

MISSIONS ATLAS PROJECT
AREA OF THE WORLD
COUNTRY
GUYANA
Snapshots Section

Country Name: Cooperative Republic of Guyana/ Guyana

Country Founded in: 26 May 1966

Population: 772,298

Government Type: (national, regional and local) Republic

Geography/location in the world: Northern South America between Venezuela and Suriname;
bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the north and Brazil to the south

Number of people groups: 22

Picture of flag:



Religion Snapshot

Major Religion and % of population: Protestant Christianity (39.68%)

All religions and % for each:

Baha'i (2%)

Buddhist/Chinese (0.23%)

Hindu (28.4%)

Jehovah's Witness (1.1%)

Muslim (7.2%)

Protestant Christianity (39.68%)

Anglican (6.9%), Independent (8.88%), Methodist (1.7%),

Pentecostal (16.9%), Seventh Day Adventist (5%), other (0.3%)

Roman Catholic/Orthodox (9%)

Spiritism/Animist (4.1%)

Other (3.9%)

non-religious (4.3%)

Government interaction with religion: The constitution provides for the freedom of religion along with the freedom of its expression. In addition the government advocates and enforces this right.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/GY.html>
<http://esa.un.org/unpp/p2k0data.asp>
http://operationworld.24-7prayer.com/country2.php?country_id=179
<http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php>
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108528.htm>
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/member-churches/regions/caribbean/guyana.html>

Country Profile

Guyana

Basic Facts

Country Name: Guyana

Demographics:

Guyana's total population is estimated to be a 772,298 people with about 28% living in urban areas. Thus the population is more evenly spread throughout the country so that the population density is at about 4 persons per sq. km.

In addition, the population is showing signs of increase with a 0.181% population growth rate. This growth rate is helped by the immigrants which come into the country at a rate of 7.44/1,000 people. A birth rate of 17.56 births/1,000 people also helps the continual increase of the country's population, but it is tempered by a death rate of 8.29 deaths/1,000 people.

On average, 2 children are born to every woman in Guyana and those born have an average life expectancy of 66.68 years. There are 1.05 males born for every female in Guyana and there are generally more males than females in Guyana. However, at birth, females are expected to live for 69.4 years which is 5 years longer than the life expectancy of a newborn male.

Overall, the median age of a person in Guyana is 28.7 years of age with the female's median age being slightly higher than that of a male. The majority of the population, about 68.7%, is found within the age range of 15-64 years of age with males outnumbering the female population. There are more males than females when considering the 25.7% of the population below the age of 14. The only age group in which females outnumber males is in the 5.5% of the population which are over 65 years of age.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/GY.html>
<http://esa.un.org/unpp/index.asp?panel=1>

Language:

While the official language of Guyana is English there are a variety of other languages spoken in the country. These would include various Amerindian languages, Caribbean Hindustani, Urdu and Creole.

English was introduced to the country in the late 17th century when England overtook the settlement for its own. This is the language used for business, government, communication, and is also the language which is used in schools. Guyana is the only English-speaking South American country.

Even though English is the official language of Guyana, most people in the country learn English as a second language. The most used language would be Guyanese Creole English which is an English based Creole.

On the other hand, Amerindian dialects of languages such as Arawak or Pemon, have been in use in the area before its colonization. Languages like Hindustani, Urdu, and Tamil came into the country in the 19th century with the arrival of indentured servants.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/GY.html>

http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=GY

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/250021/Guyana>

Society/Culture:

Also known as the “Land of Six Peoples,” Guyana is home to Europeans, Africans, Amerindians, East Indians, Chinese, and Portuguese. Reflecting all these cultures from many continents Guyana has created a society that is as diverse as its people. Pockets of one’s ancestry can easily be found in different areas of the country as well as in one’s daily life.

One of these pockets would be in the area of cuisine. While a one-dish meal is a favorite of the Guyanese, what they put in these dishes varies according to ethnicity and preference. The one-dish meal, also called “poor man food,” is very nourishing and inexpensive to make. It has become a staple of Guyanese cuisine.

A national dish, known as *Pepperpot*, is made by combining various meats, spices, sugar, onions and a sauce made from the fermented juice of a cassava plant. Usually this dish is accompanied with rice or bread. A special preparation of rice with peas, spices, coconut milk, onions and meat called *Cookup rice* is also a national favorite.

A variety of *curries* are very popular in Guyana and they are usually served with rice or roti and can include an array of different vegetables and meats, like beef and pumpkin. Another East Indian favorite is *Dahl* which is a mixture of peas, curry, cumin, onions, and garlic which is served with rice or roti.

African influences can be seen in the addition of plantains and spices which are found in a dish called *African Metemgee*. It includes coconut milk, onions, dumplings, and meat or fish. Portuguese and Chinese aspects of cuisine are found in the addition of Chinese noodles, chow mein or black/blood pudding to any of the meals.

http://www.photius.com/countries/guyana/society/guyana_society_food_and_diet.html
<http://guyanesecooking.com>

In Guyana, the impact of European settlement and colonialism is still seen in every day life today. Even though the government wishes for the people to seek out and make their own cultural values as a nation, the respect and struggle to obtain and maintain European values is ingrained into the society.

While colonialism has had its effects on the society and culture of Guyana, that does not mean that the people have traded the diversity of their values and customs which are found in their various ethnicities. For example, those who are of African descent still follow a matriarchal family structure while those who are of Asian descent still follow a patriarchal family structure.

Ethnicity is a factor in courting/marriage customs in addition to the roles that each family member fulfills in daily life. Religion and location in the country are also factors as a part of the everyday life of a person in Guyana.

For example, those who are Indo-Guyanese have a stricter set of rules in terms of male and female relations than those who are Afro-Guyanese. Some ethnicities prefer for women to stay in the home where others give women and men a more equal footing in terms of economy.

http://books.google.com/books?id=mWwohV78zwwC&pg=PA20&lpg=PA20&dq=Guyanese+Gender+roles&source=bl&ots=LjM9n6eVVF&sig=0zNpGmLLdnSSxlpTp5HQtbCDum4&hl=en&ei=2aJxSrmGB4-SNvSJnLEM&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=6
http://books.google.com/books?id=v04n7oiyqBcC&pg=PA90&lpg=PA90&dq=Guyanese+Marriage+rites&source=bl&ots=5Bsqc8cjDF&sig=JqHksUfBz04BnnJLvnDnyQnUjf8&hl=en&ei=-6NxSsWeOofcNtb4jbEM&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=10

Even though Guyana is known as a “Land of Six Peoples,” the African culture is more predominant in the types of music found in Guyana. While the Europeans brought music with them, the slaves on the plantations combined some European style, music, and dance and added it to their own.

One of the first types of music which followed this style was called *Quek Queh*, which is also known as Masquerade Music. Slaves were allowed to celebrate the harvest with their masters and this type of music would be played at those events. Usually the songs, and the dances associated with them, would reflect the daily life of the slave, but it would also make fun of their masters. As the slave owner did not understand the language, they usually awarded the slave for being amusing.

After the slaves of Guyana were emancipated, another type of music developed which was called *Shanto*. As an early form of *Calypso*, it incorporated the African drums with the addition of chords and European instruments like the guitar.

Later, in the early 20th century big dance bands, which played a mixture of Western and Caribbean elements, were born into Guyanese society. Guyanese orchestras like the *Syncopators Orchestra* also came into existence.

One of the most important composers in Guyana would be Phillip Pilgrim, who was renowned in Guyana by the age of 7. Having been the first to gain a scholarship to attend a school in London for the purpose of music, he returned to continue to teach others in Guyana in the art of music. His most famous composition was the *Legend of Kaieteur* which was never completed and has only been performed twice.

Other countries had their influence in Guyanese music by way of the *Mootoo Brothers* who were a group of East Indians whose music incorporated African rhythms. Trinidadian *Calypso* music found its influence through the bands which came to visit and stay in Guyana after Carnival.

