



MY CROSS- CULTURAL EXPERIENCE: ANTIGUA VS. AMERICA

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History & Independence

- Timeline:

1498: Antigua was visited in 1493 by Christopher Columbus, who named it for the Church of Santa Maria de la Antigua in Sevilla, Spain.

1632: It was colonized by English settlers in and remained a British possession although it was raided by the French in **1666**.

1678: The nearby island of Barbuda was colonized. The crown granted the island to the Codrington family in **1685**.

1834: The emancipation in of slaves, who had been employed on the profitable sugar estates, gave rise to difficulties in obtaining labor.

1843: An earthquake in and a hurricane in. **1847** caused further economic problems. Barbuda reverted back to the crown in the late 19th century, and its administration came to be so closely related to that of Antigua that it eventually became a dependency of that island.

1956: The Leeward Islands colony, of which the islands were a part, was defederated and in 1958 Antigua joined the West Indies Federations.



- **1962:** The federation was dissolved in. Antigua persevered with discussions of alternative forms of federation.
- **1967:** Provision was made in the West Indies Act for Antigua to assume a status of association with the United Kingdom on February 27, **1967**.
- **1970s:** Antigua had developed an independence movement, particularly under its prime minister George Walter, who wanted complete independence for the islands and opposed the British plan of independence within a federation of islands.
- **1976:** Walter lost the legislative elections to Vere Bird, who favored regional integration.
- **1978:** Antigua reversed its position and announced it wanted independence. The autonomy talks were complicated by the fact that Barbuda, long a dependency of Antigua, felt that it had been economically stifled by the larger island and wanted to secede.
- **November 1, 1981,** Antigua and Barbuda achieved independence, with Vere Bird as the first prime minister. The state obtained United Nations and Commonwealth membership and joined the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. Bird's Antigua Labor Party (ALP) won again in **1984** and **1989** by overwhelming margins, giving the prime minister firm control of the islands' government.
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Geography & Climate

- Antigua and Barbuda have a tropical climate. It is usually warm and dry all throughout the year.
- Temperatures range from lows of 22°C (72°F) to highs of 40°C (104°F) all year round, with October to January being the hottest time of year, staying in the region of 30°C (86°F) to 35°C (95°F)
- This island is in a hurricane zone so it is high risk for hurricanes and strong storms.
- Antigua & Barbuda is made up of three islands; Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda. Low lying and volcanic in origin. They are part of the Leeward Islands group in the northeast Caribbean.
- Antigua's coastline curves into a multitude of coves and harbors (they were once volcanic craters) and there are more than 365 beaches of fine white sand, fringed with palms

My Culture: What Represents Antigua?



