

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION ACTIVITY

Living with an Indigenous Family

Jayson McNamara is an Australian journalist, writer, and a TV production editor who lives in Buenos Aires. He is passionate about traveling and history. In his blog he shares his experience living with an indigenous family in Ecuador. He says that South American indigenous communities are very distinct and provides some tips to keep in mind when you live with an indigenous host family in Ecuador.

Faith

In Ecuador, many types of mixed religious expressions are possible. They have their roots in both history and nature, with the Spanish having implanted their European religion and the indigenous population having maintained a strong spiritual connection to the land.

Pachamama

The Pachamama, otherwise known as Mother Earth and also referred to as Mama Pacha, is an Andean spiritual figure from ancient Incan society where she was considered the bearer of fertility, as seen in her influence over the harvests. Throughout the year in Ecuador, spiritual practices in indigenous communities see the Pachamama help with good harvests.

Gender

Gender roles are different in indigenous families, especially when it comes to the role of women. Native women have important leadership roles within indigenous families and communities, taking charge of household finances, participating actively in agriculture, and taking on the role of curanderos, or spiritual healers.

Medicine

In indigenous Ecuador, traditional and natural medicine dominates. They rely on a variety of plants to cure common illnesses. In the culture of Otavalo, for example, people believe that illness is caused by four things: fright, evil wind, evil spirits, or foreign objects.

- **Choose the correct option**

1. What does Jayson McNamara state about South American indigenous communities?

- a) He mentions that the communities are very distinct and provides some tips to keep in mind when you live with an indigenous host family in Ecuador.
- b) He argues that the communities around South America do not provide any help related to live with an indigenous host family in Ecuador.
- c) He says that the all communities of South America keep in secret their traditions and customs from the strangers.

2. In Ecuadorian indigenous communities exist types of mixed religious expressions. Where these mixed expressions come from?

- a) They have their roots in both Language and family.
- b) They have their roots in both location and daily life.
- c) They have their roots in both history and nature.

3. How Pachamama is defined?

- a) Pachamama is considered as the goddess of the oceans
- b) It is considered as a spiritual entity that provides support to the poor people
- c) It is an Andean spiritual figure from ancient Incan society where she was considered the bearer of fertility

4. What are the important roles of women in communities?

- a) Participate in the growth and care of children, help in hunting and gathering food.
- b) Taking charge of household finances, participating actively in agriculture, and taking on the role of curanderos, or spiritual healers.
- c) Help in the economy of the household in financial aspects, distribute the correct use of food resources, clothing.

5. In the culture of Otavalo people believe that illness is caused by four things:

- a) Hunger, parasites, spirits and the moon
- b) Sun, cold, rain and the night
- c) Fright, evil wind, evil spirits, or foreign objects.