Another type of music which is found in Guyana is called *Soca*. This is a type of Calypso music which came from Trinidad which incorporates electronic musical aspects including the drums. Usually the lyrics and the dances which accompany this music are provocative.

Like other western nations, music in Guyana varies according to the season. Christmas, for example, has a focus on family and reconciliation so that everyone is at peace and the family is whole.

<http://www.gems-av.com/themakingofpopguyanese music.htm>
<http://georgetown-guyana.com/2009/03/08/guyanese-music>
http://books.google.com/books?id=Xb2ibVAXO9sC&pg=PA447&dq=Dance+Guyana&as_brr=3
<http://www.landofsixpeoples.com/gtodayfoursevenjs.htm>
http://74.125.93.132/search?q=cache:IMZmj1Ka21sJ:library2.nalis.gov.tt/infofiles/collect/news3/index/assoc/HAS_H0189/0774e5fa.dir/doc.pdf+Philip+Pilgrim+Guyana&cd=4&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us
<http://www.hiv.gov.gy/news/?p=270>
http://bourdamarketplace.com/bmp/lead_act/gff2005.htm

In keeping with the ethnic and cultural diversity found in Guyana, a number and variety of festivals and holidays are celebrated. Festivals take importance among these holidays and all are free to enjoy and express themselves in terms of celebrating their cultures. Cultural fairs and festivals are held at all times of the year and sometimes incorporate national holidays as well.

One of these festivals is called the *Big Lime* in which many companies and organizations come together to foster an art festival. The tourism sector of the government plays a big part in organizing this function and there have been cases where some of the business houses have been used as a stage for this festival which focuses on the arts.

Guyana's National Dance Company is a troupe that is multiethnic in nature and performs around specific holidays. These mostly focus on the African and East Indian elements so the troupe performs in celebrations associated with Independence Day. In addition, the troupe performs at celebrations like the *Pagwah* which is the Hindu celebration that commemorates the arrival of spring.

Celebrations are held for Christmas, Easter, New Years, and the Mashramani which is an Afro-centric festival. Other religious holidays include the Hindu Diwali, also known as the festival of lights, and the Muslim Ramadan.

http://books.google.com/books?id=FEULEi4YTywC&pg=PA133&dq=Dance+Guyana&as_brr=3

<http://www.guyana.org/Handbook/festival.html>
http://bourdamarketplace.com/bmp/lead_act/gff2005.htm
<http://www.traveldocs.com/gy/culture.htm>

Art is something that is celebrated in Guyanese culture and is the center of many festivals. One of the most influential artists in Guyana is Stanley Greaves. Best known for reviving the artistic miniature, he is also known as a poet and a musician as well. He is one of the most versatile artists in Guyana.

Literature is another part of Guyana which gains recognition due to persons like E.R. Braithwaite and Edgar Mittelholzer. E.R. Braithwaite was born in Guyana in the 1920s and is best known for his work *To Sir, With Love*. In this book the topic of prejudice is covered while also addressing the influence of Britain over Guyana.

Edgar Mittelholzer is the first English-speaking Caribbean novelist whose career spanned over 30 years in writing fictions. He is most well known for his work the *Kaywana* trilogy which covered almost 350 years of Guyanese history as related through one family line.

<http://nylusmilk.wordpress.com/2009/04/04/to-sir-with-love-e-r-braithwaite>
<http://www.geocities.com/thetropics/shores/9253/art2.html>
http://books.google.com/books?id=FUn61SXA5mgC&pg=PA264&dq=Stanley+Greaves&as_brr=3
http://books.google.com/books?id=ISssHyssa2gC&pg=PA21&dq=Stanley+Greaves&as_brr=3#v=onepage&q=Stanley%20Greaves&f=false
<http://www.landofsixpeoples.com/gynewsjs.htm>
<http://www.bookrags.com/biography/edgar-mittelholzer>

As education in Guyana is provided for from nursery school through the university level, it is no surprise that the average school life of those in Guyana is about 13 years. About 8.3% of the country's total income goes towards education which has helped result in a high literacy rate in the country.

Nursery school is available for children who are four years of age and lasts for about two years while primary school starts educating children who are six years old. The primary school day only lasts about 5 hours and has six grade levels which a student goes through. Like other western nations, the school year lasts about 189 days, but unlike many other nations the year is set up in trimester form.

At the end of primary school, the student is given a placement test which determines which secondary school they will attend. There are three types of secondary schools in Guyana. The first is a general secondary school which is composed of a six year program after which a student may take a test in order to get into a university or a trade school. The completion of this school is the equivalent to the completion of a high school education level in the United States.

The second type of secondary school is the multilateral school which is a five year program. The first three years are composed of basic education and the final two years are more concentrated on a field in which the student would like to work.

The last type of secondary school is the community high school. This is composed of a four year program which educates those over 12 years of age. Like the multilateral school, the last two years of the program focus on a vocational area in which the student would like to work. Training for a specific job is included in the program.

After a student graduates from these programs, there is the opportunity to go to a university in Guyana which has both Baccalaureate and Masters Programs. One of these is the University of Guyana in Georgetown and another is the Kuru Kuru Cooperatvie College.

<http://www.country-studies.com/guyana>

http://portal.unesco.org/geography/en/ev.php-URL_ID=2502&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

<http://www.unicef.org/guyana/overview.html>

Healthcare in Guyana is aided by government funding and helps to provide for those who are without work, those who are ill, those who are pregnant, and those who are old and unable to work. As such the government spends about \$200 US dollars on healthcare for each person a year.

There are about 366 physicians in Guyana and there are 5 doctors available to every 10,000 people in the country. Healthcare is available to those all over the country through hospitals, health centers, and health clinics throughout the country.

<http://www.who.int/countries/guy/en>

<http://www.health.gov.gy>

For further or more general information on the culture and society of Guyana:

<http://www.guyana.org/guymap.html>

<http://www.landofsixpeoples.com/gynewsjs.htm>

<http://www.guyana.org>

<http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Du-Ha/Guyanese-Americans.html>

<http://www.guyana-tourism.com/tourism>

<http://www.visualgeography.com/categories/guyana/food.html>

<http://www.country-studies.com/guyana>

http://www.guyana-tourism.com/tourism//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=86&Itemid=166

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/GY.html>

http://books.google.com/books?id=ISssHyssa2gC&pg=PA22&lpg=PA22&dq=guyanese+cuisine&source=bl&ots=AzSIDER6ze&sig=L6Dv1tIRpH2fA2A3W72Wc4NWakY&hl=en&ei=iFtwSoWTMJOMcWpiegI&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=6

http://portal.unesco.org/geography/en/ev.php-URL_ID=2502&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Government:

Guyana is a Republic which functions within the Commonwealth and its capital is Georgetown. The country is divided into 10 regions and, like most Western nations, relies on a system of three branches which compose the government: the Executive, the Legislative and the Judicial. As this was once an English colony, the present government maintains a government which is similar to that of England.

The Executive branch is made up of the chief of state, the head of government, and the cabinet which aids them in governing the country. The president is elected by popular vote as the leader

of a party which is then decided by Parliamentary elections. These Parliamentary elections are held every 5 years, however, there are no term limits to the presidency. The office of chief of state is currently held by President Bharrat Jagdeo who has held the office since August 1999.

The Prime Minister, like the Cabinet of Ministers, is appointed by the President and serves as the head of the government. The office of Prime Minister is currently held by Samuel Hinds who has been the Prime Minister since October 1992. The Cabinet of Ministers is responsible to the legislature.

Unlike other Western nations, the Legislative branch is made up of a unicameral National Assembly which is made up of 65 seats. At 18 years of age, the people of Guyana are allowed to vote for those who will represent them in their government.

Seats in the National Assembly are won by popular vote and persons are elected to serve a term of 5 years. Of the 65 seats, 4 are given to ministers who do not have a vote and 2 more are appointed by the president who also lack the ability to vote on issues.

The Judicial Court is made up of the High Court, the Court of Appeal, and the Caribbean Court of Justice. Combined, these are referred to as the Supreme Court of Judicature. The right to the final appeal of any case is given to the Caribbean Court of Justice.

