

## **Living in a multicultural society**

Every society includes different people. There are people of different races, cultures, beliefs, with different nationalities, languages and lifestyles. This also includes different ways of thinking, behaviour and traditions. So it is very important for us to learn how to live together, how to overcome problems, how to get on with each other. Understanding and tolerance are important too. We should recognize the other people before we condemn them. Knowing other people can help us to recognize ourselves.

**Multicultural education** has also big importance. It prepares us for living in a multicultural society. It also helps us to be educated in more ways. We can learn about different cultures, we can learn about traditions and holidays which are celebrated by people of different nationalities. This knowledge can also help us to overcome misunderstandings and problems between people of different races and nationalities. Unfortunately there are still people who are afraid to know other cultures and they don't respect their habits and behaviour. These people are called racists. They condemn people because of their colour of skin, nationality or religion. They are intolerant and they behave aggressive very often. Thanks to them the coexistence and cohabitation of different races are still problematic in our country.

### **Questions**

- 1. Think about the German society and name the nationalities living there (examples). Compare their ways of life and mutual relationships.**
- 2. Explain the advantages of being bilingual.**
- 3. Some students in Germany have the chance to study a second language like English (Spanish or French) at bilingual schools. What are the pros and cons of attending such a school?**
- 4. Explain the advantages of spending a year abroad in the development of a young person.**
- 5. What feelings might people of different nationalities, colours and races have being alone in a strange culture?**
- 6. How can we overcome the differences between different cultures?**
- 7. How would your parents react if you wanted to marry a person of a different race or religion?**
- 8. How tolerant do you think you are?**