HOW DO AMISH PEOPLE LIVE?

1. _____The Amish is a group of people who see farming as a way of life. They live in Pennsylvania Dutch Country. Amish's farms are the most productive ones. The Amish are called "plain people" because of their simple lifestyle and the plain clothes they always wear. There is a community in Uruguay.
2. _____ Amish women and girls wear modest dresses with long sleeves and a long skirt. They never cut their hair, which they wear in a bun on the back of the head. Amish women do not wear jewelry.

Men and boys wear dark-coloured suits, suspenders and black hats. The Amish feel these distinctive clothes represent humility and separation from the world.

3. _____The Amish are against any technology which they feel weakens the family structure. They don't like electricity because electricity can bring many temptations and the deterioration of family life. Most of them don't have telephones and boys and girls always ride their bikes to go to school. They prefer to live in rural environments.

In Uruguay they don't have television or internet, the only technological device is the mobile phone, and only adults have it.

4. _____ In their homes and in conversation with each other, Amish people speak Pennsylvania Dutch, which is a dialect from German. When children go to school they learn English. Amish community is one of the largest groups in Pennsylvania Dutch Country.
5. _____ The most important social unit in the Amish culture is the family. Large families with seven to ten children are common. The father usually works on the farm, while the mother does the washing, cleaning, cooking and other activities. Amish marry Amish - no intermarriage is allowed. Divorce is not permitted and separation is very rare.
6. _____ In Uruguay, there is a group of Mennonites since 1948. They are partly descendants of German immigrants and partly Uruguayans. They are integrated to the society. There is a tendency to marry outside the Mennonite community. The immigrants established three agricultural settlements, that have organized separate producer-consumer cooperatives. Each settlement has a school, retirement center, and a hospital.

- El Ombú, founded 1950 is in Río Negro
- Gartental, founded 1952 is in Río Negro
- Colonia Delta, founded 1955 is in San José
- Colonia Nicolich is in Canelones, northeast of the Carrasco Airport, is specialised in produce.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

ACTIVITIES:

1. **Read the text quickly, and choose a title for each paragraph. Write the title in the blank:**

   a) What language do the Amish speak?

   b) Technology and electricity

   c) Amish family life

   d) Personality

   e) A variety in our country

   f) Location and lifestyle

   g) Education and work

   h) Clothes and physical appearance

2. **Read the text and say if the statements are TRUE, FALSE or if it DOESN'T SAY. Correct the false statements.**

a) Amish women usually have short hair.

b) They value urban life.

c) Technology is not considered harmful for family structure.

d) Domestic responsibilities are clearly divided by gender.

e) They can marry with people from other religion.

f) They have only one child.

g) Children receive a different education.

h) Mennonites and Amish don't have differences.

3. **In pairs or groups of three: Think about the Amish community… Write sentences about some advantages and disadvantages of their lifestyle**. In the box you have some ideas to consider.

Clothes **Family**

Gender roles

Environment

Technology **Education**

LIVEWORKSHEETS