The Constitution of Guyana was accepted in October of 1980. However, revisions were made in 1996 and those reforms are still active in the court of law at present.

<http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Guyana/guyana96.html>

<http://gina.gov.gy/nprofile.htm>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/GY.html>

Economy:

Currency in Guyana comes in the form of the Guyanese Dollar (GYD) which is composed of 100 cents. The amounts of \$1000, \$500, \$100, and \$20 are available in Guyanese Dollars and the amounts of \$10, \$5, and \$1 are available in coin form. At the moment, \$1 GYD is the equivalent of \$0.004896 United States Dollars (USD) and \$1 USD is equal to \$204.25 GYD.

Guyana has the power to purchase \$3.01 billion USD (the rest of the monetary values will be in USD) every year and the economy is growing at a rate of 3.2% annually. Guyana's budget expects at least \$463.7 million in revenues each year and spends about \$536 million annually.

Although there is an inflation rate at about 7.8%, Guyana still has a stock of domestic credit at \$739.3 million. In addition, about 40.5% of their Gross Domestic Product is given to Investment. The market value of publicly traded shares amounts to \$262.4 million and Guyana currently has about \$315.2 million in reserve, but is \$804.3 million in debt.

On average, each person in Guyana makes about \$3,900 every year. While the unemployment rate is at 11%, the labor force is made up of 418,000 persons. In terms of economic status, the

lowest 10% spend about 1.3% of the total household income while the highest 10% spend about 33.8% of the total household income.

The agricultural sector accounts for 31.9% of the economy. Products like sugarcane, rice, oils, and meats are of high value in this economy. Of the agricultural products grown in Guyana the sugar, shrimp, and rice are the three highest agricultural export commodities. These are all highly dependent on the weather and other natural factors.

The Industrial sector accounts for 21% of the economy and includes bauxite, sugar processing, rice milling, timber, textiles, and gold mining. Of these, the bauxite, timber, and gold comprise the three highest industrial export commodities in Guyana.

About \$736.9 million is exported from Guyana in the form of sugar, gold, timber, bauxite, rice, and shrimp among other commodities. The main export partner with Guyana is Canada which buys up 18.7% of the total exports from Guyana. The U.S. accounts for 16.5%, Portugal for 7.6% and Trinidad/Tobago 5.2%. France, the Netherlands and Jamaica also acquire some of the goods exported from Guyana.

In contrast, almost \$1.162 billion in goods/services is imported into Guyana annually. The goods are mainly composed of manufactured goods, machinery, petroleum, and food. Guyana imports almost 26.2% of its goods from Trinidad/Tobago and another 20.5% are imported from the U.S. Cuba, China and the UK.

<http://wwp.greenwichmeantime.com/time-zone/south-america/guyana/currency.htm>

<http://finance.mapsofworld.com/economy/guyana/currency.html>

<http://www.country-studies.com/guyana>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/GY.html>

<http://www.fao.org/countryProfiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=GUY>

Literacy:

When literacy is defined as those over the age of 15 that are able to read and write, about 98.8% of the population is considered to be literate in English. A high percentage like this is possibly due to the education system which is free through secondary school alongside other literacy programs which have been supported.

One of these programs is known as the *On the Wings of Words (OWOW)*. Launched by the VARQA Foundation in 1996, named after a Baha'i leader in Iran, this program made it a point to bring books and libraries into the coastal and interior villages in Guyana. In addition they provided for workshops which would teach the keepers of those libraries how to teach others to read. This program is funded by various organizations so that the program is free to those who use it.

Another program led by the Institute of Adult and Continuing Education was also successful in Guyana. Known as the *Parents as Teachers at Home (PATH)*, the program focused on the leaders, teachers, and parents in the community which would then graduate from the program and then teach others how to read.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/GY.html>
<http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Guyana>
<http://74.125.95.132/search?q=cache:U0m4BG5ZSYJ:unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001364/136422e.pdf+literacy+Guyana&cd=8&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>

Land/Geography:

Guyana is located in Northern South America and is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the North, Venezuela to the West, Suriname to the East and Brazil to the South. Totaling 214,970 sq km, Guyana is a little smaller than the U.S. state of Idaho. Of the total area, 18,120 sq km consists of water.

In general, Guyana is tropical and humid with the average temperature being around the mid-70s Fahrenheit. The trade winds, which come from the northeast, helps to cool down the country.

There are two rainy seasons, one from May to June and another from November through January. This rain usually falls on the west and northwestern parts of the country due to the terrain in these areas.

The country can be divided into four geographical regions. This includes a low coastal plain to the north which borders the Atlantic Ocean and a hilly sand and clay region which is a little farther south. This separates the coastal plain from the forested highland region which crosses the middle of the country. Farther south and toward the interior is the savannah which borders Brazil.

The larger interior highlands which border Brazil, is home to the highest point in Guyana which is known as Mt. Roraima and rises to 2,835 m. There are three main mountain ranges in Guyana which are named the Pakaraima, the Kanuku, and the Acarai. The Parakaima Mountains are found to the west of the country and border Venezuela and is also home to Mt. Roraima. The other two are found in the south and border Brazil.

As the higher elevations are found in the southern part of the country, most of the rivers flow from south to north and feed into the Atlantic Ocean. However, some rivers in the west flow eastward. The main river which flows south to north is the Courantyne River which borders Suriname. Those rivers that flow west to east include the Essequibo River, the Demerara River, the Cuyun River, and the Berbice River. The Essequibo River is the third largest river in South America.

While the country is known for its many rivers, it is well known for the many waterfalls that are scattered throughout the country. The most famous of these is the Kaieteur Falls which is the highest single drop waterfall in the world.

Guyana is very well known for its forests which significantly cover the landscape. 6,409 species of plants make these forests home. There are 6 types of forests in Guyana. The rainforest accounts for 36% of forest cover, mountain forests account for 35%, swamp and marsh account for 15%, seasonal forests account for 6 % while the mangrove forests account for 1%.

Half of the plant species found in Guyana are endemic to the country and researchers are amazed every time they return to the interior. It is hard for them to document what they find as they are still trying to find out the rules by which different plants grow in different areas. Orchids and bromeliads are well known in these forests.

Regardless, the plant for which Guyana is most well known is that of the *Victoria amazonica*. It is the country's national flower and is the largest of the giant water lilies. The leaves of this lily can be up to 3 m or 9 feet 10 inches long! Their stalks can reach triple that length!

In addition to being the home of many plant species, the forests of Guyana are home to 1,263 species of animals. Over 800 of these are birds, for which the hoatzin/canje pheasant, is most well known and is the national bird. At least 225 animals are mammals which would include the jaguar and the golden-handed tamarin.

The country faces about a 1% deforestation rate, but officials are still worried for the future of the rainforests of Guyana. The reason for this is that the land, being mostly untouched, is a pool of vast natural resources which are only starting to be tapped in terms of mining and timber. So, they have already agreed to Biodiversity and have signed such documents as the Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol along with an agreement over endangered species.

http://images.google.com/images?hl=en&safe=active&rls=com.microsoft%3A*%3AIE-SearchBox&rlz=1I7GGLG_en&um=1&sa=1&q=golden-handed+tamarin&aq=f&oq
http://images.google.com/images?hl=en&safe=active&rls=com.microsoft:*:IE-SearchBox&rlz=1I7GGLG_en&q=hoatzin&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=N&tab=wi
http://images.google.com/images?q=Victoria%20amazonica&rls=com.microsoft:*:IE-SearchBox&oe=UTF-8&sourceid=ie7&rlz=1I7GGLG_en&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=N&hl=en&tab=wi
<http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/Past+Events/Guyana/Guyana+ecology.htm>
http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2001/05/0507_guayanaplants.html
<http://news.mongabay.com/2006/0501-guyana.html>
<http://www.visualgeography.com/categories/guyana/nature.html>
<http://www.country-studies.com/guyana>
<http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/samerica/gv.htm>
http://www.guyana.org/Guyana_Photo_Gallery/animals/animals.html

History

While there has only been a recorded history of the land of Guyana since 1499 when the Spanish charted the coast, there is evidence for some Amerindian tribes inhabiting the area as early as 900AD. Two of the known tribes to have lived in the area were the Arawak and the Carib Amerindians who referred to the land as "Guiana" which translates to mean "land of many rivers."

