

Working Together



In chapters 12-15 we studied the countries of Japan, Brazil, Switzerland and Australia. The people of those countries may or may not share a culture, but they are all bound together by the **government** of the country.

In every nation, people must learn to live, and work together. Smaller groups work together to help the nation function well. In most communities there are social, civic, and youth organizations, charities, unions, political parties and religious groups. These groups are created to help people to get things done. The members of each group share a **common interest** or **goal**. They find they are able to achieve these goals more quickly and easily when they work together, or **co-operate**.

Although nearly everyone in our society belongs to a family, most people choose to join groups outside the family. A group provides a meeting place where members can meet among other things.

- develop new skills
- learn to work together
- improve the local community
- enjoy themselves.

There are some organizations that can be found in more than one country. For instance, in many countries young people join the **Cubs, Brownies, Guides, and Scouts**. However, the role these groups play, and the way they are run, may not be the same in the Bahamas as they are in other countries.

Conflict between groups

People in groups form relationships and interact with one another. The actions of one member affect other members. There may be conflicts within a group, or between groups.

Conflicts may arise within a group when:

- the group no longer meets an individual member's needs.
- a member feels that he or she is not needed or does not 'belong'
- the leadership of the group is challenged
- the goals of the group change
- there is a lack of communication.

Conflicts between groups usually occur when one group threatens the rights of another group. **Communication** is the key to resolving any conflict. Members should act quickly to solve any problems.