***Multicultural society***



* 6 young people
* diferent skin color and diferent nationality
* I can see maybe that they are very good friends because thay look like very happy.

***Multicultural society***

A multicultural society includes people from several different cultures. People of different colours, nationalities, languages live together in one community. A multi-ethnic society has many advantages, because it allows people to experience different ways of life, for example other peoples languages, art, traditions and behaviours.

Multicultural education aims to prepare children for living in a multicultural society by giving them and understanding of different cultures. It works against racism and racial disadvantages in schools. When people learn about different ways of life, they can better understand different cultures.

On the negative side, cultural differences can divide a society. This can be a prejudice and discrimination. There will be always people who think, that their religion and culture is the best and other cultures are wrong. Ethnic minorities way suffer racial disadvantage on a multi-ethnic society. In education children from ethnic minority groups may not perform as well as they could simply, because they are in an unfamiliar environment.

People who have gone abroad to work or to live, they are called expatriates. They never really become part of the society. They spend their time with other expatriates. There is a special ethnic group- Romanies. They are originated from India. They typically don’t live in one place, they are always travelling. The Romanies do various fobs, and they and they are thoughts of as musicians and fortune tellers. The other interesting group live in the Western US are Mormons. They have strict rules, and don’t use tobacco, alcohol. They go from house to house trying to persuade people to join the Mormon Church. In the past, Mormon men were allowed to have more than one wife.

***Traditions, customs and holidays:***  
  
***Great Britian:***  
**St. Valentine´s Day** – February 14th- It is lovers´day. Friends and lovers sen done another letters of greeting cards expressing their love and affection. Some of them are romantic, humorous, sentimental, satiric or provoking.   
The first Valentine was a bishop, a Christian martyr, murdered by Romans. Before he was put to death he sent a note of friendship to his jailer´s daughter.  
**All Fools´Day** – April 1st – Day full of jockes and tricky. People play tricks on other people and then they shout „April Fool“  
**Easter**- between March and April. Easter is a Christian festival, it is also a welcome spring holiday.  
Good Friday is the Friday before Easter, It is the anniversary of Christ´s crucifixion.  
Easter Sunday commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus. Easter eggs, symbolizing new life, are given as present.  
**Halloween** – is celebrated in October 31st. People dress up funny costumes(ghosts, devils, fairies) and go to a party. Children light pumpkins. People tell tales about ghosts and witches. This tradition marks beginning of winter.  
**Guy Fawkes Day**– November 5th. I tis celebrated with bonfires, fireworks and the burning of guys made of straw. Guy Fawkes was an English Catholic. He tries to destroy the Houses of Parliament with a bomb. He was arrested and executed.  
**Christmas** – December 24th. Special christmas decorations, coloured lights and Christmas trees can be seen in the streets and shops. Christmas carols are sung almost everywhere. People buy presents. Children hang up Christmas stockings at the end of their beds for Santa Claus and then they go to bed. In the morning children get up early to find presents. Christmas dinner consists of filled turkey and Christmas pudding.  
**New Year´s Day** – January 1st – people sing and dance. Famous place for this event is Trafalgar square.

***American customs***  
**Thanskgiving Day** is celebrated on the last Thursday in November. People celebrate their first harvest and the first people who came to America (Pilgrim fathers). These days families in USA meet together and they have a big dinner which consists of roast turkey.  
**Independence Day** – July 4th – The Declaration of Independence was signed. People do not go to work and meet together.

**Multicultural society** is a society where people of different races, cultures and traditons live side by side with respect.  
  
Many people are proud of saying that they are not racists but in reality they have never lived with people of different colour next door.  
People are naturally divided according to the colour of their skin, the shape of their faces,  but we cannot judge people by these features and we have to try to bring people of different races together so that they live and work peacefully together. Many governments have passed a law to promote racial integration in schools or at work.  
  
There are many big cities which are cosmopolitan. In London children of all races attend the same schools and grow up shoulder to shoulder. In New Yourk nationalities stay in their own areas, like the Russians in the Russian section, the Germans in the German section.  
The area of a city where many Chinese people live and where you can find many Chinese shops and restaurants is called Chinatown.  
   
People of different nationalities have different cultures. In some countries young people have to marry the partner chosen by their parents. In different religions different approaches to lifestyles. Equality between men and women are accepted. Mixed marriages are becoming more and more commonplace.  
   
Since 1989 Slovakia has become a country open to people from other countries. There is over half a million Hungarians or smaller groups like the Ruthenians. One minority without a territory are the Romany. Slovakia tries to integrate them into society.  
   
A new phenomenon has appeared in Slovak traditions. More and more women get married to men of different religion and colour. There is still a certain amount of prejudice, but most young people are tolerant, without any prejudice.  
   
It is easy to live in society with similar backrounds, becouse we know what we can expect from people around us. And when there is someone who is different – nation, race and religion – we look suspiciously. Until 1989 foreigners  are coming to our country and it is getting normal for us that people are of different skin color. You can make friends with people of different colour and you acquire how normal it is to live side by side. It will not be a problem for you to accept other people as they are, and you will also be accepted. The most important attitudes towards other people are tolerance and respect.