

Teacher Overview

The regions of Wayne and Holmes counties in Ohio host the largest Amish settlement in the world. The Amish, a protestant sect that was part of the larger Anabaptist movement, first came to America in the 1700s following violent religious persecution in their native European homelands. The Anabaptists were one of several movements that emerged during the Protestant Reformation in Europe. The Anabaptists, later called Mennonites after an important leader named Menno Simmons, believed in returning to a more primitive observation of Christianity as modeled by the New Testament.

Many Mennonites and Amish were driven into exile in Europe during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and were forced to adapt new agricultural practices to cultivate the unproductive, mountainous lands into which they were driven. Forced to adapt, the Amish and Mennonites developed new methods of planting and fertilizing, becoming skilled farmers able to make the most hostile of terrain bountiful.

The Amish, originally Mennonite themselves, broke away from the latter group due to religious differences and created their own movement. Named after the Mennonite leader in Switzerland, Jakob Ammon, the Amish committed themselves to a pure and simple lifestyle, and would excommunicate any members who did not uphold Amish beliefs or conduct themselves according to Amish practice.

Soon after the schism that occurred between the Mennonites and Amish, both groups began immigrating to the New World. Thousands were drawn to settle in Pennsylvania during the late eighteenth century. Though they were surrounded by other cultural groups, the Amish were able to preserve their unique cultural heritage including the German language, agricultural practice, and craftsmanship, primarily through maintaining a close knit, isolated community that banned marriage with “outsiders.”

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century the Amish began migrating to Ohio from Pennsylvania, Canada, Maryland, and Virginia.

Most Amish settled in northeastern Ohio, and those migrating from Pennsylvania took with them their own language, Pennsylvania Dutch, a German dialect which is still spoken today.

The Amish make their living through farming, crafts, or other skilled trades. Most still live simple lives and wear simple dress, refusing modern technologies such as the automobile, telephones, photographs, and electricity. Some more liberal Amish are willing to use some of today’s modern conveniences, but will not marry outside of the faith, nor participate in elections or the military. The Amish are concerned with protecting their way of life, and are careful to avoid assimilation.

Video Synopsis

In this *Our Ohio* heritage segment, the hosts visit an Amish community in Holmes County, Ohio and speak with community members about Amish beliefs and way of life.

Learning Objective

Students will view the video segment "Ohio Amish," examine primary sources and maps, compare and contrast communities, learn about how the Amish originally immigrated to America, then migrated to Ohio, and take a quiz to learn about Amish beliefs and society .





Ohio Academic Content Standards

Grade

3

Benchmark: People in Societies

1. Compare some of the cultural practices and products of various groups of people who have lived in the local community including:
 - a. Artistic expression
 - b. Religion
 - c. Language
3. Describe settlement patterns of various cultural groups within the local community.

Benchmark: Social Studies Skills and Methods

1. Obtain information about local issues from a variety of sources including:
 - a. Maps
 - c. Documents

Grade

4

Benchmark: People in Societies

1. Describe the cultural practices and products of various groups who have settled in Ohio over time:
 - d. Amish and Appalachian populations
3. Explain the reasons people came to Ohio including:
 - a. Opportunities in agriculture, mining, and manufacturing
 - c. Freedom from religious and political oppression

Grade

5

Benchmark: People in Societies

1. Compare the cultural practices and products of diverse groups in North America including:
 - b. Religion
 - c. Language
 - d. Food
 - e. Clothing

Materials

- Overhead Projector

Teacher Vocabulary

Amish	persecution	assimilation
migration	immigration	German
Protestant Reformation		

