



# 1.1

# Cultural Diversity

## JOIN IN!

### 1. Look at the image.

- 1.1 What words have been associated with the word "culture"?
- 1.2 Choose the most representative word for you. Explain your choice.

### 2. Read the following definitions of "Culture" from teenagers around the world.



**a** "Culture to me is like part of the backpack everyone is carrying. Sometimes it can be heavy and stops you from doing certain things but it also carries the necessary stuff you need for living."

**Susi Teutsch (Austria)**

**b** "Culture among countries is the most interesting thing that we have. We have different ideas, thinking, religions etc. We are human beings and we can understand each other if we have a free soul and an open mind."

**Irene De La Fuente (Spain)**

**c** "Your culture is the way you are raised. It can be different between people of the same nationality."

**Kate (UK)**

**d** "Culture is shaped by our tradition, history and religion. You carry it with you to influence others and for it to be influenced by other cultures. It is the building block of our personality."

**Aisha Al-Kharusi (Oman)**

**e** "Unfortunately, culture is that one thing that divides us instead of uniting us into being a little part of humankind."

**Rachida Abdellaoui (Netherlands)**

[www.connectingcultures-education.co.uk/](http://www.connectingcultures-education.co.uk/) (adapted and abridged), accessed in October 2013

## INDEPENDENT LEARNING!

Cross-border population flows, such as migration, lead to increased diversity within societies. This diversity often refers to the co-existence of a difference in behaviour, traditions and customs - in short, a diversity of cultures.

On the website [www.bridgesll.sebenta.pt](http://www.bridgesll.sebenta.pt) follow the links for:

[UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity](#)  
[Multicultural Britain](#)

2.1 With which definition do you agree most/least? Why/Why not? Debate this in class.

2.2 Write your own definition of "culture".



## READING Time

### 1. Read the poem by Sujata Bhatt.

#### Search for my Tongue

You ask me what I mean  
by saying I have lost my tongue.

I ask you, what would you do  
if you had two tongues in your mouth,

5 and lost the first one, the mother tongue,  
and could not really know the other,  
the foreign tongue.

You could not use them both together  
even if you thought that way.

10 And if you lived in a place you had to  
speak a foreign tongue,  
your mother tongue would rot,  
rot and die in your mouth  
until you had to spit it out.

15 I thought I spit it out  
but overnight while I dream,

મને હનું કે આખી છલ આખી ભાષા,  
(munay hutoo kay aakhee jeebh aakhee bhasha)

મેં થું કી નાખી છે.

20 (may thoonky nakhi chay)

પરંતુ રાત્રે સ્વપ્નામાં મારી ભાષા પાછી આવે છે.  
(parantoo rattray svupnama mari bhasha pachi aavay chay)

ફૂલની જેમ મારી ભાષા મારી છલ  
(foolnee jaim mari bhasha nmari jeebh)

25 મોઢામાં ખીલે છે.  
(modhama kheelay chay)

ફૂલની જેમ મારી ભાષા મારી છલ  
(fullnee jaim mari bhasha mari jeebh)

30 મોઢામાં પાકે છે.  
(modhama pakay chay)

it grows back, a stump of a shoot  
grows longer, grows moist, grows strong veins,  
it ties the other tongue in knots,  
the bud opens, the bud opens in my mouth,

35 it pushes the other tongue aside.

Everytime I think I've forgotten,  
I think I've lost the mother tongue,  
it blossoms out of my mouth.



### INDEPENDENT LEARNING!

Sujata Bhatt was born in India in 1956, later lived in the USA and now lives in Germany. She writes in both English and Gujarati, her mother tongue.

On the website [www.bridgesil.sebenta.pt](http://www.bridgesil.sebenta.pt) you can find more information about [Sujata Bhatt](#)

Sujata Bhatt, "Search for my Tongue" in *Brunizem*, 1998