By 1595, the rumors of "El Dorado" and the gold that could be found in the area had reached Queen Elizabeth. She then sent Sir Walter Raleigh to ascertain the truth of the rumors and conquer if possible.

Regardless, it was the Dutch who established the first permanent settlement in this area. The area was called *Essequibo* and it was located at the mouth of the Mazaruni River in 1621. Fort Kijk-

Over-Al was built at that time and then in 1627 the Dutch established the settlement of Berbice which was followed by Demerara in 1741.

The English also came and set up settlements in the area and these primarily stemmed from Barbados. Regionally, the economy was established through the slave trade and the sugar production industry. Issues began arising in the mid-1700s and slave rebellions started to take place. Of these rebellions, the most well known is the rebellion led by a slave named Cuffy in Berbice. He is now considered a national Hero of Guyana.

http://groups.google.com/group/Guyana-National-Service-Veterans-Pioneers/browse_thread/thread/5d28b0c8a4b0450b
<http://www.luminarium.org/renlit/raleghbio.htm>

These areas were given the title of colony in 1773 by the Dutch, but the English took over all three of the Guiana colonies in 1781 and established their capital in Fort St. George. This is located in the area which is now Georgetown. The English lost control of the colonies to the French in 1782 and in 1784 the Dutch redeemed the land for their own once again.

By 1792 the colonies of Essequibo and Demerara were combined into one colony while Berbice was set aside as a separate colony by the Dutch. However the French Revolution started in 1789 which resulted with France occupying Holland. The Dutch refused to let the colony fall into the hands of the French and gave the colonies over to the British in 1795.

The British retained control of this area until 1802 when the Treaty of Amiens dictated that both colonies were to be returned to the Dutch. Within a year war broke out between Britain and France in which Britain gained control of the region again.

By 1812, the British had abolished the constitution that the Dutch had established in 1792. They renamed the Dutch capital, Stabroek, formerly known as Fort Kijk-Over-Al and Longchamps, and renamed the area George Town after the British Monarchy at the time. Both the colony of Berbice and the United Colony of Demerara and Essequibo were given to Britain in 1814 and in 1831 Britain united the two colonies to form a colony called British Guiana.

http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761562228_6/Guyana.html#s26
<http://www.country-studies.com/guyana>
<http://www.guyana.org/history.html>

Social and political change would shortly follow after Britain set up Sir Benjamin D'Urban as the first Governor of British Guiana. Slaves had already started revolts in the area because they thought the European owners were withholding the freedom already granted to them by the King of England. Slavery was abolished in British Guiana in 1838. As there were no workers for the plantations, the government imported indentured servants from Germany, India, Portugal, and China.

Border disputes soon followed as British Guiana attempted to map out their territory. Neither of the border disputes between Suriname, Venezuela, and Guyana has been formally settled. There is a drafted treaty between Suriname and Guyana which is what the two countries hold to in reference to their respective borders today.

In 1857, Guyana opened up a new sector of the economy as gold was discovered on the tributary of the Cuyuni River. This was later followed by a discovery of diamonds and mining regulations started to take form in 1886. The agricultural economy also started to see gain in reference to the farming and exporting of rice in the late 1800s which furthered the Guyanese economy.

<http://www.guyanaguide.com/border/index.html>

<http://www.guyanaguide.com/history.html>

The early 1900s saw the beginnings of an economic and social downturn in British Guiana. Labor Unions started to form in 1919 and there were many strikes due to poor conditions in living. Then in 1928, Britain declared that British Guiana was now a *Crown Colony* which would be under the authority of a governor and a new constitution was put in place.

Unrest in the colony continued and attempts were made to study the issues at hand in British Guiana, but World War II broke out and British focus was placed elsewhere. British Guiana served as a place where the U.S. could build an airfield named Atkinson during the Second World War

During this time, political parties formed and the first party to be elected to power was the *British Guiana Labor Party* (BGLP) in 1947. Then in 1950 the *People's Progressive Party* (PPP) was formed and they took office in 1953. This was the first election in which there was universal adult suffrage.

Within the same year, British troops were sent to the area and suspended the government and it's constitution under the argument that the PPP was attempting to make British Guiana a communistic government. During this time the PPP split into two parties: one which kept the original name and the other known as the *People's National Congress* (PNC).

It would be the PPP who would win the next two elections in 1957 and 1961. Then, in 1963, a constitutional conference was called in the U.K and they agreed to grant British Guiana its independence so long as the next election would have proportional representation.

The PPP won the elections in the following year and Independence was granted to British Guiana from Britain in 1966. At this time the name of the region was formally changed from British Guiana to Guyana and the new state became a part of the British Commonwealth of Nations. However, Guyana did not choose to become a Republic until February 23, 1970 which was the anniversary of the slave rebellion led by Cuffy.

The PNC won the election in 1974 and Forbes Burnham served as the Prime Minister. Another political party called the *World People's Alliance* (WPA) formed during this time and became an official party in 1979.

A new constitution was accepted in 1980 and Forbes Burnham of the PNC, who served as the Prime Minister of Guyana, then became the first President of Guyana. After some amount of political unrest, President Forbes Burnham died in 1985 and the presidency was taken up by his Prime Minister, Hugh Desmond Hoyte, who then won elections in the same year.

President Hugh Desmond Hoyte reversed a good portion of the policies which had been set by Burnham. This included switching from a socialist-like state to one where there was a free market economy which included freedom of press and assembly.

In 1992, elections in Guyana were internationally perceived as free and fair and Cheddi Jagan of the PPP became the President of Guyana. However, he died shortly before his term ended and the Prime Minister, Samuel Hinds, of the PNC became President for a short while until Jagan's wife Janet of the PPP won the elections held in 1997.

Due to health conditions, President Janet Jagan resigned in 1999 and was succeeded by Bharrat Jagdeo of the PPP who had only been Prime Minister for one day! He has since won the elections held in 2001 and 2006. In all, he has held the Presidential office for over 20 years.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1984.htm>
<http://www.guyana.org/Handbook/history.html>
http://www.google.com/search?q=Guyana+History&hl=en&safe=active&rls=com.microsoft:*:IE-SearchBox&rlz=117GGLG_en&tbs=tl:1&tbo=u&ei=W-t2SstLiNw24IuZsQw&sa=X&oi=timeline_result&ct=title&resnum=12

Christian History

Though Guyana is mostly known as a former British colony, the area was first inhabited by the Dutch who brought their forms of worship with them to this new world. The first church to minister in what is now Guyana was known as the Dutch Reformed Church who started their work in 1621.

These were followed by the Moravian Brethren from Germany in 1738 and they ministered to those in the interior of the region. The Dutch Lutherans were not short in following. However, the Dutch Reformed Church took religious control over the region and became the state church.

This power ended in the late 1700s when Britain gained control of the area. In the early 1800s, monetary support from the state for the Dutch Reformed Church was taken away and given to the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches in the area. The Dutch Reformed congregations slowly assimilated into Anglican and Presbyterian congregations.

The Catholic Church was formally established in 1837 and by 1860 there were no more Dutch Reformed Churches in this area. Later, in the 1900s, various Pentecostal groups came to Guyana and have since become the largest Protestant denomination, and the second largest religious practice in Guyana.

The Guyana Council of Churches was founded in 1967 which also became part of the World Council of Churches. Since then, a Lutheran Seminary has been built which partners with other churches in preparing Christians to share the gospel. In keeping with its Christian history, Guyana remains a primarily Protestant nation.

