

## Living In a Small Village

My name is Lidia and I've been living in a small village since the day I was born. I think that you won't deny the fact that less than a couple of centuries ago all of us were villagers. And I am still one of them. On the whole I like living here, but there are problems even today. For example, my school is six kilometres away from my village and I spend more than an hour on the bus travelling to and back from school. That's very boring. It's also difficult to find things to do in the village. There isn't a sports club and there aren't any discos here, and the last bus to our village from the nearest town is at 6 p.m. There are only three buses a day, so we are a bit isolated here. The village changes a lot in summer. Normally, about 300 people live here, but in July and August you can count about 600 people here. Some of the visitors were born here and they come to visit their relatives; others are tourists who stop here in their cars. I don't like the summer because there are too many people in our place. Also, the traffic on the main village road is bad in the summer, and it's dangerous to ride your bike. In other seasons one of the advantages of living in a village is that you don't have traffic problems, and you don't have pollution, at least in winter. Another advantage is that you know everybody in the village and people help each other. So you always feel part of the community. Most of the people know each other well, so you seldom suffer from loneliness which people often experience in big cities. I can't but mention as well that the landscape in my area is a gift of nature. My village is one of those beautiful places in Belarus which you will enjoy visiting or spending a holiday in. Lake Narochny, which is only 60 kilometres away from my village, is really fantastic. There are lovely sandy beaches and the water in the lake is crystal clear. We occasionally go there on a hiking holiday with my class. I love the place where I've spent my childhood, but I want a change. I'm thinking of a possibility to settle down in a big city like Minsk or Grodno, for example, I am going to enter the university. I want to qualify as a doctor. And later I'll probably come back to my village or the nearest town to it as my native land is very important for me. Time will show. Of course, the majority of population nowadays lives in cities and towns. But the interviews carried out for television show that most people living an urban life say that the country is better and country life is superior to town life. And many more people living in towns now have the opportunity to live in the country. They either have property there, called "dachas" or rent houses for holidays. But unfortunately, some people from the town living in the country do not know the "rules" of country life and refuse to learn. Very often they destroy the countryside by leaving litter in forests and along the roads, which is no good at all, as it destroys the purity of the countryside. In my opinion both the city and the country are attractive places to live in as soon as they are well- preserved by people who live in them and people are happy there.

**1. Answer the questions.** 1. What does the girl find boring for her? 2. Why can't young people in her village go to the disco? 3. How does life change in her village in summer? 4. What does she like about life in a village? 5. What does she say about the attraction of the area where she lives? 6. Is the girl going to stay in her village for the rest of her life? What is her major ambition? 7. Why are many people willing to settle down in the country these days? 8. What makes the girl say that people coming to her village don't observe the "rules" of country life?

**2. Say which of the girl's statements you agree or disagree with.** 1. In a village, it's difficult to find things to do at the weekend. 2. Life in a village is different in summer and in winter. 3. Life in a village is attractive because people are friendly and helpful. 4. Those young people who move to cities are always lonely. 5. Belarusian landscape is exceptionally beautiful. 6. People coming to villages do harm to the environment. 7. People's happiness depends more on what you are than on where you are.

**3. Say if these words are used in the text as positive or negative descriptions of life in the country. Give the corresponding sentences from the text.** spend two hours on the bus; enough things to do; the village changes a lot in summer; have traffic problems; you know everybody; suffer from loneliness; have property; rules of country life; purity of the countryside.

**4. Say what looks attractive to you about life in a city and in the country. Support your ideas with arguments from the texts.**