

The Amish Experience
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Meeting State Academic Standards

The world of the Amish is ideal to the teaching of the State's academic standards. For example, the standards for **GEOGRAPHY** look at applying skills and knowledge to life situations at home at work and in the community, cross-walked with those in civics and government, economics and history. The Amish community is a microcosm to be explored and compared with that of the student.

In this regard, the four **HISTORY** standard statements can be incorporated easily into a study of Amish culture:

- a) Political and cultural contributions of individuals and groups
- b) Material artifacts and historical places
- c) How community and change has influenced history
- d) Conflict and cooperation among social groups and organizations

And for Pennsylvania History, our Amish country field trip programs touch on the complete grasp of the standard.

Pennsylvania History Standard 8.2

8.2.9.C – Identify and analyze how continuity and change have influenced Pennsylvania history from 1787 to 1914. Consider belief systems and religions such as the Amish, the Ephrata Cloister, and the Harmonists.

The Amish Experience will provide excellent touring opportunities for students of all age and grade levels, with educational experiences reinforcing the Pa Dept of Ed's standards as well as opening new horizons for discovering their own local heritage. The Amish community is not a long-lost historical artifact, but is alive and constantly visiting the idea of keeping traditions and cultural continuity in the face of change and progress.

In the **HUMANITIES**, the Amish world is a place to explore problem solving skills as the Amish adapt to new technologies, analytical skills necessary to evaluate and critique a media-saturated culture, the comprehension of basic symbol systems and abstract concepts, while a very different way of doing things challenges students to be more creative in their thinking.

**Excellent study guide available, prepared with the assistance of local teachers,
free-of charge when booking your school trip with us.**

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