<http://www.prolades.com/historical/guy-chron.htm>
<http://www.guyanaguide.com/history.html>
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/07062a.htm>

http://www.reformiert-online.net/weltweit/59_eng.php
<http://www.stgeorges.org.gy/history.html>
<http://www.srim.cc/cpextension.html>
<http://www.elcguyana.org/Partnership.htm>

Religion

Non Christian

Judaism

There has been evidence of the Jewish people living in Guyana since the mid 1650s. Another wave of Jewish immigrants came during the Second World War as refugees to this area. Today there is a small Jewish population in Guyana. They are allowed to congregate and practice their religion by law.

<http://www.sefarad.org/publication/1m/011/jewcar.html>
<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/vjw/jamaica.html>
<http://www.landofsixpeoples.com/news304/ns310096.htm>

Islam

The history of Islam in Guyana goes as far back as to the introduction of slavery in the region in the 1600s. Some of the slaves brought from Africa came from areas that were Islamic. There is even some amount of evidence the heroic figure of Cuffy may have been a Muslim himself.

By the time slavery was abolished, the Muslims from Africa had already died and their religion died with them. The next wave of Muslims came in 1838 when the indentured servant system brought in labor from South Asia.

Currently, 7.2% of the total population is Muslim which accounts for a little over 55,600 persons. The constitution provides for freedom of religion and its practice. The majority of the Muslim community is Sunni and, for the sake of tolerance, there are agreements which restrict proselytizing among non-members with other major religious groups.

<http://www.guyana.org/history.html>
http://www.guyana.org/features/guyanese_muslim.html
http://www.guyana.org/features/afghanguyanese_muslim.html
<http://www.ciog.org.gy>
<http://countrystudies.us/guyana/40.htm>

Hinduism

Like Islam, the indentured labor system facilitated the introduction of Hinduism to Guyana. Over 240,000 Eastern Indians immigrated to Guyana for the purpose of laboring on plantations and about 84% of those were practicing Hindus. Many converted to Christianity, but this process slowed after the 1930s.

The majority of those brought over practiced the Vaishnavite sect of Hinduism and this still remains the primary sect in Guyana today. Hinduism is the largest non-Christian religion in Guyana and those who practice this religion are allowed the freedom to do so in Guyana. Overall, 28.4% of the total population, accounting for 64,695 persons, practices Hinduism.

http://atheism.about.com/library/world/AJ/bl_GuyanaHinduism.htm

<http://religion.einnews.com/news/hindus/guyana>

<http://countrystudies.us/guyana/39.htm>

Buddhism/Chinese Religions

Buddhism and other Chinese religions were brought to Guyana during the time period of indentured labor. Chinese started to arrive in Guyana in 1853 and they brought their religion with them. As the laborers acclimated to their new environment, Buddhism and other Chinese religious groups faded away.

Those who are Buddhist or follow other Chinese religions are allowed to practice them freely in Guyana. Currently, about 0.23% of the total population practice Buddhism or other Chinese religions. This accounts for about 1,175 people.

<http://countrystudies.us/guyana/31.htm>

http://books.google.com/books?id=q7gNAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA412&lpg=PA412&dq=Buddhism+British+Guiana&source=bl&ots=IaX4JdEkDt&sig=7HTptHzZWY5iOII6fD7vyqNaIYg&hl=en&ei=gt6CSuvDK5P-MNiF3JYL&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=4#v=onepage&q=&f=false

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

Baha'i

The Baha'i Faith was first introduced to Guyana in 1927, when a member of the Baha'i religious group made a stop on the way to visit family. The first missionary was sent in 1936 and the first permanent presence was established in 1953 with the arrival of Dr. Malcolm King from the United States.

Like other religions in Guyana, those of the Baha'i Faith are allowed to congregate and practice their religion free of discrimination. The first institution was built in 1955 and is called the *Local Spiritual Assembly for the Baha'is of Guyana*. Currently, about 2% of the total population is a member of the Baha'i religion which accounts for 15,445 persons.

<http://www.gy.bahai.org>

Jehovah's Witness

Jehovah's Witnesses were introduced to Guyana during the 1980s and they are free to congregate and practice their religion. There are at least 40 congregations which serve the members of their community which makes up about 1.1% of the total population. This accounts for about 8,495 persons.

http://www.watchtower.org/e/statistics/worldwide_report.htm

<http://countrystudies.us/guyana/38.htm>

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)

Mormon faith was introduced to Guyana in 1988 with the arrival of two missionaries. Since then, they have started two branches which have grown to about 3,935 members which accounts for 0.5% of the total population. The members of this church are served by a temple located in Caracas, Venezuela.

<http://www.lds.org/temples/district/0,11217,1915-1-131-2,00.html> <http://westindiesmission.blogspot.com>
<http://newsroom.lds.org/ldsnewsroom/eng/contact-us/guyana>

Hallelujah

The origins of the Hallelujah church are not certain, but most would agree that the church started in the 1800s along with missionary contacts with Amerindians in the interior. This church is popular among Amerindian groups as it mixes Amerindian beliefs and rites with Christian overtones. This church became affiliated with the Guyana Council of Churches in 1977, but is considered non-Christian due to its syncretic nature.

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1O101-Hallelujahreligion.html>
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_7227/is_199701/ai_n30045474

Traditional Religions

The Arawak (18000), Arekuna (600), Carib (3500), Macushi (9000), Patamona (5500), Wapishana (7500), Waiwai (200), Warrou (5500) number together 330,000 or almost 33% of the population. The particular form of Traditional Religions vary with the people group. The Traditional Religion followers should be a main goal for evangelism

Obeah/Animism/Spiritism

Animism and Spiritism are the basis for many folk religions in Guyana and have been around since before the land was discovered by Europeans. These folk religions changed as immigrants came to Guyana. For example, *Obeah* incorporates some African and Indonesian beliefs. The leader is commonly known as the shaman, and he plays an important part in their religion.

Overall, those that practice these religions are free to do so. About 4.1% of the total population practices these folk religions which accounts for about 31,664 persons.

<http://countrystudies.us/guyana/41.htm>

Non-religious

Those that are non-religious choose not to follow any specified religion and compose about 4.3% of the total population. This accounts for a little over 33,200 people.

Catholic/Orthodox

While the first arrangements for a Catholic Church in Guyana were made in 1819, there is evidence of Catholic missionaries who came to the area during the early stages of the colony. None, however, had permanent effects until this time. The Catholic Church in Guyana started to grow as indentured labor started to arrive from the colony of Brazil in the form of the Portuguese.

The Vicariate Apostolic of Guyana was established in 1837 and was promoted to the Georgetown Diocese in 1956. The main Catholic Church is the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception located in Georgetown. There are currently 5 mission stations, twenty-six churches and seventeen priests in Guyana. About 9% of the total population is Catholic which accounts for about 69,500 people.

<http://www.gcatholic.com/dioceses/diocese/geor0.htm>

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/07062a.htm>

<http://www.rcdiocese.org.gy/Brickdamwebstie/index.html>

<http://www.landofsixpeoples.com/news301/nc3020913.htm>

<http://countrystudies.us/guyana/43.htm>

[http://books.google.com/books?id=bGdbHI9-](http://books.google.com/books?id=bGdbHI9-8e8C&pg=PA356&dq=Catholic+British+Guiana&as_brr=3#v=onepage&q=Catholic%20British%20Guiana&f=false)

[8e8C&pg=PA356&dq=Catholic+British+Guiana&as_brr=3#v=onepage&q=Catholic%20British%20Guiana&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=bGdbHI9-8e8C&pg=PA356&dq=Catholic+British+Guiana&as_brr=3#v=onepage&q=Catholic%20British%20Guiana&f=false)

[http://books.google.com/books?id=FyVQ0Hn-](http://books.google.com/books?id=FyVQ0Hn-YjkC&pg=PA57&dq=Catholic+British+Guiana&as_brr=3#v=onepage&q=Catholic%20British%20Guiana&f=false)

[YjkC&pg=PA57&dq=Catholic+British+Guiana&as_brr=3#v=onepage&q=Catholic%20British%20Guiana&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=FyVQ0Hn-YjkC&pg=PA57&dq=Catholic+British+Guiana&as_brr=3#v=onepage&q=Catholic%20British%20Guiana&f=false)

Christian/Evangelical

Methodists/Wesleyan Church

The Methodist Church started to minister in Guyana in 1815 through the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society which was stationed in England. This church was one of the first among many to concentrate on converting the indigenous population in Guyana.

