

## The Vibrant Cultures of Belize

Belize is often called a "melting pot" of cultures, but this may be a bit of a misnomer. Belize culture is far better described as an elegant latticework of different peoples weaving around and between each other. The term melting pot is inaccurate because Belizeans don't meld into one homogenous people, but stand out proudly, displaying their ethnicity and sharing their culture. Of course, not melting into one does not ensure segregation, the dynamic of Belize culture effortlessly reflects facets from each group's influences and food.

This melding of Cultures is both a blessing and a curse! For many years these cultures had been virtually unchanged. Each culture kept to itself, but today with the growth of technology, and advanced communication and transportation it has become easier for the cultures to mingle with each other and interchange ideas, food, beliefs, and attitudes. Today, it is not uncommon to find a mestizo born Belizean speaking Creole and enjoying delicious rice and beans or is it uncommon to see Mennonites standing in lines waiting for their much desired Mestizo tacos?

Today our cultures are so mixed that it is very difficult to identify one from another. Even students today would question whether they are Mestizo, Creole or Maya. Hopefully the ethnic groups of Belize, would put more effort to keep their culture alive and vibrant before it revolutionizes into completely different cultures.

Read the passage above and answer the following True and False questions.

1. Belize's culture can be described as an elegant latticework of different people weaving around and between each other. \_\_\_\_\_
2. the term melting pot is not correct to describe Belizean Cultures. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Technology is one factor that has caused cultures to be able to mingle with each other much easily. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Today it is rare to find a Mestizo person speaking Creole. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Our cultures today are more separated than long ago. \_\_\_\_\_