Procedure

ACTIVITY A: Amish in Ohio

1. Start by writing the word Amish on the board.
2. Ask students what images come into their minds when they read the word Amish. After the students have finished brainstorming, write their responses on the board.
3. Write the word "immigrant" on the board; explain to the class that immigrants are people who come to a new country to live. Ask students what reasons people might have for leaving their home to travel hundreds or even thousands of miles to come and live in a totally new place (opportunity, work, land, escape persecution, religious freedom, war, etc.). Write these responses on the board. Next, remind students that all newcomers to North America were at one time immigrants.
4. Based on the information in the overview, describe how the Anabaptists, and the Amish specifically, came to America to find religious freedom and opportunity for farmland. Next describe the core beliefs of the Amish, and how their communities differ from most modern communities and why.
5. Explain to students that Amish communities have existed in Ohio for over 200 years and that there are over twenty-one counties in Ohio that are home to the Amish. The largest Amish community is located in Holmes County, Ohio.
6. Show the *Our Ohio* video clip, "The Ohio Amish."
7. After viewing the video segment, pass out **Worksheet A** and have students work individually or in groups to complete.

ACTIVITY B: Get to the Source with Music

1. Start by asking students how immigrants to new countries preserve their heritage and write their responses on the board. (answers should include: music, language, art, dance, recipes, stories etc.). While most immigrants eventually assimilate, the Amish have preserved their culture by remaining isolated.
2. Next, explain to students that the Amish have been handing down hymns, or religious music, for hundreds of years. These songs, from a hymnal collection called the *Ausbund*, were written by the early Amish in their European homelands.





3. Explain to the students that Amish typically do not play instruments, and their music is unaccompanied. Most of the songs are sung in a monotone with no melody.
4. Now, read aloud the Amish hymn *Es sind zween Weg* – a hymn taken from the *Ausbund*. (Phonetic spelling of the German is included to help with pronunciation.) Use an overhead Elmo projector to display the song from **Worksheet B: Get to the Source with Music**, or distribute as a handout and read aloud as a class.
5. After reading the song to the students, read the song out loud together as a class. Direct students to chant the song without any voice inflection and remain monotone.
6. Next read the song aloud again, but this time to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Then ask students to discuss how this changed the mood of the song.
7. Finally have students answer the questions based on the song.

ACTIVITY B: Get to the Source with Photographs

1. Start by describing how primary source photographs contain information we can use to learn things about the past and the world around us.
2. Remind students about the core beliefs of the Amish, particularly their refusal to use electricity, have their pictures taken – especially their faces, their simple dress, and way of life.
3. Next, divide students into groups of two or three and pass out **Worksheet B: Get to the Source with Photographs**. Have students work in groups to analyze the photographs and answer the questions.

ACTIVITY C: Community Comparison

1. As students saw in the video segment, Amish communities differ from our own. Explain to students that they, too, live in a community, and that all communities are special in their own way.
2. Next, explain that, because of their religious beliefs, the Amish have chosen a "plain," or simple lifestyle. For this reason they do not use most modern conveniences like electricity, cars, or telephones –nor do they like their photographs to be taken. They also dress simply, and even avoid using buttons –which are too modern—in favor of "hook and eye" fasteners.
3. Finally, distribute the graphic organizer (**Worksheet C**) and direct students to compare Amish communities with their own.

ACTIVITY D: Amish Quiz

1. Students can test their knowledge of Amish culture by taking the *Amish Quiz*. This can be done together as a class using an overhead projector or distributed as a handout.
2. The class can also be divided into two teams. Each team will answer ten questions. The team that answers the most questions correctly wins.



Answer Key

WORKSHEET A: Amish in Ohio

1. Northeast
2. Teacher must determine based on location
3. The Amish do not live in the cities
4. The Amish live in rural areas with plenty of farmland
5. Pennsylvania borders Ohio on the east
6. Holmes, Wayne, Knox, Coshocton, Tuscarawas, and Geauga Counties
7. Holmes
8. Geauga

WORKSHEET B: Get to the Source with Music

1. Two ways refers to the Amish way, a simple or "plain" life, and the way of those who do not share their beliefs
2. The Amish follow the narrow way. They would not follow the broad way because that would mean accepting modern conveniences and other things contrary to Amish belief
3. The song tells us that the Amish are from a German speaking heritage; the Amish still speak in German to some degree
4. b. A religious song that teaches a lesson

WORKSHEET B: Get to the Source with Photographs

1. He is repairing farm equipment
2. The electric light bulb is out of place because the Amish do not believe in using electricity. Reasons could be that he belongs to a less conservative/strict Amish group.