Currently, about 1.7% of the total population is considered to be Methodist which accounts for 13,129 persons. This would include the Methodist Church, the Wesleyan Church and the African Methodist Episcopal Churches in Guyana. These churches are also affiliated with the Guyana Council of Churches. Those who belong to this denomination of Protestant Christianity are allowed to congregate and practice their beliefs under the law.

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/member-churches/regions/caribbean/guyana.html>

<http://www.guyana.org/features/guyanastory/chapter83.html>

Baptists

Although the presence of the Baptist Church mainly grew after the Second World War, the Church first began its work in Guyana through the London Missionary Society in 1808. Theirs was a multi-cultural emphasis in early missions which set the stage for missions later in history.

Like other denominations, those who belong to the Baptist denomination of the Protestant Christian faith are allowed to both congregate and practice their belief system. There are many further subdivisions of the Baptist denomination and all are affiliated with the Guyana Council of Churches. Overall, there are at least 38 Baptist churches in Guyana and they serve 0.23% of the population which accounts for about 1,800 persons.

<http://www.bwanet.org/default.aspx?pid=437>

<http://www.bwa-baptist-heritage.org/hst-carb.htm>

http://books.google.com/books?id=u2cRPScugBwC&pg=PA495&dq=Pentecostals+Guyana&lr=&as_brr=3#v=onepage&q=Pentecostals%20Guyana&f=false

Moravian

The Church of the Moravian Brethren has been a presence in Guyana since 1738 when this church began its mission. For a time, their mission focused on Amerindian groups as the authorities refused for mission work which ministered to the slaves. However, the mission failed as they were unable to establish a permanent mission.

They later returned in 1878 and began a mission which ministered to former slaves. Since then, they have grown to about 700 members which are served by 8 congregations. The Moravian Church is also known to partner with the Methodist Church in many of their endeavors and is also part of the Guyana Council of Churches.

<http://www.moravianmission.org/partnerprovinces/guyana.phtml>

Presbyterian

The first Presbyterian presence in Guyana came in the form of those from Scotland who became plantation owners and started a presbytery in 1837 though the first church was organized in 1816. Slaves were admitted into their congregations as early as 1821 and this church made it a point to minister to both the slaves and those brought for indentured labor.

By 1860, the Presbyterian Church had absorbed a good portion of the remnants of the Dutch Reformed Church. Canadian Presbyterian missionaries later came in 1880 and furthered the church which was already established in Guyana.

Currently, there are 25 parishes which serve 0.725% of the total population which accounts for 5,600 persons. There are 41 ordained ministers in the area and this church is also part of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the Guyana Council of Churches.

<http://www.reformiert-online.net/adressen/detail.php?id=12209&lg=eng>

http://books.google.com/books?id=uFI007yymBUC&pg=PA50&dq=Presbyterian+Church+Guyana&as_brr=3#v=onepage&q=Presbyterian%20Church%20Guyana&f=false

http://www.reformiert-online.net/weltweit/59_eng.php

http://books.google.com/books?id=RW8yZQPFMTMC&pg=PA179&lpg=PA179&dq=seminary+program+of+the+Guyana+Council+of+Churches.&source=bl&ots=Q1dxkUV6T4&sig=SGAutcEg8amoYgkVKc5zqQDtxLg&hl=en&ei=L1-JSoCQJIyOMc7tiNwL&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=3#v=onepage&q=&f=false

Anglican

The Anglican Church has been a part of Guyanese history since 1781 when the first Anglican priest arrived in Guyana. A congregation formed and by 1811 St. Georges Cathedral was built. After the congregation had outgrown its building a few times the current St. Georges Cathedral was built in 1894. This is still considered the tallest wooden edifice in the world.

As part of the Church in the Province of the West Indies, the diocese of the Anglican Church in Guyana is divided into three deaneries. One deanery is that of Berbice, another is in Essequibo and the other is in Demerara.

Currently, the Anglican Church is attended by 6.9% of the total population which accounts for 53,288 persons. The Anglican Church is also a member of the Guyana Council of Churches and has also ministered and continues to minister to many cultures in Guyana.

<http://www.stgeorges.org.gy>

<http://www.guyana.org/history.html>

<http://www.dioceseofguyana.org/about.htm>

<http://www.stgeorges.org.gy/history.html>

Seventh Day Adventist

The beginning of the Seventh Day Adventist church in Guyana starts in 1883 with the arrival of a sea captain who brought their literature into the country after gaining permission to do so. In 1887 a small congregation was started with about 30 individuals and in 1924 this became a part of the Guiana Mission which later became the Guiana Conference. Serious medical missions and outreach have been a part of this church since the 1950s.

Overall, about 5% of the total population attends the Seventh Day Adventist Church which accounts for 38,614 persons. There are about 121 Seventh Day Adventist Churches in Guyana and they are affiliated with the Caribbean Union Conference of the Inter-American Division. They also have established the Davis Memorial Clinic and Hospital in Georgetown, Guyana.

http://books.google.com/books?id=fYFLksIywcC&pg=PA121&lpg=PA121&dq=Seventh+Day+Adventist+Guyana&source=bl&ots=WKn44CAG6X&sig=wAo1bTXgPNfNyCh6E1jUaaRGeF4&hl=en&ei=FvOCSvPKCorQM_LGpZOL&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=10#v=onepage&q=Seventh%20Day%20Adventist%20Guyana&f=false

Lutheran

The presence of the Lutheran Church in Guyana has been around since 1743 when a group of plantation owners started a church outside the Dutch Reformed Church. Later, in 1875, the church would partner with a Synod in the United States as membership had dwindled.

The Lutheran Church is a part of the Guyana Council of Churches as well as the Caribbean Council of Churches and has an extension of the Wartburg Theological Seminary in Guyana. Currently, the church boasts about 5,000 members which accounts for 0.65% of the total population. There are 46 active churches which minister to a variety of people groups in Guyana.

<http://calvarylutherangy.org/history.htm>
<http://www.elcguyana.org/Partnership.htm>
<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Global-Mission/Where-We-Work/Latin-America-Caribbean/Guyana.aspx>

Pentecostals

The history of Pentecostals in Guyana begins in 1956 with the arrival of the Church of God of Prophecy. The Assemblies of God Church and the Church of God World Missions Church soon followed in 1957. Churches of Christ started to appear in Guyana in 1959.

By far, those who belong to the Pentecostal denominations in Guyana make up the largest protestant denomination in Guyana. These churches serve 16.9% of the total population which accounts for over 130,500 persons. They are also part of the Guyana Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches.

<http://www.prolades.com/historical/guy-chron.htm>
http://church-of-christ.org/churches/Guyana/Guyana_S.htm
<http://todayspentecostalevangel.blogspot.com>

General Links:

<http://www.ctie.org.uk/national-events/Guyana.htm>
<http://country-studies.com/guyana/religion.html>
<http://www.prolades.com/historical/guy-chron.htm>
http://www.reformiert-online.net/weltweit/59_eng.php
<http://religion.einnews.com/guyana>
<http://countrystudies.us/guyana/43.htm>
http://books.google.com/books?id=yaecVMhMWaEC&pg=PA490&dq=Pentecostals+Guyana&as_brr=3#v=onepage&q=Pentecostals%20Guyana&f=false

People Groups

16352

Akawaio (5578)

The Akawaio are a people group that is indigenous to Guyana and still retains their traditional roles, values and way of life. Also known as the Accawa, the Kapon and the Wacawai, this people are normally found in the Essequibo region of Guyana, near the Mozaruni River Basin and the Pakaraima mountains.