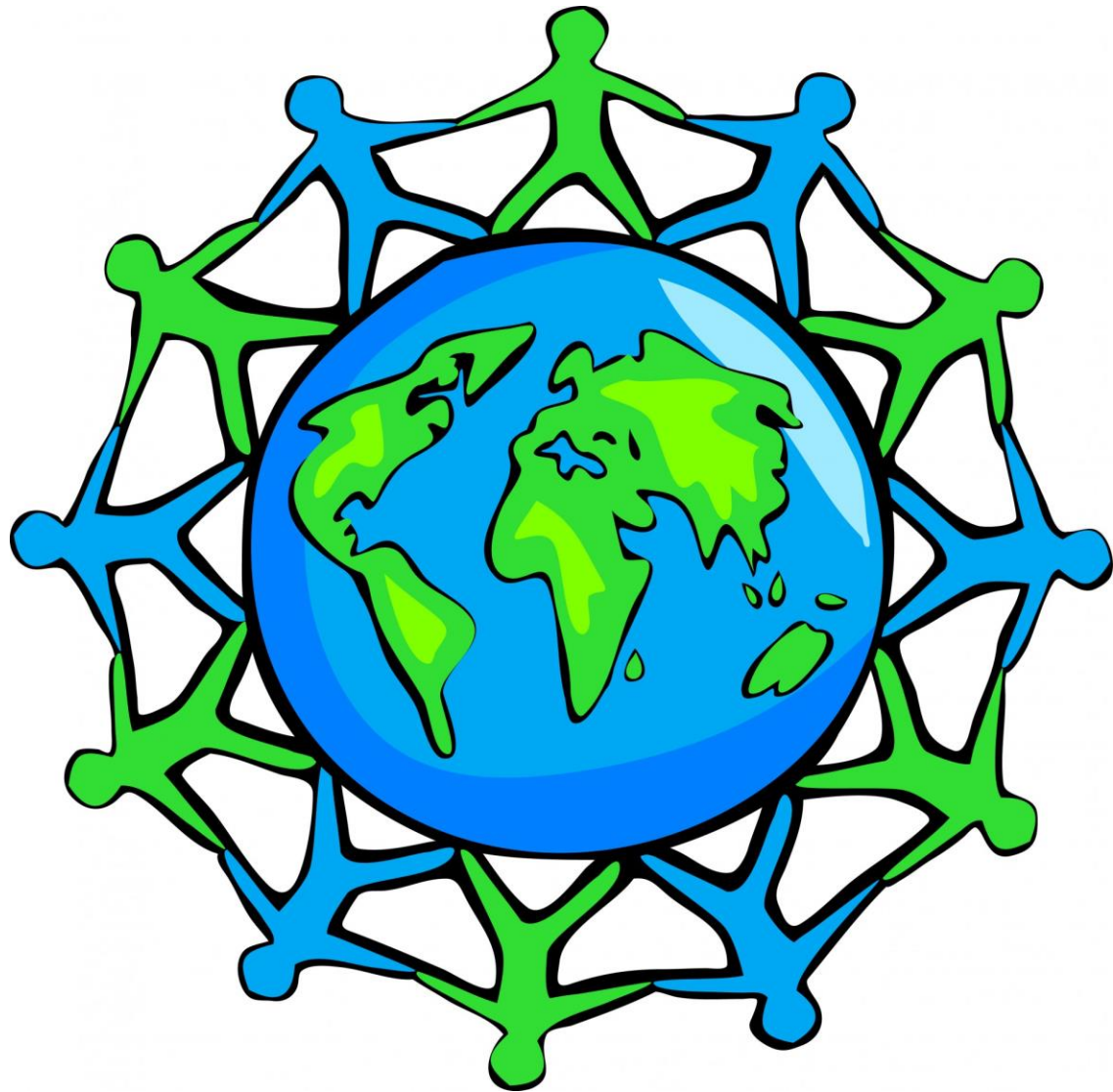
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Representation of Antiguan Flag

- The 7 point golden sun of the Antigua & Barbuda flag represents the dawn of a new era.
- The color red represents the life blood of slave forefathers and the dynamism of the people.
- Blue represents hope
- Black represents the soil and African heritage
- Gold, blue & white represent Antigua's and Barbuda's tourist attractions sun, sea and sand.
- The "V" formed by the red borders represent: "Victory at last."





Social Norms

- It is expected to respect your elders
- Humor is a must given how serious people can be
- Manners are a must
- The whole idea of family and togetherness is something very important
- Religion (Christianity) is very important.

