



Cross-Cultural Experience
Haitian & American Society
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In order to hear the audio click on the slide show tab and then present slide show. The audio will only play in presentation mode. Thank you.

A close-up, slightly blurred image of the United States flag, showing the stars and stripes. The flag is the background for the top half of the slide.

United States of America

- *Population of 328.2 Million People as of 2019*
- *National Bird is the Bald Eagle*
- *Leader of entertainment in the entire world*



Cuisine



- *Did you Know?*
 - *“In a 2012 survey it was reported that Americans ate: 632 lbs. of dairy products (including 31.4 lbs. of cheese), 415.4 lbs. of vegetables (most popular being corn and potatoes), 273 lbs. of fruit, and 183.6 lbs. of meat and poultry.”*
 - *“Americans consume 31% more packaged food than fresh food.”*
 - *“Americans spend 10% of their disposable income on fast food every year.”*
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- *From my experience American food is among one of the unhealthiest in the world. Food is centered around indulgence more than nourishment.*
 - *Some of my favorite American foods include Macaroni and cheese and Hamburgers.*
 - *America holds one of the most successful fast-food industries in the world, my favorite being Wendy 's.*

Haiti.” Food in Every Country, 2001, www.foodbycountry.com/Germany-to-Japan/Haiti.html.



Did You Know?

- *“ In the United States, each person owns an average of seven pairs of blue jeans. That’s one for every day of the week. ”*
- *“ In America, clothing whether business or casual should always be clean, ironed, and neatly worn. Both men and women in business wear suits. Clothing is not gender specific. ”*



Clothing



- *In my experience clothing in America is unique in the sense that it is not gender specific. It has not always been this way.*
- *Clothing in America can be tied to status. If a person wears a clothing item worth a lot of money it can be assumed, they're financially comfortable.*
- *American clothing is deeply reliant on what is trending. These trends can be recreated from past eras or produced in real time.*

Essman, Elliot. "Life in the USA Everyday Life Clothing." Clothing and Dress Customs in America, from Life in the USA: The Complete Guide for Immigrants and Americans, 2014, www.lifeintheusa.com / everyday / clothing.htm.



Holidays

Did you know?

- *“Americans spend more than \$7 billion on wrapping paper each year, according to Sundale Research.”*
- *“Overall, American consumers will spend more than \$1 trillion for Christmas this year, with almost \$150 billion going to online retailers. The total cost of festive celebrations per household, including food and drink, will be close to \$1,500.”*
- *“The most popular Valentine’s Day flowers are, naturally, roses: 250 million roses are produced for the holiday, the Society of American Florists said. Don’t forget chocolate and candy -- \$1.7 billion is spent on candy alone, the NRF said.”*

- *In my experience American holidays are deeply tied into capitalism. A lot of holidays are celebrated with a great intent to spend money.*
- *American holidays are celebrated by majority and often involves spending time with family.*
- *My favorite holidays are Halloween and Christmas.*

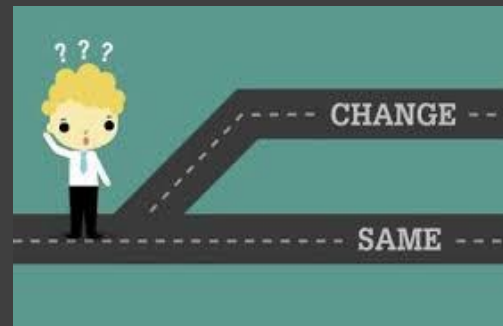
Andreano, Caterina, and Emily Shapiro. “Valentine’s Day by the Numbers: See How Much Money Is Spent on Flowers, Candy and Cards.” ABC News, ABC News Network, 14 Feb. 2017, 9:40am, abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/valentines-day-numbers-money-spent-flowers-candy-cards/story?id=45480956.



Social Norms & Taboos



- *Did you know?*
- *Social Norms are the unwritten rules of behavior that are considered acceptable in a group or society. Norms function to provide order and predictability in society.*
- *Social Taboos are a social or religious custom prohibiting or forbidding discussion of a particular practice or forbidding association with a particular person, place, or thing.*
- *Some American social norms that I partake in are Making eye contact with the person you I am speaking with, respecting the personal space of strangers, and waiting in long lines.*
- *Some American social taboos include abortion, smoking, and alcoholism.*
- *With both norms and taboos Americans have the option to conform or rebel. Americans are very vocal about their right to freedom of speech, expression, and personal ideas.*



"Social Norm Information." Example Articles & Resources, YourDictionary, 2009, examples.yourdictionary.com/social-norm-examples.html.

Haiti



- *Population of 11.12 million as of 2018.*
- *National bird is Hispaniola Trogon.*
- *Home to breath taking beaches and crystal waters.*



Cuisine



Did you know?

- *“In general, the average Haitian diet is largely based on starch staples such as rice (which is locally grown), corn, millet, yams, and beans. However, wealthier residents can afford meats (usually pork and goat), lobster, spiced shrimp, duck, and sweet desserts such as French-influenced mousse and pastries”*
- *“Spain, France, the continent of Africa, and later the United States, were crucial in shaping traditional Haitian cuisine. Throughout its history, several foreign countries gained control of Haiti, introducing food and ideas from their native lands, many of which significantly affected the food’s modern Haitian’s eat.”*

Growing up in a Haitian household food was primarily cooked in the home and consists of food with lots of spice.

Some of my favorite foods include Griot (fried pork), Diri djon djon (black rice), and Haitian Kremas (holiday drink similar to eggnog).