This man might have a job plying a trade for a non-Amish company. This could be a building that is originally not Amish; the electricity might not be used. (note:

according to the bibliographic information associated with this photo, the latter explanation is true, though all reasons would be reasonable explanations.)

3. Because of Amish belief about photographs, its surprising that he has allowed a picture to be taken of his face
4. You can see that there is a grocery store and a clothing store
5. Most of the people have traveled to the stores in cars
6. The Amish man and woman would not have driven, but rather have taken a horse and buggy
7. They would definitely not be going to the clothing store; the clothes in these stores would not agree with their beliefs
8. The photographer might have taken their picture from behind because they did not allow him or her to take a picture of their face
9. No, the Amish would still be dressed in the same way
10. They may have come to the town to sell produce, possibly to see the doctor



ACTIVITY C: Community Comparisons

Amish: Your Community:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Do not use electricity | 1. Use electricity |
| 2. Attend school to the 8th grade | 2. Will likely attend high school and even college |
| 3. Wear simple dress | 3. Shop at malls, wear the latest fashion |
| 4. Speak German at home | 4. Some students may speak German at home,
Spanish etc. |
| 5. Do not use modern technology like computers | 5. Use technology daily |
| 6. Attend Amish schools | 6. Attend public schools, some private |
| 7. Attend church services at home | 7. Attend religious services at community institution
(temple, mosque, church etc) |
| 8. Play with home-made toys | 8. Play with toys from stores |
| 9. Girls must cover their head with prayer cap
(bonnet) | 9. Many girls do not need to wear head coverings,
some may wear a head scarf |
| 10. Drive horse and buggy
(Other answers may be acceptable) | 10. Drive cars, or parents drive cars |

ACTIVITY D:

Amish Quiz

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. T | 11. T |
| 2. T | 12. T |
| 3. F | 13. F |
| 4. F | 14. T |
| 5. T | 15. T |
| 6. T | 16. T |
| 7. T | 17. T |
| 8. F | 18. T |
| 9. T | 19. T |
| 10. T | 20. T |

THE OHIO AMISH



WORKSHEET A Amish in Ohio

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

1. Locate Holmes County on the map of Ohio (**Map A**). Where is Holmes County in relation to Columbus, the state capital?

2. Find the town you live in on the map. If you do not see your town, find the closest town to your own. Do you live in or near an Ohio county with an Amish community?

3. Look at the locations of Ohio's major cities. Then, look at where the Amish have settled. What do you notice about where the Amish live versus the locations of the cities?

4. What reasons might the Amish have for not living in cities?

5. Many Amish people migrated from Pennsylvania to Ohio. Locate Pennsylvania on the map. Where is Pennsylvania in relation to Ohio?

6. Find and list the six counties with the largest Amish populations.

7. According to the map, which county has the largest Amish community?

8. Use the compass rose to describe which county with an Amish community is the farthest north.



WORKSHEET B

Get to the Source with Music

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Music and songs are another type of primary source. They can tell us many things about a culture. Singing songs is one way Amish parents teach their children their beliefs. From nursery rhymes to religious hymns, music is important to Amish life.

Religious music is very important to the Amish. The Amish still sing songs from a hymn book called the *Ausbund* which is over five hundred years old. Below is a song from the *Ausbund* that is still sung by the Amish today. Think about the meaning of the song, and also use your knowledge about the Amish to help answer the questions.

