

The Yanomami and the Amish

The Yanomami are Amazonian Indians and they live in the Brazilian rainforest. A Yanomami family often has six or seven children, and families live all together in one big hut.



The Amish live on farms in the USA. They have big families. They don't have cars, they use horses, and they don't use electricity or phones. They wear old-fashioned clothes.



Guiomar is nine. She gets up early, but she doesn't go to school. She helps her mother to find food and learns how to cook with her. Then Guiomar plays with the other children. She goes to bed when the sun goes down because they don't have lights. It's hot in the rainforest, so she sleeps outside.





‘I help my mother with breakfast, and I cook dinner with her, and my grandmother, too. It’s hot so I don’t usually wear clothes.’

Toin is 11. He likes being with his father. His father doesn’t go to work. He hunts in the rainforest, and he teaches Toin to use a bow and arrow. In the evening, Toin eats, sings, and dances with all the other children and their families.



‘I don’t go to school. I go out with my father and learn how to hunt, sometimes for 2 or 3 days. We usually hunt birds. I take my pet monkey with me!’

Tomas is 12. He starts work on the farm in the morning and then has school at home with the other children. He also has homework. On Sundays, he goes to church, and visits other families. He likes playing baseball.



‘I get up at 5 o’clock and I help my father with the cows. Then I have breakfast. I don’t like school – I like doing work and being outside!’

Kristina is 14 and she has six brothers and sisters. She doesn’t have school now – it stops when you’re 14. She cooks, cleans and does the washing with her mother. In the evenings, she reads and plays board games. She likes singing.



‘Family life is important for us. I help my mother with the little children. I don’t go to bed late – our house doesn’t have electric lights.’