Clothing



- *Did you know?*
 - *“The traditional dress of the women of Haiti is known as the Quadrille or Karabela dress. This dress is almost always made of an off-the-shoulder top or bodice with a full, matching skirt.”*
 - *“Although traditional dress is still seen to celebrate national heritage, modern Haitians often prefer to imitate Western or European styles such as shorts and T-shirts.”*
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- *Haitian clothing is primarily westernized but growing up I have noticed much use of colors and patterns such as floral in clothing.*
 - *The Haitian flag is implemented into clothing often to show the pride that Haitians have for their country.*

“8 Little Known Facts About Our Clothing Habits.” Planet Aid, Inc., www.planetaid.org/blog/8-little-known-facts-about-our-clothing-habits.



Holidays

Did you know?

- *“For Haitians, November 2 is All Souls' Day (or the Day of the Dead). On this special day, loved ones who have passed away are honored and their lives celebrated through storytelling, eating, and drinking.”*
- *“Haitians who practice voodoo enjoy harvest festivals that take place for two days each November.”*
- *“Growing up in a Haitian household holidays are celebrated traditionally but there is usually ties to religion during the holiday.”*
- *“An example of this would-be during Christmas the nativity is honored, and Haitian families attend a church service. Houses are decorated both festively and religiously.”*



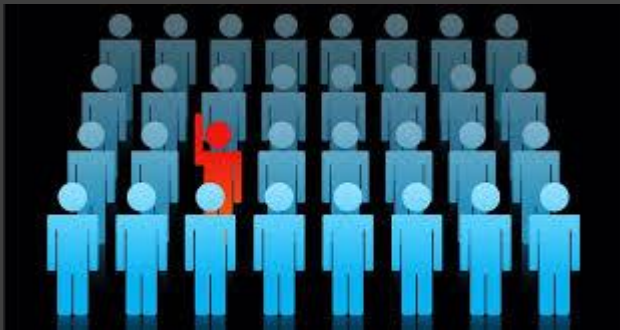
Haiti.” Food in Every Country, 2001, www.foodbycountry.com/Germany-to-Japan/Haiti.html.

Social Norms & Taboos



Did you know?

- *Greetings are very important in Haiti and are considered key in communication. It is important to say “Bonjour” (in the morning) or “bonsoir” (in the evening) before starting a conversation.”*
- *“Same sex individuals could be frequently seen holding hands in public as a display of friendship. This is commonly mistaken by outsiders as homosexuality.”*
- *Growing up in a Haitian household some common social norms are respect for elders, taking shoes off before entering a home, and prayer before bed*
- *Common taboos in the household are politics, and gender roles. Both norms and taboos are expected to be complied to. It is unacceptable to go against.*



Canada, Global Affairs. “Cultural Information - Haiti: Centre for Intercultural Learning.” GAC, 19 Sept. 2018, www.international.gc.ca/cil-cai/country_insights-apereus_pays/ci-ic_ht.aspx?lang=eng.

American & Haitian Similarities

- *Cuisine: Both American and Haitian foods consist of starches, vegetables, and meats but differ in preparation.*
- *Clothing: Neither American and Haitian clothing in the modern society are gender specific and vary in textures and colors.*
- *Holidays: Holidays in an American and Haitian society are traditionally celebrated with lots of decorations. American holidays are centered around money where most Haitian holidays are centered around religion.*
- *Social Norms & Taboos: There are common social norms and taboos, but American society is more flexible because conformity is optional where in a Haitian society it is not.*



Why is cross cultural understanding necessary?



Cross cultural understanding is necessary to be sure that individuals of various cultures can coexist in one society in peace. This is done by maintaining barriers, staying up to date on current events, terms, and trends, as well as respecting beliefs other than your own. When these are achieved individuals can exist in harmony.

Cross cultural understanding is also necessary because it allows individuals to partake in realities other than their own through food, language, and much more. Cross Cultural understanding will make the world a better place.

Citations:

"8 Little Known Facts About Our Clothing Habits." Planet Aid, Inc., www.planetaid.org/blog/8-little-known-facts-about-our-clothing-habits.

Andreano, Caterina, and Emily Shapiro. "Valentine's Day by the Numbers: See How Much Money Is Spent on Flowers, Candy and Cards." ABC News, ABC News Network, 14 Feb. 2017, 9:40am, abnews.go.com/Lifestyle/valentines-day-numbers-money-spent-flowers-candy-cards/story?id=45480956.

*Canada, Global Affairs. "Cultural Information - Haiti: Centre for Intercultural Learning." *GAC*, 19 Sept. 2018, www.international.gc.ca/cit-cai/country_insights-aperous_pays/ci-ie_ht.aspx?lang=eng.*

*Erssman, Elliot. "'Life in the U.S.A' Everyday Life Clothing." *Clothing and Dress Customs in America, from Life in the U.S.A. The Complete Guide for Immigrants and Americans*, 2014, www.lifeintheusa.com/everyday/clothing.htm.*

*Freedom, Restavek. "Learn More About Traditional Haitian Dress." *Restavek Freedom*, 29 Jan. 2019, restavekfreedom.org/2017/11/08/learn-traditional-Haitian-dress/.*

*"Haiti." *Food in Every Country*, 2001, www.foodbycountry.com/Germany-to-Japan/Haiti.html.*

*"Social Norm Information." *Example Articles & Resources, YourDictionary*, 2009, examples.yourdictionary.com/social-norm-examples.html.*

*Written by Douglas Broom, Senior Writer. "Christmas, by the Numbers: 5 Facts about Holiday Season Spending." *World Economic Forum*, www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/12/christmas-holiday-season-shopping-retail-gifts/.*