

LIVING AND LEARNING ON THE ROAD

What's life on the road really like and what can we learn from it? This week's special feature looks at two teenagers who live life on the road, and what they've learned.



Cameron Davis is from Toronto and he's been on the road with his parents and his brother for as long as he can remember. By the time he was 13, he had visited more than 45 countries on six continents.

He hasn't been sitting in a classroom and reading about things in books. He learns about the places he wants to visit online. He then uses that information to make his experience more active and interesting while he's there. He's learning, but in a different way. Being on the road all the time means Cameron has met a lot of people and made new friends. He isn't as shy as he used to be and he's able to express his opinions more easily, especially with his family. He hasn't been afraid to try new activities, and this has helped build his confidence. He also enjoys trying different kinds of food. Seeing households where people depend on each other to survive means that Cameron looks at things from a different perspective now. He understands more about sharing chores like cooking and cleaning. Cameron also takes more responsibility now. For example, he packs his own suitcase. If he forgets something, he can't blame his parents! He knows travel involves risks, but it's about choosing the good risks and becoming more independent.

Réka Kaponay is from Australia and she's been travelling the world with her parents and twin brother since she was ten. After exploring their own country, their plane touched down in the US in 2012. Since then, she's visited more than 50 countries across six continents.

Réka and her brother don't go to school like most kids. They focus on what they are interested in or feel passionate about. They don't do exams or tests, but they are always learning new things – they're life learners. Spending all her time with her family, working with them and facing challenges together means Réka is stronger, more adaptable and more open to things around her now. Getting to know people has also been an important part of being on the road. Local people know the places where they live better than anyone else and can teach you about places, food and cultures from their perspective. Réka has learned more from the people who live in the places she's visited than from guidebooks, which has helped her to understand other people's opinions and perspectives better.

Réka has followed her dreams and she has written two books and has given talks on them. She wants to encourage other people to share stories, learn about each other's cultures and inspire other writers to tell their stories.



READING

1 Read the article and tick (✓) the topics mentioned.

- 1 friends from home
- 2 school and education
- 3 keeping in touch with people
- 4 learning from other people
- 5 skills you develop
- 6 speaking a different language
- 7 telling stories

2 Read the article again. Mark the questions C (Cameron), R (Réka) or B (both).

Who ...

- 1 has learned a lot outside a classroom?
- 2 has become more independent?
- 3 has become stronger as a result of different challenges?
- 4 thinks taking risks is part of travel?
- 5 wants to inspire other people, especially writers?
- 6 has learned from other people to see things from a different perspective?

3 CRITICAL THINKING Read the opinions.

Do you agree with them? Why / Why not?

Think of reasons.

- 1 'Education is better in schools and classrooms. You can't learn on the road.'
- 2 'Learning in the school of life won't help when you want to find a job in the future.'
- 3 'Teenagers need structure which they can only find through school.'
- 4 'Parents who travel round the world with their children are selfish. They're only thinking of themselves.'

4 Imagine you live life on the road. Write a short paragraph (50–80 words) about the most important thing you have learned so far.