



**A Simple Life**





# A Simple Life

*Explore Amish country in Holmes County*

**A Simple Life**

PBS 45 & 49's **A Simple Life** visits the people and the places that populate the beautiful rolling hills and farms of this rural northeastern Ohio county to find out what attracts millions of visitors each year.

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# Introduction

“The Amish are worldly. They’re perceived as being very protected and isolated, but they’re very intelligent people and well read and they do know what’s going on out around them and they still maintain a very solid core of church and family life. That’s an inspiration for the rest of us.

“You know we can be involved in today’s world without giving up that sense of value that lives within us. It’s our hope that we can protect that tendency that exists here.

“They’re happy with less. The simplicity of their lives impresses a lot of people, including myself.”

Reflections from Pat Brown, Holmes County Chamber of Commerce

So ... Who are these Amish people? How have they come to live the way they do? What do they believe? Where do they live? Watch **A Simple Life** and examine these pages to answer those questions.

## Some Interesting Facts

- There are about 40,000 Amish in Ohio, 25,000 in Pennsylvania, and 20,000 in Indiana. Pennsylvania was the first settlement of Amish, and that state has developed the tourist business more than Ohio.
- The Amish population of the U.S. is 150,000 — out of a total of 270,000,000 — which makes the percentage .0055%, or much less than 1% of our total population.
- Both Amish and Mennonites are committed to a lifestyle of peace and non-violence.  
<http://www.holycrosslivonia.org/amish/amishfaq.htm>
- Through the years, the differences among the various Amish and Mennonite groups have almost always been ones of practice rather than basic Christian doctrine. <http://www.holycrosslivonia.org/amish/amishfaq.htm>
- Amish people do not use electricity. They did not make this decision because they thought electricity was evil in itself, but because easy access to it could lead to many temptations and the deterioration of church and family life. <http://www.holycrosslivonia.org/amish/amishfaq.htm>
- Old Order Amish and Mennonites forbid photography of their people.
- A long beard is the mark of an adult Amish man. Mustaches, on the other hand, have a long history of being associated with the military and, therefore, are forbidden among the Amish people.
- Musical instruments are forbidden by the Old Order Amish community. Playing an instrument would be considered worldly.



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# Beliefs of the Amish

There are three sects of Amish: the Old Order (the main group), the New Order (sometimes called the Schwartzentruber Amish) and the Andy Weaver Amish. These groups are sometimes called the Old Order and the Progressive Amish, depending upon the degree of adherence to some of the basic beliefs. The main differences between the groups are reflected in dress, buggy style and the style in which church services are conducted. The group pretty much dictates every aspect of the life of its Amish members.

## Their beliefs consist of the following:

- The Amish believe in a “**divine Christ**, heaven and hell, receiving inspiration from scripture, and the church as the body of Christ,” but they differ from the “outside world” because they feel that their faith encompasses their entire culture. <http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/amish.html>
- All Amish men wear beards and black hats. Amish men grow beards once they are married; the beard signifies adulthood. Hats signify the order to which the man belongs (different styles for different orders), and also reflects his age and status within the order.
- The declaration of “**brotherly union**” is the concept of the brotherhood living together in a community.
- Only the pure should be involved in religion, and members who fall into sinful acts should be shunned. The proper name for this is the **Meidung**. They believe that one “should not buy from, sell to, or even eat at the same table as the excommunicated individual.” <http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/amish.html>
- Once a person is shunned, he/she can **make amends** and return to the community.
- The Amish practice the **washing of the feet** as a symbol of humility.
- Emphasis is on the **community**, not on individual achievement and personal success.
- **Gelassenheit** teaches the Amish to be reserved, modest, calm and quiet and to submit completely to God’s authority.
- They believe in “**separation from the outside world**, vow of obedience and a closeness to nature.” <http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/amish.html>
- The Amish hold church services in the **homes** of their members.
- They take the words of the **Bible literally**.
- There is a traditional Amish **prohibition** against being **photographed**, and you won’t often find **mirrors in Amish homes**. This is based on the biblical Commandment that says, “Thou shalt not make any graven images.”

