

A For the classroom or at home: Discussion



Native peoples are people who were born in a place, or who were the first people living there. In the Amazon River rainforest in South America they are called Indians. There are many different tribes who have lived there for thousands of years. Some of them live so deep inside the forest that they have never seen people from the outside world. In one part of South America, people say, "In the Jungle, the Indian knows everything." Indians live well in the rain forest because they understand and respect their environment. They know which trees to use to make canoes, which plants to use for food, oils, and fibres for making cloth, and which ones make medicines. They grow crops by using an ancient system of agriculture that does not harm the forest. They also fish and hunt, but they never take more from the forest than they need in order to live. The Indians know which animals are near before they see them, from their footprints, their sounds, and their smells. They live in peace with their environment and do not have things like computers or cell phones or cars. Think about what your life would be like if you lived in a rainforest or in a place where you had no modern houses or electronic tools like computers and phones. Would you go to school? Would you have games to play? What activities would you do with your family and friends?

►► **Discuss with your parents and / or your friends the kinds of things you would do every day, what you would eat and what kinds of lessons you would learn.**

B For the classroom: Debate

Form three groups: two groups of two to four and an audience. The two smaller groups will debate which life style is better and the audience will vote on which they agree with most. Both teams must back up their opinions with facts.

Decide which kind of life style you think is better:

Team A's life style:

- Living in a world of technology with computers, cell phones, cars and other modern machines which make life easy.

Team B's life style:

- Living in a rainforest or other natural place away from the modern world where technology does not exist and where you must rely on nature for everything.

For example:

Team A, Student 1: I like the modern world. I need my computer to do my homework and I need my cell phone to talk to my friends.

Team B, Student 1: Yes, but think how nice it would be to live in a place where it's peaceful and calm. We don't have air pollution in the rainforest and the only noise is from the animals!

Team A, Student 2: But what would we eat? You can't get burgers in the rainforest!