

1. Description

- 1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: **Wapixana (Wapishana)**
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): **WAP**
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): **2.67/-6**
- 1.4 Brief history: **They believe they are from the upper Rio Negro. Their first contact was in 1498, Christopher Columbus' third voyage that reached South America. The Wapishana were brought to work at a Portuguese fort on the Rio Branco by the late 1700's.**
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: **They have some influence from modern medicine (women go to women health facilities, malaria health facilities) they have schools and also go to church**
- 1.6 Ecology: **Prairie like living they are swidden farmers**
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density **6,000 in Guyana**

2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): **Cassava is the main but also beans, rice, melons, sugarcane, etc.**
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: **Deer, turkey, birds**
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns: **They used to use bows and arrows but now they have begun to use shot guns**
- 2.4 Food storage: **Baskets, sieves**
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: **Men hunt, women cook the cassava, men, women and children all fish**
- 2.6 Land tenure: **They don't believe in private ownership of land and are very flexible in assigning houses and garden space. New comers must secure permission from the villagers before they settle there.**
- 2.7 Ceramics:
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: **Families share meat cassava and everything else they farm**
- 2.9 Food taboos: **No**
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft? **No**

3. Anthropometry

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f):
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f):

4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f):
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f):
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f):
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f):
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: **no set percentage, but it is not uncommon and is initiated by either spouse.**
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry: **Men exert authority over their daughters' husbands; it is still common for the wife's father to have her husband do a year of service.**
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: **No explicit rule for inheritance. Leadership however, is passed from father to son, but there is little ethnographic evidence of this.**
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: **Men have control of the labor of their wives, daughters, and unmarried sons. Daughters raise their children along side their mothers and share labor and food.**
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy):
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized?
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows")
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin)
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older)
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect?
- 4.24 Joking relationships?
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules **yes, you cannot marry your true parallel cousin**
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?)

4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)?

4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who:

Warfare/homicide

4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare:

4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death:

4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing:

4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): **Their closest neighbor they do not really trust, the Macushi, their relationship has been very suspect. They are known for their mistrust of outsiders.**

4.18 Cannibalism?

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size:

5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):

5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): **There is a chief**

5.4 Post marital residence: **Women like to live close to their mothers so they build houses near linked by small pathways**

5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):

5.6 Social interaction divisions? (age and sex):

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:

5.8 Village and house organization: **During the 20th century, villages usually surrounded a church. Now a small number of families live on their farms but this is not ok with other that live in the community. In some places people have preferred to live in the open country. Daughters tend to build their houses close to their maternal house.**

5.9 Specialized village structures (men's' houses):

5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?

5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc:

5.12 Trade: **Peddlers sometimes try to trade but they are thought to be exploitative and are avoided**

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

6 Time allocation to RCR:

6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): **In addition to blowing and curing to restore balance they use a lot of plants to treat physical symptoms. They have also begun to use the malaria testing and treatment provided, women also use the women health facilities.**

6.2 Stimulants:

6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): **at death you are buried with your possessions to be used in the afterlife. At adolescence boys and girls are initiated with stinging-ant and cutting ordeals.**

6.4 Other rituals:

6.5 Myths (Creation): **They believe that "When the sky was close, everything spoke"**

6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):

6.7 Sex differences in RCR:

6.8 Missionary effect:

6.9 RCR revival:

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: **Death is thought to be caused by evil spirits (anima), people who were healers that had bad intentions and used their powers to kill people. But now they use hepatitis, malaria, and pneumonia to identify death reasons, even though they still believe the real reason someone died is kanaima or another malevolent spirit. In the old days they used to bury the person inside their house but now they bury them in cemeteries.**

6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?

6.12 Is there teknonymy?

6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.) **Men were once healers; they beat leaves, and blew curves. They could use the same techniques to make people sick and kill them. Now they deny any of this.**

7. Adornment

7.1 Body paint: **No**

7.2 Piercings: **No**

7.3 Haircut: Women have long black hair

7.4 Scarification: **No**

7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): **No**

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:

7.7 Sex differences in adornment:

7.8 Missionary effect:

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:

8. Kinship systems

8.1 Sibling classification system:

8.2 Sororate, levirate:

8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.):

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

Numbered references

1. Povos Indigenas no Brasil. <http://pib.socioambiental.org/en/povo/wapixana/2010>
2. Ethnologue Languages of the World. http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=wap
3. Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wapishana_people#Economy