"Es sind zween Weg"

**Es sind zween weg in dieser Zeit,
Der ein ist schmal, der ander welt,
Wer Jetzt will gehn die schmale Bahn,
Der wird veracht von jeder mann.**

(Phonetic pronunciation)

**S zint zveen veg in deez air Zite
Dair ine ist shmall dair on-dair velt
vair yetst vill gain dee schmalla Bon,
Dair veert fair-ahcht fon yay-dair mon**

"There are Two Ways"

**There are two ways in this our day,
One narrow, and the other broad,
Who will go the narrow path,
Will be despised by all aboard.**

1. Think about Amish beliefs. What do you think the song means by "there are two ways?"

2. Do you think the Amish follow the "narrow" way, or the "broad" way?

3. This song is in German. What can this tell you about the Amish?

4. Songs can be used for many reasons such as entertainment, to tell stories, to teach lessons, or religious beliefs. What type of song do you think this is?
 - a. A lullaby to make babies sleep
 - b. A religious song that teaches a lesson
 - c. A rock song for entertainment
 - d. A song to dance to

WORKSHEET B:
Get to the Source with Photographs

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

The Amish believe in a simple way of life and do not use electricity, watch television, or drive automobiles. They also dress in plain, simple, clothes and do not approve of having their photographs taken for religious reasons, especially their faces. However, some Amish are stricter than others. Different groups of Amish differ slightly in their beliefs.

Pictures and photographs can tell us many things about the past and the world around us. Below are two pictures of Amish people taken fifty years ago. Look closely at both pictures to answer the questions on page 11.



(Photos Courtesy of The Library of Congress)

THE OHIO AMISH



WORKSHEET B: Get to the Source with Photographs continued

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

1. Look at the photo on the left. What does the Amish man in the photo appear to be doing?

2. Is there anything in the photo you would not expect to find in an Amish home or building? What reason might there be for its presence?

3. Based on your knowledge of Amish beliefs, is there something that surprised you about the man in the picture?

4. Look at the photo on the right. What types of stores can you identify from the picture?

5. Based on what you see in the photo, how did most people travel to these stores?

6. Find the Amish man and woman in the photo. How do you think they traveled to the store?

7. To which store would the man and woman likely NOT be going?

8. What might be a good reason for the photographer taking the photo of the Amish man and woman from behind?

9. This photograph was taken in 1944. Do you think the Amish man and woman would be dressed any differently in 2006?

10. Why do you think the man and woman have come to the town?



Find the original document at: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/fsowhome.html>

THE OHIO AMISH



WORKSHEET C Community Comparison

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Instructions: Compare Amish communities to your own community by filling out the graphic organizer. Think of ten differences between the way the Amish live and the way you live in your community and write your answer in the correct column.

Amish Community	Your Community



**WORKSHEET D:
How Much do You Know?**

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Read the following sentences about the Amish and circle T for true, or F for False.

- | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|---|
| 1. T F | Many Amish only speak German at home. | 13. T F | The Amish never use modern technology. |
| 2. T F | Amish travel in a horse and buggy. | 14. T F | The Amish do not like to be photographed. |
| 3. T F | Amish children attend public school. | 15. T F | The Amish originally come from Switzerland. |
| 4. T F | Amish men often join the military. | 16. T F | The Amish do not use zippers or buttons. |
| 5. T F | The Amish hold church services in their homes. | 17. T F | The Amish still use horses to plow their fields. |
| 6. T F | Most Amish children only attend school to the eighth grade. | 18. T F | The Amish will visit doctors and stay in hospitals when necessary. |
| 7. T F | Most Amish do not attend college. | 19. T F | The largest Amish community in the world is in Holmes County, Ohio. |
| 8. T F | The Amish watch TV. | 20. T F | The Amish are peaceful and do not believe in violence. |
| 9. T F | The Amish follow a plain and simple lifestyle and do not wear jewelry, make up, or modern clothing. | | |
| 10. T F | Most Amish make a living by farming or skilled trades. | | |
| 11. T F | Amish live in rural communities. | | |
| 12. T F | Most Amish do not vote in elections. | | |

