

Living Conditions

Situation of the family

Hey! My name is Elisabeth. I'm 14 years old and I live with my family on a farm in Steinbach.

The members of my family are my parents, my two brothers David and Mathias and me.

Though we quarrel a lot, I really like them. My mum is a teacher and my dad is a farmer. One of my grandmothers lives in our house too. I also have got a lot of aunts, uncles and cousins.

On our farm we have cats, cows and pigs. Near of us there are mountains, but where we live it's "only" very hilly. Around our house are meadows and woods. We have got a lot of apple-, plum-, cherry-, apricot-, peach- and pear trees. In front of the house there is a garden, a sandpit, a swing and a place where we spend much time in summer. Luckily our house is quite big, so everybody has got an own room. My grandma lives downstairs in her own apartment, we live upstairs.



Daily life (weekend)

My weekend isn't very exciting usually. On Saturday I sleep late. I get up at about nine o' clock. Then I have breakfast. Before lunch I have to help with the housework. In the afternoon I do my home exercise, learn for school, meet friends, chat on the internet or I just relax. On Sundays my family usually go to church. In the afternoon we meet friends or relatives or we just enjoy a nice day.

Typical family festivals and traditions

We have a lot of traditional family festivals.

I will describe Christmas:

My home village "Steinbach" is beautifully decorated. There is a big Christmas tree, our special giant advent calendar, a crib exhibition and the advent market. There are lights everywhere. That looks extremely romantic when it dawns.



At the beginning of December my mum starts baking some different kinds of biscuits. I help her and grandma with the cleaning, try to tidy up my own room and tinker about Christmas presents. A few times a week we celebrate advent. Then we light the candles on our advent wreath, sing and pray.

The day before Christmas my dad and my brothers go in our wood to get the Christmas tree. We all help together to decorate it.

24th of December is Christmas Eve. In the afternoon we attend Christmas mass in the church. When we come home we walk through the house with burning incense and holy water and say prayers in each room. In the evening we have our traditional Christmas dinner: fried sausages. Then we sing and pray in front of the Christmas tree and the crib. And then we get our presents and play with them for the rest of the evening.

On the next two days we celebrate Christmas at my two grandmothers with our relatives. I really love those three Christmas days.

Other festivals are Easter, All Saint's Day, New Year's Eve and special birthdays.



Typical food and drinks



Healthy food is very important for our family. My mum cooks vegetable dishes nearly every day. And nearly everything tastes wonderful. In summer we often have plum- or apricot dumplings because we own some plum- and apricot trees. We have also got several kinds of jam made by mum.

In autumn we make our own apple- and elderberry juice. Mum always mixes some other fruits like different berries for juice. It is typical for our food, that most of it is organic! The cooking is done by mum or grandma. Only at the weekend we eat lunch all together because during the week my brother and I come home from school late. We go to restaurants very rarely. Only when we are on holiday or there is something special to celebrate. But we never go to very fancy restaurants because we prefer eating in a relaxed atmosphere.

