

## ACTIVITY 5

# Potatoes

**W** This activity looks at diversity within community. It helps us to see that a community is not uniform; rather a group of unique individuals who share certain characteristics.



### What are you doing now?

- In Science, you may be working on observational skills.
- In Geography, you might be studying populations.
- You may be learning about other faiths.

### You might like to try

You will need one potato for each member of the group and a largish bag or small sack to hold the potatoes.

- 1 Sitting in a circle, give each person in the group a potato.
- 2 Ask people to look carefully at their potato and really get to know it well.
- 3 Collect all the potatoes in the bag, give it a shake then empty the potatoes out onto the floor or a table.
- 4 Ask the group to pick out their own potato from the pile.
- 5 Some questions you might want to discuss:
  - ~ How easy/difficult was it to find your potato?
  - ~ What made it easy/difficult?
  - ~ What does this tell you about potatoes?
  - ~ What can we learn from this about groups of people?

### Comment

Everyone invariably manages to find her or his own potato. What needs to be brought out here is that within a group which shares certain characteristics (in this case brown, roundish, knobby) each individual is nonetheless unique, having qualities which mean it can be identified in a crowd. It is important to remember this when we are thinking about groups of people in different countries, with different belief systems and different cultural backgrounds from our own. (A similar exercise is done with leaves in the chapter on GRIEVING AND LETTING GO to emphasise the uniqueness of any part of creation.)

**“**The surest way to corrupt a youth is to instruct them to hold in higher esteem those who think alike than those who think differently.

*Friedrich Nietzsche*

### Link to...

➡ *Which Community?* in this chapter