# History of the Amish



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Religious freedom was the catalyst that brought the Amish to our shores. Unlike the Pilgrims and the Puritans, though, the Amish have retained the ways of the past. They continue to follow their unwritten set of rules, called the Ordnung. These rules govern how they dress, how they use their machinery and many other facets of their daily life.

In 16th-century Europe, a sect called the Anabaptist was looked upon as a radical group. (Anabaptists got their name because they rejected the concept of infant baptism.)

Minno Simons became such a powerful leader that many Anabaptists became known as Mennonites. The Amish sect is derived from the Mennonites. Joseph Amman, a bishop, believed that the Mennonites were becoming too worldly. They didn't adhere strictly enough to principles of excommunication or shunning. They also wanted to meet more than once per year as was the Mennonite custom. In 1525, he and his followers split from the sect and founded the Amish.

As a result of persecution, between 50 and 100 Amish families immigrated to North America between 1727 and 1770. More followed. They settled in Pennsylvania and spread into Ohio. In 1809, Jonas Stutzman built the first Amish home in Holmes County.

# Controversies of the Amish



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While many think that the Amish are anti-government, the truth is very much the opposite. They believe in the necessity of government and do pay taxes (although it is sometimes believed that they do not.) They do, however, give some limitations to the authority of the state.

There are four major areas where the Amish have clashed with the government.

## Elementary School Attendance

In the beginning, few Amish parents allowed their children to go to school beyond the fourth grade. The one-room schoolhouse was the standard and parents were very involved. The government began to consolidate these schools and slowly parents started allowing their children to go to these newly consolidated schools through the eighth grade. Parents were wary of these schools because they were away from the community and they didn't know the teachers or what was being taught.

## Compulsory High School Attendance

The Amish feel that the years a student spends in high school are the years when "cultural isolation" is important. They believe that public high school teaches ideas that the Amish do not acknowledge. They feel "the wisdom of the world is foolishness with God." (Corinthians 3:19)

"In 1972, in Wisconsin vs. Yoder, the court ruled in favor of the Amish saying the states could not constitutionally force Amish to send their children to public high schools." <http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/amish.html>

## Compulsory Welfare

The Amish are focused on community and family. They believe that in old age, it is the family responsibility to provide for their own people. They, therefore, do not believe in paying Social Security tax. They believe that if they paid it, they would be denying their faith.

## Military Service

Amish people have a serious objection to war. Starting in World War II, they were given permission to serve their military obligation in civilian public service jobs.

# Commercialization of the Amish



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The Amish try to stay away from the secular world, but commercialization has become a part of their way of life. Furniture, quilts and food have brought tourism to the people. They have a great need to interact with the outside world. Some Amish resent this intrusion into their lives, but others feel that it is good because it decreases the “cultural gap.” Basically, there has been little change in the Amish way of life despite the commercialization. The Amish still hold true to their basic beliefs and their communities are still growing.

## Food and Lodging

The Amish are famous for their home-style cooking. Foods are made from scratch and hearty portions are served. “Everything’s like, handmade and made from scratch and it just takes you back like you’re back into the old time. It makes you feel like you live in both worlds.” (Comment from a tourist at the Amish Door)

- **The Amish Door** in Wilmot, OH (featured in **A Simple Life**) is one of many Amish kitchens in Holmes County. On any given day, more than 1000 people may pass through the gift shops, the restaurant or the bed and breakfast. <http://www.amishdoor.com>
- The **Dutch Harvest Restaurant** and **Schrock’s Amish Farm** are located in Berlin, OH (featured in **A Simple Life**). They offer the complete Amish country package: dine, visit the farm, take a buggy ride and shop to your heart’s content. <http://www.amish-r-us.com/DHR1.html> and <http://www.amish-r-us.com/farm.html>
- **Valley View Inn** in New Bedford, OH (featured in **A Simple Life**) is close enough to shop in Berlin and far enough away from the businesses to make it feel like the country. <http://www.avalleyviewinn.com/map.htm>
- **Dining Hotlist** This is a list of Amish restaurants in Holmes County. <http://www.amish-heartland.com/?topic=+Dining+and+Food>

