



## Teacher's Notes: Amish in Lancaster, PA

**Page 1:** When you grow up somewhere, it means where did you live when you were a kid. Taylor is an adult now and she lives in a different place. When she was growing up, she lived in PA. Her city was Wyomissing. That is in PA. Remind them about Taylor's Christmas tree farm. What city do you live in? Which state? There is a city that is not too far away from the city Taylor grew up in. It is called Lancaster. Do you know what is special about Lancaster? A lot of Amish people live there. Do you know what 'Amish' means? I do see a picture of the Amish, do you? What do you notice? We will find out all about them as we read. Taylor lives in a city near the Amish community, which is in Lancaster. Lancaster is a city. What city is near your city? What other cities are in your state? How long does it take to get there?

Take your **Pennsylvania** Main Idea card and find a partner to ask questions and quiz each other about what we know about PA so far. (Taylor lived there, there are cities, Amish live there, etc.)

**Page 2:** The Amish are a religious group. That means that they pray and believe that people should do certain things. There are many different religions in the world, and Amish is one. One thing that they believe is that people should wear old-fashioned clothes and live like people did long ago. Old-fashioned means that this is not what most people use today. It is old from a long time ago. The clothes they are wearing are not old, but the way that they look is how people used to make clothes a long time ago. What do you see on the girl's heads? Those are bonnets. A long time ago everyone wore those. Same with the long dresses. What does old-fashioned mean? Can you think of anything that is old-fashioned?

Take your **Amish** Main Idea card and find a partner to ask questions and quiz each other about what we know about Amish people so far.

**Page 3:** Not only do the Amish think you should wear clothes like people did long ago, but you should live like they did long ago. Did you know that a long time ago no one had electricity? The Amish live like people did when there was no electricity. They have houses, but there are no plugs in them. They don't use anything that plugs in. When you wash your clothes, how do you dry them? The Amish do not have a dryer, so they hang their clothes on a clothesline. When you cook things, where do you put it to bake? The Amish do not have an oven like we do. They have an old-fashioned stove. Even though the Amish could buy these things, they do not. They do not because it is against their religion. They believe that people should live like without modern things like electricity and modern clothes. How did people live long ago? What things do we have that they did not have? (use pictures for clues)

Take your **Long ago** Main Idea card and find a partner to ask questions and quiz each other about what we know about Amish people living like people did long ago so far.

**Page 4:** Most Amish people are farmers. Did you know that long ago a lot of people were farmers. They had big gardens to grow vegetables for the family to eat and trees with fruit. Some of the food they grow they eat right away or can it for later. If they have a lot of extra they sell it to people. Canning fruits or vegetables is putting them in a can or jar. Here is a video where a man making and canning apple sauce. In the Amish religion, women are the ones who cook. Even though today men and women cook, a long time ago only women did. A long time ago there were some things that women did and some things that men did. The Amish still follow those kinds of old-fashioned rules. In this video the man is

cooking in a modern house with electricity, but it shows you what canning is.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBXjHqpc7t0>) The Amish also grew crops of corn and wheat. The corn can be used to feed pigs and other animals and the wheat can be made into bread. Farmers grow a lot of food. Being a farmer is a job. What food do you like to eat that comes from a farm?

Take your **farmers** Main Idea card and find a partner to ask questions and quiz each other about what we know about Taylor's Christmas tree farm so far.

**Page 5:** Many farmers have cows. Cows are used for meat. People eat cows. Cows muscles are meat. The butcher can make hamburger, or steak from a cow. Farmers don't have to buy meat at the store, they can get it from their own cows. Cows can also give milk. People drink milk. Cream is from cows. It is a thick milk. Cream and milk can be used to make cheese. Cream can be used to make butter. Here is a video where you can see how to make butter the old-fashioned way. Making Butter Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7kt-nsWlxc> (Optional: Make butter shaking cream in a jar. Students can take turns shaking one jar). What are some foods you put butter on?

Take your **cows** Main Idea card and find a partner to ask questions and quiz each other about what Taylor learned so far about cows.

**Page 6:** Look at the Amish people driving down the road. What are they driving? That is a buggy. It is being pulled by a horse. They do not own cars. They don't want cars because they want to travel in an old-fashioned way. A long time ago, before cars, this is how people went someplace. When the Amish people get where they are going, how do they make sure their horse doesn't run away? They tie the horse to a hitching post. Here is a video to see an Amish person with his buggy. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4M0bs71DyY> What do people most people use today if they want to go someplace? Yes, a car. What kind of car does your family have? Can you think of any other types of cars? (Honda, Buick, etc.)

