

# DID YOU KNOW?

## 1 Read the text.

Tick the subjects that are mentioned in the text.

transport  religion  education  language  politics  money

### The Amish – a people from the past?

The Amish are a religious group of people who believe in living separately from the modern world. They live in Canada and the USA in small farming communities of about 300 people. In total, there are about 80,000 'Old Order Amish'. These people do not drive cars or fly in aeroplanes, but simply drive horses and carts. As a result, their communities are small and close, and their children do not usually move to another area when they grow up. They stay and marry someone from the community. Family values and traditions are very important to the Amish. At home, they speak a very old-fashioned version of German, although they also speak English when it is necessary.



They wear very simple clothing. The men wear wide black hats, plain trousers and shirts. After they marry, the men grow beards. The women, and even the little girls, wear bonnets (a kind of old-fashioned hat) and long dresses. They make their living from farming, using old traditional methods. Their houses do not have electricity or telephones.

Their children finish school at about the age of 12 or 13; after that they learn from working on their farm. All other children in the USA must attend school for another four years.

Many people do not understand the simple and slow way of Amish life. But the Amish believe that modern society is too stressful and materialistic. They feel that their lifestyle is a true reflection of their religious beliefs.

## 2 Answer these questions.

- 1 How many people live in a typical Amish community?
- 2 How do the Amish travel?
- 3 Which languages do they speak?
- 4 When do Amish children finish school?
- 5 Find two adjectives that the Amish use to describe modern society.

## 3 What do you think of the Amish way of life? Think of some advantages and disadvantages.