



The Legacy of the African-American Spiritual: Student Exercises - Segment 2

Segment 2: Spirit of Christianity with African Sensibilities

Critical Thinking

1. Why would slaves convert to Christianity?
2. Compare and contrast the values/beliefs of African society with those of Christianity.

Research Challenges

Project ideas

1) Research traditional cultural practices/beliefs in traditional African society. Identify three major elements of traditional African culture (common traits within the diversity of African societies). Explain each of these traits and why they were valued in African culture. Find examples of these traits in modern American culture. Are these same traits/beliefs valued in modern American culture? Explain.

Related link:

[*Africans in America.*](#)

2) Research [*traditional African stories and storytelling.*](#)

- a. What was the function of stories in traditional African culture?
- b. Find one story that serves as a good example of the traditional African religious beliefs that are discussed in the radio program. Share with the class why this story serves as a good example of the tradition.

3) Research [*Gullah Culture*](#) (see also [*National Geographic on Gullah Culture*](#)).

What is Gullah Culture? Specifically, how is it similar to traditional African beliefs/culture? Why has Gullah culture developed as a separate entity? Why is Gullah culture a unique tradition within the larger American tradition today?