



# GUYANA VS. USA

## MY CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

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## **MEANING OF THE FLAG!**

**THE PROPORTIONS OF THE NATIONAL FLAG ARE 3:5.  
... THE COLORS ARE SYMBOLIC, WITH RED FOR ZEAL  
AND DYNAMISM, GOLD FOR MINERAL WEALTH, GREEN  
FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS, BLACK FOR  
ENDURANCE, AND WHITE FOR RIVERS AND WATER.**



THE STRIPES **REPRESENT THE ORIGINAL 13 COLONIES** AND THE STARS REPRESENT THE 50 STATES OF THE UNION. THE COLORS OF THE FLAG ARE SYMBOLIC AS WELL; RED SYMBOLIZES HARDINESS AND VALOR, WHITE SYMBOLIZES PURITY AND INNOCENCE, AND BLUE REPRESENTS VIGILANCE, PERSEVERANCE AND JUSTICE.

# HISTORY OF GUYANA/ TIMELINE!

## Timeline:

**1498** - Christopher Columbus sights Guyana.

**1580** - Dutch establish trading posts upriver.

**1814** - Britain occupies Guyana during the Napoleonic Wars.

**1831** - Guyana officially declared a British colony.

**1834** - Slavery abolished; many slaves leave plantations to set up their own freeholdings and are replaced by indentured workers mainly from India.

**1879** - Gold is discovered in Guyana and is followed by an economic boom.

**1889** - Venezuela lays claim to a large portion of Guyana west of the Essequibo river.

**1899** - International arbitration tribunal rules in favor of Guyana (then called British Guiana) in the territorial dispute with Venezuela.

1953 - Britain suspends Guyana's constitution, sends in troops and installs an interim administration after democratic elections for parliament produces a result not to its liking - a victory for the left-wing Indo-Guyanese Progressive People's Party (PPP).

1957 - Britain restores Guyanese constitution; PPP splits along racial lines, with Cheddi Jagan leading a mostly Indian party and Forbes Burnham leading a party of African descendants, the People's National Congress (PNC).

1961 - Guyana granted full autonomy, with Britain retaining control over internal and defence matters; Jagan of the PPP becomes prime minister.

1962 - Venezuela revives its territorial claims on Guyana; Cheddi Jagan introduces austerity programme, sparking off violent riots and a general strike; British troops sent in to restore order.

1963 - Racial violence between people of African origins and Indian supporters of Jagan.

1966 - Guyana becomes independent with Forbes Burnham as prime minister.



# GEOGRAPHY & CLIMATE

TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, GUYANA AND IDAHO ARE BOTH THE SAME SIZE. SOUTH AMERICA'S NORTHERN SHORE, EAST OF VENEZUELA, WEST OF SURINAME, AND NORTH OF BRAZIL. GUYANA'S JUNGLES COVER MORE THAN 80% OF THE COUNTRY. THE HUMIDITY RANGE IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF OTHER TROPICAL COUNTRIES: IN THE COOLER MONTHS, LOWS OF 68 PERCENT AND HIGHS OF 77 PERCENT; IN THE WARMER MONTHS, LOWS OF 79 PERCENT AND HIGHS OF 86 PERCENT. THE TEMPERATURE IN GEORGETOWN (CAPITAL) FLUCTUATES FROM 71 TO 80 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT. TEMPERATURES RANGING FROM 83 TO 90 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT ARE THE WARMEST. THE SEA BREEZES (EAST-NORTHEAST TRADE WINDS) HELP TO KEEP THE HEAT AT BAY ALONG THE SHORE.



# GUYANESE FOOD!

- Pepperpot
- Cassava Bread.
- Cook up Rice. ...
- Curry and Roti. ...
- Dhal. ...
- Coconut Choka.
- Duck & rice



# FACTS about GUYANA

PHILOSOPHY

PETER RAILTON

FACTS, VALUES

AND NORMS

ESSAYS TOWARD A MORALITY  
OF CONSEQUENCE

## SOCIAL NORMS & CUSTOM....

- SINCERITY IS VALUED AND EXPECTED. - FOR INSTANCE, BEING REFERRED TO AS "FAT" IS MORE OF A PRAISE. WHEN COMMUNICATING, A SENSE OF HUMOUR IS ESSENTIAL. SOMEONE WOULD MOST LIKELY BE OFFENDED IF THEY INTERACTED WITH AN AMERICAN. WE WEAR OUR HEARTS ON OUR SLEEVES; GUYANESE CULTURE IS CHARACTERIZED BY A HIGH LEVEL OF FURY AND EMOTION. EVEN IN PROFESSIONAL CONTEXTS, COMMUNICATION IS MORE INDIRECT/INFORMAL (BUT STILL PROFESSIONAL). THIS REDUCES AWKWARDNESS AND THE SENSE OF BEING UNCOMFORTABLE.
- GREETING OTHERS WITH RESPECT , CALLING OTHER PEOPLE AUNT , UNCLE ETC
- ALWAYS SHARE
- DON'T THINK YOUR BETTER THAN OTHERS





# CELEBRATION

- **Mashramani. Held every February, usually on the 23rd, since 1970, Mashramani celebrates Guyana's becoming of a republic.  
... Divali. ... Paghwa. ... Easter-International Food and Drink Fest.  
... Independence Day**
- **Divali. ...**
- **Paghwa. ...**
- **Easter-International Food and Drink Fest. ...**
- **Independence Day.**

# CULTURE SHOCK IN AMERICA

- FEMINISM IS FAR MORE PREVALENT IN THE UNITED STATES, WITH A STRONG EMPHASIS ON GENDER EQUALITY. FAMILY CONNECTIONS ARE MORE INFORMAL (LACK OF AUTHORITY) - FOR EXAMPLE, PUNISHING CHILDREN CAN TAKE NUMEROUS FORMS; SLAPPING YOUR CHILD IS FROWNED UPON IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT IS FAIRLY COMMON IN THE CARIBBEAN. LGBTQ ACCEPTANCE AND RIGHTS SLANG/ACCENTS
- PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
- FOOD STORES & LANDRY MATS



# FINALLY SUMMARY!

- DESPITE BEING BORN AND RAISED IN THE UNITED STATES, I HAVE LEARNED TO ACCEPT AND RESPECT THE CULTURE OF MY ENTIRE FAMILY. BECAUSE AMERICA IS SUCH A LARGE MELTING POT, IT TEACHES US TO APPRECIATE AND UNDERSTAND WHERE WE COME FROM, AS WELL AS HOW OUR CULTURE DIFFERS FROM THAT OF AMERICANS. CULTURE SHOCK IS USEFUL SINCE IT LEADS TO A REDUCTION IN IGNORANCE. TO REALIZE THAT THERE ISN'T JUST ONE WAY OF LIFE, YOU MUST BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN YOUR OWN CULTURE AND ANOTHER'S.