Take your **buggy** Main Idea card and find a partner to ask questions and quiz each other about what they know about buggies and traveling and what you learned.

**Page 7:** Most Amish people do not have modern things in their home because they don't use electricity. They use lanterns or they are sometimes called kerosene lamps. Here is a tour of an Amish house that is in Ohio. Ohio and Pennsylvania both have a lot of Amish people living in some areas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnO426TiyZo> What do you use electricity for in your house? What appliances do you have? Appliances are things like refrigerators, washers and dryers, etc. Look at the picture to see some of the appliances many people have. Do you have any of these? What are they used for?

Take your **electricity** Main Idea card and find a partner to ask questions and quiz each other about electricity and what you learned.

**Page 8:** Pennsylvania is cold in the winter. It snows there. What do we do to make our houses warm when it is cold outside? A long time ago people didn't have heaters. They used fireplaces and wood burning stoves to heat their homes. What do you need if you have a fireplace? Wood. The Amish need to cut wood up so that they have it for the winter. That is what people had to do a long time ago. What are some things that people wear in the winter to stay warm? What do you know about fireplaces?

Take your **fireplace** Main Idea card and find a partner to ask questions and quiz each other about fireplaces and what you learned.

**Page 9:** Amish people cook a lot of homemade food. That means that they make it at their house. They do not have an oven like you do at your house, they use an old-fashioned stove. It is heated by burning wood. (Show the first few minutes of this to show what this type of stove is like:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwJcnFcg6K4> The Amish are known for making good homemade food. The Amish women do the cooking. They make all sorts of food for their families. Sometimes they make things to sell. I like to cook scrambled eggs with cheese for breakfast. I make a breakfast sandwich almost every day. Do you like to cook? What do you like to cook? What would you like to learn how to cook?

Take your **stove** Main Idea card and find a partner to ask questions and quiz each other about the Amish stove and what you learned.

**Page 10:**

The Amish women make a lot of great homemade desserts too. They make cookies and pies and apple butter. Apple butter is like a thick apple sauce that is used like jelly to put on bread. They also make a lot of other things, but these ones are what they are famous for. One pie that they make is called shoofly pie. They call it that because it's so good and sweet that flies start swarming around it, and you have to shoo them away-so that is why it is called shoo fly pie (make hand motions of shooing flies away and have students do it too while you repeat 'shoo fly" . Molasses is one ingredient in this pie. Molasses is a syrup that is made from sugar. You can buy it at the store. (Optional Activity: We have included a recipe for shoofly pie in the worksheets-you can talk about the recipe or actually make it). Here is a video to see how to make a Shoofly Pie: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8DL9Q6XH7U> What other kinds of pies can you think of? How about cookies? What types of cookies do you know of?

Take your **homemade food** Main Idea card and find a partner to ask questions and quiz each other about homemade Amish desserts and what you learned.

**Page 11:** Amish women make quilts. They make them out of little pieces of fabric. Fabric is material. Look at your shirt. It is made out of fabric. So are your pants. A long time ago people made blankets out of leftover fabric that they used to make clothes. They made designs by cutting the fabric and sewing it. Quilts can be sewn by hand using a needle and thread, or buy using a sewing machine. Some people love the quilts and buy them from the Amish women. Long ago a lot of people used to make them. Today most people do not make them. They buy blankets at the store. Sometimes the Amish sell their quilts. Here is a video of selling quilts at an auction. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-7ZXgeiXio>

Take your **quilts** Main Idea card and find a partner to ask questions and quiz each other about quilts and what you learned.

**Page 12:** One of the jobs that some of the Amish men have is making furniture. They make furniture for their own homes, and they also sell some of it to make money. What furniture can you think of? What is in your house? Let's picture your living room. How about your bedroom. What is in there? Dining room? (walk the students through their home to give them a strategy for thinking of furniture). Here are some Amish men making furniture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edbXEgzfCQI>

Take your **furniture** Main Idea card and find a partner to ask questions and quiz each other about furniture in your home and about the Amish making furniture and what you learned.

**Page 13:** Did you know that a lot of the things the Amish make they use for themselves. What things have we talked about them making? What will they use them for? Which one of the products do you think you would want to buy? What would you do with it?

Take your **Amish Products** Main Idea card and find a partner to ask questions and quiz each other about what you know about Amish Products and what you learned.