## Shopping

- **Lehman’s General Store** in Kidron, OH (featured in **A Simple Life**) has everything you need if you are living without electricity — from wood-burning stoves to gas lamps, even kerosene powered refrigerators. <http://www.lehmans.com>
- **Holmes County: A Special Place** features a hotlist of places to shop in Holmes County. [http://www.visitamishcountry.com/places\\_to\\_shop.htm](http://www.visitamishcountry.com/places_to_shop.htm)

## Furniture

- **Amish Alley** A combination of the old ways in building beautiful, solid furniture and the new web site that promotes it. <http://www.amishalley.com/default.htm>

## Quilts

- **Amish Quilts** [http://magazines.ivillage.com/countryliving/collect/ar/articles/0,12922,284656\\_293945,00.html](http://magazines.ivillage.com/countryliving/collect/ar/articles/0,12922,284656_293945,00.html)
- **Amish Custom-Made Quilts** [http://www.americanquilts.com/Quilts/Amish\\_Custom.html](http://www.americanquilts.com/Quilts/Amish_Custom.html)
- **Quilt Store Hotlist** <http://www.quilt.com/Stores/Midwest/Ohio.html>

## Cheese

- **Amish Traditions** <http://www.minervacheese.com/store>

## Information

- **Behalt** (meaning “to keep or remember”) is a 10’ x 265’ cyclorama illustrating the heritage of the Amish and Mennonite people from 1525 to today. <http://pages.sssnet.com/behalt/index.shtml>
- The Mennonite Information Center and Biblical Tabernacle Reproduction <http://www.mennoniteinfoctr.com>

# Lesson Plan: Expert Groups



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Directions:

**You are the expert in your area of Amish life.** Find FIVE important facts about your topic and list them below. Write five questions based on your facts (one for each fact). Turn the questions in to the teacher. (The questions from each group will be your test.) Decide how you will present these facts to your classmates. **REMEMBER — YOU are the expert.** Try to think of how you learn best and this will help you decide how you can help your classmates learn the information. Present the information to your classmates.

Your large topic \_\_\_\_\_ Amish \_\_\_\_\_ Your Subtopic \_\_\_\_\_

## Do research on your topic and find out important facts.

History of the Amish	<a href="http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/amish.html">http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/amish.html</a>
Beliefs of the Amish	<a href="http://www.pbs4549.org/SIMPLE/SLBELIEF.HTM">http://www.pbs4549.org/SIMPLE/SLBELIEF.HTM</a>
Customs of the Amish	<a href="http://www.pbs4549.org/SIMPLIFE.HTM">http://www.pbs4549.org/SIMPLIFE.HTM</a>
Shunning	<a href="http://www.holycrosslivonia.org/amish/amishfaq.htm">http://www.holycrosslivonia.org/amish/amishfaq.htm</a>
Mandatory schooling	<a href="http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/amish.html">http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/amish.html</a>
Military Service	<a href="http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/amish.html">http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/amish.html</a>
Taxes for the Amish	<a href="http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/amish.html">http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/amish.html</a>
Commercialization of Amish	<a href="http://www.pbs4549.org/SIMPLE/SLCOMMER.HTM">http://www.pbs4549.org/SIMPLE/SLCOMMER.HTM</a>
Google	<a href="http://www.google.com">http://www.google.com</a>

## FACTS: List them below!

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Lesson Plan: Create a Newspaper



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Assignment

Get your Press Pass ready! You have now become the editors of your own single issue of a newspaper. Your job is to cover the Amish community that is your neighboring city. Be sure that you base your comments on facts and cite the sources for those facts.

There are four things that are required for your newspaper:

1. A news article about the beliefs of the Amish people.
2. A news article about the concept of mandatory education for the Amish. Be sure that you show both sides of the controversy. Be sure you give information about the Wisconsin vs. Yoder court case.
3. An editorial from the point of view of a person being shunned. Be sure to explain the concept of shunning and its origins.
4. Some advertisements that show various commercial products for which the Amish are famous.