Food

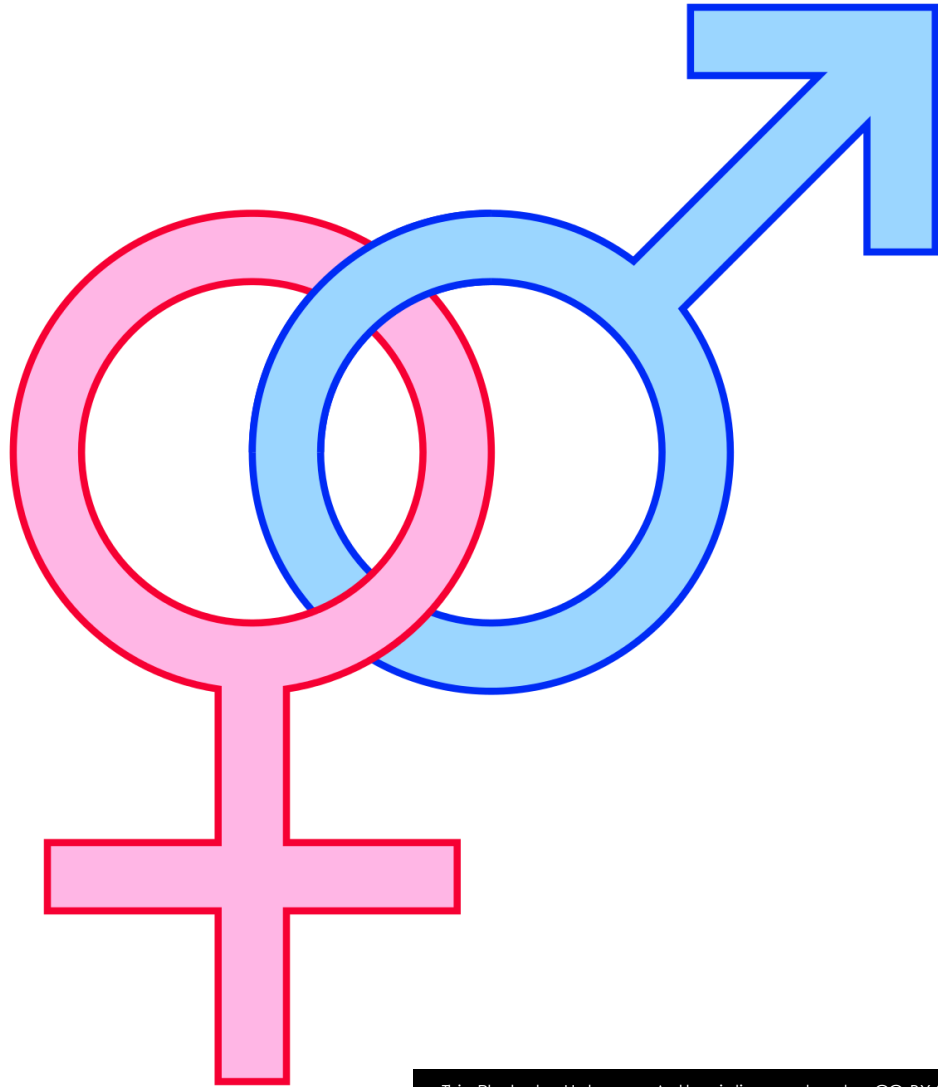
- Most Antiguan dishes are either imported or mainly creole and passed down from parents.
- Throughout the years there has been flooding of American cuisine showing more throughout the area
- Among the more established creole specialties of Antigua and Barbuda are rice pudding, salt fish and antrobers (eggplant; the national breakfast), bull foot soup, souse, maw, goat water, cockle (clam) water, conch water, and Dukuna.



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Celebrations & Holidays

- New Years is usually celebrated with parties and barbecues. Restaurants and clubs have parties and the streets are flooded with dancers, acrobats, etc.
- Vadaldi festival is on February 27. This is a festival of local culture everyone eats, drinks, and has fun.
- Holy Week is celebrated in on the Islands in March and April.



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Gender Roles

- Women are mainly viewed to be housewives.
- Women are expected to take care of children and the home and family
- Men are viewed as the workers
- Men have more authority over women
- There are a lot of sexual harassment cases with mainly men being the harassers.

Cultural Shock in America

- More acceptance and rights within the LGBTQ+ community.
- Femininity prevails(more equality between both genders)
- Accents & Slang
- Clothing/style diversity
- In America you can go to jail just for disciplining your child but in Antigua they don't "spare the rod" (The participate in hitting children as a form of discipline).

Summary

even though I was born and raised in America, based on knowledge for my parents and also doing my own research I feel glad that I was raised in America and not in Antigua. Not only that but being able to see and experience the beauty of both cultures while viewing their differences is amazing. Also cultural shocks and learning and/or experiencing other cultures can help form identity which is very beneficial.

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