



## Did you know?

### Fascinating Facts and Interesting Information about the African-American Cultural Group

- By definition, African Americans are group members. The identity of each individual is inseparably tied to that of the group. The self is considered an “extended self” that is validated only by its functioning in relationship and in harmony with the collective whole.
- Rituals, symbols, and language are the vehicles by which knowledge is transmitted from generation to generation. Life experiences are given depth and meaning through the realization of their interrelatedness and significance in the life and existence of the group.
- African Americans are a highly expressive people. Because of their sense of oneness with life and of harmony with nature, they respond naturally and spontaneously to experiences.
- African-American culture is passed on by family members and friends to children through an unarticulated conditioning process that includes habitual forms of behavior and ingrained patterns of action
- Oral communication is still the most important way to transmit information within the African-American community, and African Americans rely much more on the spoken than the written word.
- Spiritual connection is essential to the African-American worldview. The connection is seen in church membership, church attendance, a sense of right and wrong, teaching moral values, and a shared religious core. For many, the church serves as the center of community life.
- Common ways for African-Americans to prepare food include frying, barbecuing, and serving foods with gravy and sauces. Home-baked cakes and pies are also common.

Source: Ohio State University Extension, Cultural Diversity: Eating in America

**You can now find the above information and more on the Cultural Diversity Section of our Library Web site. Please click on:**

<http://www.marianjoylibrary.org/Diversity/culture.aspx>

