

# WHAT IS ANTHROPOLOGY?

## Introduction

1. What do you think anthropology is? How does it differ from other subjects?
2. Why do you want to study anthropology? What do you hope to get out of the experience?

## What do anthropologists do?

Imagine that your space ship has got stranded on another planet. You are confronted with a species that seems completely different from you. You are in radio contact with Earth but they won't be able to pick you up for a month. They want to find out as much as you can about this alien species. Devise a strategy which will include:

- 1) The kind of information you want to bring back i.e. **what** you want to find out
- 2) The **method** by which (**how**) you are going to get the information.

## Problems of being an anthropologist

What difficulties do you anticipate in your efforts to learn about these aliens?

## Usefulness of anthropology

What uses could your findings have? Why is it worth finding out this information?

## Can you think of any reason why you shouldn't share your findings with Earth?

### **Homework.**

Read the introduction to: Monaghan, J. and Just, P. (2000): **Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology**. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Using the reading and your notes from the class activity, write at least 700 words on the issues: What is anthropology, what is its history, what do anthropologists do, what do anthropologists study and what are the benefits and dangers of anthropology in the world.