They primarily speak the language of Akawaio and Bible portions have been translated since 1873. In all, about 50% of the Akawaio population is considered to be evangelical Christian which is the primary religion that is practiced among this people.

Ministry tools like gospel recording and the Bible are available to this people in their primary language of Akawaio. However, while the *Jesus* film has not been translated into this language, it is available to the indigenous population of Guyana in the official language of English.

<http://www.everyculture.com/South-America/Akawaio.html>

16353

Arawak (17,293)

Also known as the Lokono people, the Arawak are an indigenous people group which is found in more Coastal and Rainforest settings. These would include the Corentyne, Demerara, and Berbice River areas as well as the Essequibo coast. They have fairly assimilated into the culture of Guyana and provide for themselves by way of paid labor, agriculture and handicraft sales.

Their primary language is Arawak and they primarily practice an Animistic traditional religion. It is unknown how many are evangelical Christian, but there are estimates as high as 5% and there is work being done among this people. Gospel recordings and the Scriptures are available to this people in their primary language and the *Jesus* film is available to them in the official language of the Guyana.

<http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/41/318.html>

16354

Arekuna (558)

Commonly referred to as the Pemong, the Arekuna is a people group indigenous to the country of Guyana and they mostly live near River Basins and Valley's. The Kamarang River and Upper Mazaruni District would be a few of these areas. They are a sedentary people which survive by way of agriculture, fishing and other paid labors.

They primarily speak the Taulipang dialect of Pemon although other dialects of Pemon may be spoken in different areas of the country. The Arekuna primarily practice ethnic religions which center on animism and less than 5% are known to be evangelical Christian.

Neither the Bible nor the *Jesus* film is available to this people group in their primary language. However, a wealth of ministry tools is available in the official language of Guyana which is English.

http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=GY

16357

Aukan (893)

During the period of slavery in Guyana, there were groups of slaves who would run away from their plantations and form their own tribes in the interior of the country. These groups of people were named Maroons or Bush Negroes. By the 18th century, however, all the Maroon groups which had originally formed in what was then British Guiana were wiped out. Maroon groups founded in Suriname then immigrated to Guyana.

While there are many Maroon tribes in Suriname and a few are found in French Guiana, the Aukan Maroon tribe is the only Maroon people group known to live in Guyana. They are also

known as the Ndjuka. Their primary language is Aukan and they primarily practice ethnic religions which center on animism.

Although less than 2% of this population is evangelical Christian, there is work being done among this people group and there are attempts to start a church movement. The Scriptures, the Jesus film and other gospel recordings are available in Aukan for ministerial use.

http://books.google.com/books?id=LuiP2SC3OacC&pg=PA16&lpg=PA16&dq=British+Guiana+Maroon&source=bl&ots=6GNgHM0_m3&sig=gpGlh7JXnkUIDeZWA87YIg7IHw&hl=en&ei=V3aJSpeVO43SMq3dhdIE&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=10#v=onepage&q=British%20Guiana%20Maroon&f=false
http://www.worldmap.org/country.php?ROG3=NS&QryHead=Christian%20Religion&QryFld=CP_Religion_Christian

16355

Berbice Creole (22)

At one time, the Berbice region of Guyana belonged to the Dutch colony which is now Suriname. Those who are Berbice Creole share both African and Dutch ancestry and primarily speak a Creole which was established at the time of Dutch slavery.

There are no ministry tools that are available in this language but the Bible, the *Jesus* film and other gospel recordings are available in Guyana's official language of English. Regardless, this people group's primary religion is noted as Protestant Christianity.

http://books.google.com/books?id=gIU0vte5gSkC&pg=PA1347&lpg=PA1347&dq=Berbice+Creole+Guyana&source=bl&ots=kDUPGvp-NI&sig=Ezk60FeN7EsY9UOS_mQlaHj95E0&hl=en&ei=03qJSoDiOZTCMIz_kesE&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=8#v=onepage&q=Berbice%20Creole%20Guyana&f=false

16369

Brazilian (12,272)

While a good portion of the Brazilian population is descendant from those who immigrated to Guyana from Brazil, a portion of them are descendant from those who emigrated from Portugal. These immigrated for the purpose of contracted labor from the 1830s to the 1880s at the time Brazil was still under Portuguese rule.

A variety of ministerial tools is available to this people group in their primary language of Portuguese. This would include the Bible, the *Jesus* film, ethnic music and other gospel recordings. Less than 2% of this population is considered to be evangelical Christian and they primarily practice Roman Catholicism.

<http://www.guyana.org/special/portuguese.html>
<http://countrystudies.us/guyana/31.htm>

16356

British (5,014)

The British people have been a part of the Guyana landscape since the late 1700s when Guyana became a British colony. They primarily practice Protestant Christianity and it is estimated that over 10% of this population is evangelical Christian. In addition, they primarily speak English, which is the official language of Guyana. As such, a wealth of Christian resources is available to them. This would include the Bible, the *Jesus* film and other gospel recordings.

16358

Carib (3,347)

In Guyana, the Carib people group are also known as the Karinya or the Galibi people. This is an indigenous people group who live in the Pomeroon-Supenaam and the Barima-Waini regions of Guyana which are mostly highland, forest and coastal regions. While their culture is now sedentary, they are still fairly traditional and survive by means of hunting, farming, and other paid labors.

Their primary language is the Tyrewuju dialect of Carib and they primarily practice ethnic religions which have an animistic focus. The Bible, the *Jesus* film and other gospel recordings are available for this people group in their primary language. It is estimated that over 10% of this indigenous population is evangelical Christian. There is currently work among this people in order to reproduce a church movement.

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Deaf (unknown)

It is unknown how many people in Guyana are deaf, however the gospel is still being preached to this people group. This group is unique in that those who are deaf are also part of other people groups and as such live in two cultures: that of the deaf culture in addition to their ethnic background.

There is not one specific language that is universally used among the deaf of Guyana, but the gospel is being spread regardless. It may be that communication of the gospel varies according to an individual basis in this case. Resources like the Bible and the *Jesus* film are available to this people group. A little over 11% are known to be evangelical Christian.

http://www.idcs.info/sgp/round_1_projects/guyana-community.html

http://www.vso.org.uk/Images/guyana-disability-summary-mar07_tcm79-20547.pdf

http://opnew.op.gov.gy/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=176:president-commits-to-support-deaf-awareness-week-activities

43761/2

East Indian Hindu (228,667)

East Indian Hindus first made their appearance on the Guyanese landscape during the period of indentured labor. Labor from East India began to arrive in Guyana during 1838 and ended in 1917. The major sect of Hinduism which was brought to Guyana was the Vaishnavite sect and this is still the primary religion of East Indian Hindus in Guyana today.

While the caste system was strictly practiced by their ancestors, the issue of the caste system is much more lax today. They still retain a good part of their traditional culture which was facilitated by their living in close proximity to other East Indians.

Their primary language is Guyanese Creole English and there are no ministerial tools which are available for use in this language. However, The Bible, the *Jesus* film and other gospel recordings are available for ministerial use in the official language of the country. It is unknown how many people in this population is evangelical Christian. There are records showing many Christian converts from this people group up until the 1930s.

<http://countrystudies.us/guyana/39.htm>

<http://countrystudies.us/guyana/30.htm>

43762

East Indian Muslim (65,621)

Like the East Indian Hindus, East Indian Muslims also immigrated to Guyana during the time period of indentured labor between the years of 1838 and 1917. They also primarily speak Guyanese Creole English, but practice the Sunni sect of Islam.

There are no ministerial tools available to this people group in their primary language and it is unknown how many in this population is evangelical Christian. Resources like the Bible and the *Jesus* film are available to them in Guyana's official language of English.

<http://countrystudies.us/guyana/39.htm>

<http://countrystudies.us/guyana/30.htm>

16359

Guyanese (280,246)

Those who are Guyanese divide themselves into two groups: Afro-Guyanese and Guyanese mulatto. While both groups have African ancestry, the Guyanese mulatto people group also shares European ancestry.

