

● What is the difference between nature, countryside and the environment?

Nature is everything that is naturally made / not man-made (e.g. plants, trees, animals, hills and rivers). The countryside is an area of land that doesn't have many people / houses / cars there. There are fields / farms / mountains. It is the opposite of the city. The environment is everything in the world around us that is important for life on earth – water, air, plants and animals.

● Do you prefer to live in the countryside or a city, and why?

I like living / I prefer to live in a town / city... because there are more things to do / places to go / I can see my friends easily. I love living in the countryside. I like... being close to nature / going for long walks / living on a farm. I like both, I like to live in a town but I visit the countryside often / every weekend. We often go for a walk / hike in the countryside.

● What are the positive things about living in the countryside?

There is fresh air / less pollution / more space. It is clean. You can feel relaxed / calm. You can enjoy beautiful walks / see lovely views / see wild animals / enjoy walks. It is much healthier to live in the countryside. You can eat lots of home-grown / locally grown fruit and vegetables.

● What are the negatives?

You can feel quite isolated / alone because there is no one to talk to. If you need anything, you have to drive to the nearest town to get it. There are no big shops / cinemas / places to go. It can take you a long time to get to school and you have to take a bus / train every day.

● What can you do in the countryside?

There are lots of activities. You can go for a walk / hike / climb the mountains. You can watch birds / animals. Many people go camping / sleep... in tents / in the open air.

● What do farmers grow in the countryside?

There are lots of different crops. For example, wheat and corn for bread / rape seed or sunflowers for oil.

Farmers grow fruit like apples / peaches / cherries or vegetables like carrots / potatoes / onions / tomatoes / broccoli / cauliflower.

● What kind of farm animals can you find?

On farms people keep / raise cows / sheep or horses in the fields. You might have goats for milk / chickens for eggs / turkeys / ducks / geese / rabbits for meat. There might be a farm dog / cat.

● What kind of wild animals can you find?

In the Czech Republic you can find wild boars / foxes / hares / deer in the forest. There are also lots of wild birds like pheasants / wild geese / owls and ducks. Sometimes you might see a stork, which has its nest high up on a chimney.

● What types of trees and flowers are there in the countryside?

In villages / farms there are lots of fruit trees in the garden, e.g. apple / pear / plum trees. In the forest you can find trees with needles (evergreen trees) like pine (= borovice) / spruce (= smrč) / fir (= jedle). Trees that have leaves (deciduous trees) are oak (= dub) / maple (= javor) / linden tree (AmE) (= lípa). Some flowers that grow in the countryside include dandelions (= pampelišky) / daisies (= sedmikrásky) / violets (= fialky) / poppies (= vlčí máky).

● Why do you think it's important to protect our countryside and nature?

It's important that we look after the countryside so that... we have somewhere to go to get fresh air / there are places for wild animals to live. We shouldn't pollute the countryside. We need trees and plants for oxygen / we need rivers to take away water so that we don't have flooding.

● What do you do to help the environment?

I recycle waste / I try to sort waste: paper, glass, plastic and bio waste. I also give away clothes which I don't use. People who want to stop air pollution often travel by public transport and by bike. They also don't use planes very often.

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