## Optional Items

You may include other items, such as political cartoons, drawings, pictures, information about other controversies around the Amish and other material in which you are interested.

## Resources

A Simple Life <http://www.pbs4549.org/SIMPLIFE.HTM>

The Amish <http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/amish.html>

Amish FAQ <http://www.holycrosslivonia.org/amish/amishfaq.htm>

About the Amish <http://www.amish-heartland.com/?topic=+Amish+Culture>

Amish Door <http://www.amishdoor.com>

Dutch Harvest Restaurant <http://www.amish-r-us.com/DHR1.html>

Schrock's Amish Farm <http://www.amish-r-us.com/farm.html>

Dining Hotlist <http://www.amish-heartland.com/?topic=+Dining+and+Food>

Lehman's General Store <http://www.lehmans.com>

Holmes County: A Special Place [http://www.visitamishcountry.com/places\\_to\\_shop.htm](http://www.visitamishcountry.com/places_to_shop.htm)

Amish Alley <http://www.amishalley.com/default.htm>

Quilt Store Hotlist <http://www.quilt.com/Stores/Midwest/Ohio.html>

Amish Traditions <http://www.minervacheese.com/store>

The Mennonite Information Center and Biblical Tabernacle Reproduction <http://www.mennoniteinfoctr.com>

## Citing Your Sources

To help you use the correct citation of your sources, go to <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Oracle/4184>.

# Lesson Plan: Create a Newspaper



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## Criteria for Group Grade – Newspaper Evaluation

Overall content of articles .....	30
Readability .....	20
Follows directions .....	10
Research information (accuracy, citations, etc.) .....	10
Design clarity (use of color, neatness, etc.) .....	10
Group participation (effective use of time, discussion, cooperation) .....	10
Design creativity.....	5
Grammar, spelling.....	5
TOTAL 100	

## Criteria for individual grade:

Your individual grade is worth 50 points. This is based on the following:

- The accuracy of the information in your articles.
- The quality of the writing in your article.
- Whether the directions were carefully followed.
- The grammar and spelling.
- The citing of your sources.

# Lesson Plan: Make a Commercial



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Commercials are attempts by producers to encourage the public to buy products. You see them every day.

Pretend you are an Amish person who has a product to sell and, with your group, make a video commercial to get others to buy your product.

## Steps in creating commercials:

1. Decide what product you want to sell and do research on it. See the web links on page 7 for some possible products.
2. Decide on the specific message of your commercial.
3. Decide what audience you will be targeting.
4. Develop an idea or story for your commercial — the way you will convey your message to the audience. (You may want to make a storyboard.)
5. Decide exactly what the viewer will see and hear.

## Choose the shots carefully.

- Pan — camera moves from left to right or right to left.
- Zoom — going from a wide-angle shot to a telephoto shot or from a telephoto shot to a wide-angle shot.

## Keep in mind the different shot angles:

- High angle — shot in which the camera is above the object or person, looking down on it.
- Low angle — shot in which the camera is below the person or object, looking up at it.
- Side angle — shot in which the person is seen from a side view.

Choose shots that will be most effective in conveying your message.

## Evaluation

CATEGORY	20	15	10	5
<b>Interest and Purpose</b>	Video has a clear and interesting purpose.	Video is interesting but purpose is somewhat unclear.	Video is not very interesting and purpose is somewhat unclear.	Video is not interesting and has no discernible purpose.
<b>Videography — Clarity</b>	Video did not rock/shake and the focus was excellent throughout.	Video did not rock/shake and the focus was excellent for the majority of the video.	Video had a little rocking/shaking, but the focus was excellent throughout.	Problems with rocking/shaking AND focus.
<b>Costumes &amp; Props</b>	All students wore costumes and the group used some props.	Some students wore costumes and the group used some props.	Students wore no costumes, but the group used some props.	Neither costumes nor props were used.

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