eskimo-Aleut with 10 languages or Kartvelian with just 5.

Some languages, like Korean and Basque, don't belong to any language family. They are unique and not related to any other languages. We call them "language isolates." On the map, you can see them marked with a hash symbol (#).

In the past, there were even more language families and isolates, but many have disappeared. It's sad to say that in the next 50 years, more than half of the world's 7000+ languages might disappear.

It's important to know that sign languages can also be classified into language families. However, they are not shown on this map.

* Some titles on the map have an asterisk (*) next to them. These titles represent geographical areas rather than specific language families. Inside these areas, you will find different language families listed alphabetically.

Other titles on the map have a hash (#) next to them. These titles represent language isolates. Language isolates are unique because they are the only language in their family. This means they don't have any other languages that are related to them. So they are both a language and a language family on their own.