They primarily speak Guyanese Creole English and most practice ethnic and animistic religions. It is estimated that over 5% is evangelical Christian. While there are no ministerial resources available to this people group in their primary language, the Scriptures, the *Jesus* film and other gospel recordings are available in the official language of Guyana.

16362

Han Chinese, Cantonese (3,682)

The Chinese first came to Guyana as indentured labor between 1853 and 1879 to help replace the labor lost after the emancipation of the slaves. Those who are Cantonese emigrated from an area called Guandong in China. After this time period, more Chinese came and settled in Guyana, but they did so as free laborers. A Chinese Association was founded in 1920 in order to help preserve the culture of the Chinese in Guyana.

Most of the immigrants were men and they intermarried with the other cultures already present in Guyana. As such, most of the Chinese brought to Guyana at this time did not maintain their language or much of their culture. However, Chinese again immigrated to Guyana in the 1980s and have brought other members of their families to Guyana as well.

The Cantonese in Guyana primarily speak Yue Chinese and practice Buddhism. While there have been some converts to Christianity, less than 2% are known to be evangelical Christian. Ministerial resources like the Bible, the *Jesus* film, and radio broadcasts are all available to them in their primary language.

It is important to note that there is a good portion of this population which does not speak Chinese as its primary language. Resources like the Bible and the *Jesus* film are available to this group in the country's official language of English.

<http://www.sdn.org.gy/chinese>

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~guycigr>

16363

Han Chinese, Hakka (2,338)

Like the Cantonese, the Hakka Chinese came to Guyana during the period of indentured labor in 1853. These came from the Fukien province of China and primarily speak a dialect of Chinese called Hakka.

Most practice Buddhism and it is estimated that less than 2% of this population is Evangelical Christian. There are ministerial resources available to this people group in their primary language which includes the Bible, the *Jesus* film and other gospel recordings.

<http://www.sdn.org.gy/chinese>

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~guycigr>

16364

Hindi (38,279)

The Hindi people first came to Guyana during the time of indentured labor in 1838. This continued until 1917 when the Guyanese government stopped the practice of buying labor from India. Unlike those from East India, those who are Hindi are descendant from North India.

Caribbean Hindi is the dialect which is primarily spoken among this people and they primarily practice Hinduism. It is unknown how many are evangelical Christian, but the estimate is below 2% of this population. The written Scriptures, the *Jesus film* and other gospel recordings are available to this people group in their primary language and in Guyana's official language.

<http://www.landofsixpeoples.com/news301/ns305058.htm>

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Jew (60)

The Jewish population primarily speaks English and practices Judaism. There are no known evangelical Christian converts in this group, but at least one agency is reaching out to this people group. Resources are available to the Jews of Guyana which include the Bible (both written and auditory), the *Jesus* film and other gospel recordings and radio broadcasts.

<http://www.sefarad.org/publication/1m/011/jewcar.html>

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vjw/jamaica.html>

<http://www.landofsixpeoples.com/news304/ns310096.htm>

16366

Macushi (8,646)

Also known as the Teweya, the Macushi people is a people group which is indigenous to the area of Guyana. They are a traditional people which survive by way of agriculture and hunting and they primarily live in the forest and highland areas of Guyana. This would include the northern and central Kanuku Mountains, the Rupununi region and the Iwokrama Forest.

They primarily speak the language of Macushi and commonly practice ethnic religions which have an animistic focus. It is estimated that over 5% of this population is evangelical Christian. Radio broadcasts, gospel recordings and the written Scripture is available to them in their primary language and the *Jesus* film is available to them in the official language of the country.

16367

Patamona (5,578)

The Patamona are also known as the Ingariko, the Kapon and the Eremagok and they are indigenous to Guyana. They primarily live in the highland and forest areas of Guyana which would include the Iwokrama Forest, Kaburi, and the area around the Siparuni River. Most villages are traditional with the exception of the Kaburi village.

Patamona is the primary language of the Patamona and they practice animistic religions. About 20% of this population is known to be evangelical Christian and there are agencies working to reproduce a church movement in the area. To that end, the Bible and other gospel recordings are available to this people in their primary language. The *Jesus* film is available to them in Guyana's official language of English.

16370

Urdu (4,574)

The introduction of the Urdu people in Guyana occurred in 1838 when Guyana contracted indentured labor from East India. They primarily speak Urdu and practice Islam. These two things are a matter of great pride to the Urdu people of Guyana.

Less than 2% of this population is known to be evangelical Christian and there is no specific church which ministers to this group. The Bible (both written and auditory), the *Jesus* film, and other resources like radio broadcasts and gospel recordings are all available to this people group in their primary language.

http://www.guyana.org/features/guyanese_muslim.html

16371

Waiwai (223)

The Waiwai tribe is an indigenous people group of Guyana and are also known as the Uaieue, the Parukota, and the Ouayeome. They are known to reside in the headwater regions of the Essequibo River which includes areas of rainforest, highland and lowland.

They are a fairly traditional people and speak the Katawian dialect of Waiwai. Most practice animistic religions, but at least 5% of this population is known to be evangelical Christian. Gospel recordings and the Bible are both available to them in their primary language and the *Jesus* film is available to them in Guyana's official language of English.

<http://indian-cultures.com/Cultures/wai.html>

16372

Wapishana (7,546)

Also known as the Vapidiana, the Wapishana are a fairly traditional people group indigenous to Guyana which resides in the mountain regions of Guyana. This would include the Rupununi regions and the southern region of the Kanuku Mountains.

The Wapishana primarily speak the Amariba dialect of Wapishana and they mainly practice animistic religions. A little over 15% of this population is known to be evangelical Christian and work is being done to reproduce a church movement in reference to this people group. The Bible and other gospel recordings are available in their primary language and the *Jesus* film is available to them in English.

16373

Warrau (5,578)

Also known as the Farut, Warao, Araote or Tivitivi, the Warrau people group resides in the coastal swamp and rainforest areas of Guyana. This would include the areas near Pomeroon and the Courantyne River.

They primarily speak Warrau and are a fairly traditional people which practices traditional animistic religions. More than 5% are known to be evangelical Christian and there is work among this people group to establish a church movement. The Bible and the *Jesus* film are both available to this people in their primary language.

General:

<http://countrystudies.us/guyana>

<http://www.guyana.org/history.html>

http://www.nativeplanet.org/indigenous/ethnicdiversity/indigenous_data_latinamerica.shtml

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should aid local Christians in reaching the many peoples from India (Urdu 4500; Hindi 38000; East Indian Hindu 228000). Church planting and evangelism should extend to these groups.
2. Evangelical Christians and churches should develop materials for evangelizing the many Muslims in Guyana (65000).
3. Evangelical Christians and churches should learn from the peoples in South America the ways of dealing with spiritism, especially in its Brazilian forms, and aid in evangelizing the adherents of this practice.
4. Evangelical Christians and churches should continue to be aware of the many who practice Traditional Religions and seek ways to aid in their evangelization.
5. Evangelical Christians and churches should recognize the danger facing Guyana from its neighbors of Venezuela and Suriname in regard to territory. Whatever aid might be given to the country to maintain its borders should be considered.
6. Evangelical Christians and churches should build on the multi-racial congregations to the extent that these groups help provide bridges between the various groups in the country.

Pictures

http://www.guyana.org/Guyana_Photo_Gallery/animals/animals.html
http://www.guyana.org/Guyana_Photo_Gallery/Guyana_Photo_Gallery.htm
<http://www.traveljournals.net/pictures/guyana>
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<http://www.visualgeography.com/countries/guyana.html>
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Links

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/GY.html>
<http://esa.un.org/unpp/p2k0data.asp>
<http://www.guyanaguide.com/history.html>
<http://www.country-studies.com/guyana>
<http://www.landofsixpeoples.com/gynewsjs.htm>
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http://www.nativeplanet.org/indigenous/ethnicdiversity/indigenous_data_latinamerica.shtml
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1984.htm>