

## Bahamian Culture I

Bahamians are a unique people, with a unique culture. Our music is **rake and scrape**. This music is made with a combination of things that are used as instruments, for example, saws and nails, scrub board, harmonica, goat skin drums, and several other things.



The way we speak, our **dialect**, which is a form of **broken English**, is also the main part of our culture. An example of this is our words and phrases such as 'yinna', 'wey ya gern', 'yah'll', 'dem', and 'dey' just to name a few. Every Bahamian island has its own way of speaking in dialect, even its own folk tales, and beliefs.

Some of the **foods** that we eat also are strictly Bahamian and some examples of these are peas soup and dough, Johnny cake, potato bread and souse, stewed fish, boiled fish, conch salad, conch fritters, peas and rice with steamed fish, cracked or grilled conch, crab and rice, gully wash (gin and coconut water), and land crabs from Andros Island. On most of the Family Islands, back in the olden days, many of these dishes were cooked outside on the **rock oven** and on the **fire**.

On **Boxing Day** and **New Year's Day**, we have exciting **Junkanoo** parades. During these parades, the streets are filled with beautiful brightly coloured costumes made of cardboard, foam, colourful crepe paper, feathers, glitter, and paint. Also, there are thrilling sounds of music that is a combination of cowbells, horns, whistles, and the thump of the goatskin drums. Visitors and Bahamians all dance to the beat of the drums while enjoying the festival.



On **Good Friday**, Bahamians do not usually eat any kind of red meat. The meal for this special religious day is usually fish which is cooked in a number of different ways. Fish is mostly eaten with Hot Cross buns.





## Questions:

1. Define the term culture. (1pt)

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2. What type of music is native to the Bahamas? (1pt)

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3. Name **four (4)** original items that make the unique music of the Bahamas. (3pts)

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4. What is Bahamian dialect?

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5. List **four (4)** common words used as Bahamian dialect. (4pts)

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

6. List **five (5)** types of foods that are strictly Bahamian. (5pts)

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7. On the Family Islands back in the olden days. Where were most dishes prepared?  
(2pts)

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8. What is gully wash made from? (1pt) \_\_\_\_\_

9. When are the two times Junkanoo parades are held in the Bahamas? (2pts)

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10. What food items are eaten on Good Friday? (2pts)

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