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<p style="text-align: center;">A Different Kind of Weekend</p> <p>Joel Connor works in an office in Kansas. His job is a typical nine-to-five, Monday-to-Friday job, but on the weekend. He does something different. He does volunteer work. He helps different organizations and people for free. Every weekend, there's a new project. This weekend, Joel is helping to build a house. You can see him in the photo. He's moving a large blue panel. It's part of a wall. Joel isn't a professional builder, but the other people are volunteers too.</p> <p>These "weekend builders" are from the small town of Greensburg in Kansas. A year ago, a tornado hit their town. After the tornado, the community started a project to build new homes. The project is for 30 new homes. They have help from a building company and the volunteers. "I heard about the tornado and the new project. I knew some people in Greensburg so I wanted to help," Joel says. His friends are here this weekend too. They're on the roof. They're working with Jill and Scott Eller. Jill and Scott are building their new house. Jill is standing near her new house. She's holding a part of the new wall. They're making the house "tornado-resistant." That's why it has an unusual shape. The Ellers' house is almost ready, so next weekend, Joel is moving to a different project. Why does he volunteer? "I have time, I can help people, I make friends, and it's fun! So why not?" he says.</p>	

The First Americans

Today there are 23 countries in North, Central, and South America. But five hundred years ago, a large area of South America, including Peru, was part of the Inca Empire. In Central America and Mexico, the Maya people were important. The Aztec empire also ruled in Mexico. In North America, there were different groups in different areas, for example, the Apache, Navajo, and Sioux. Today the name for these different groups is Native Americans. The leaders of these people are still famous today; for example, the last Inca leader Tupac Amaru, the Aztec emperor Moctezuma, and the Apache war hero, Geronimo.

The Apache people were from the south and west of North America. Geronimo was the grandson of an important Apache leader. He was born on June 16, 1829. When Geronimo was a young man, there was a war between Mexico and the U.S., and the Native Americans. At that time, his family's land was part of Mexico. Now, it's part of the U.S.. Geronimo was an Apache war hero. From 1886 until 1909 he was a prisoner of war. But he was also a famous celebrity. He was with President Theodore Roosevelt on March 4, 1905, his first day as president.

Travel Essentials

I'm a travel writer. I usually travel alone, but my family sometimes comes with me. It's difficult because they always have a lot of bags. Look at this photo of our trip to Ecuador. There are eight people and there are about fifteen bags! In my sister's bags there are three jackets, four or five sweaters, seven pairs of pants, and two dresses. There are six or seven books, too. She never travels without books. In my husband's bag there's a pair of boots, a pair of shoes, and a pair of sandals! And his maps. My husband loves maps and he always takes them on trips.

When I travel alone, I take a very small suitcase. There's a pocket for my travel documents and inside there are two parts, one for clothes and one for my laptop. I never travel without my laptop! That's it!