

1. Description

- 1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family: Aguacatec
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): agu [2]
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): Aguacatán, Huehuetenango, Guatemala [1]
- 1.4 Brief history: Lived peacefully until the Spaniards came and colonized, bringing with them Christianity and missionaries. [5]
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: Missionaries dramatically changed the lifestyle and culture of the Aquacatecans [3]
- 1.6 Ecology (natural environment): Plateau [4]
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: between 8,000 and 18,000 speakers [1] and [2]

2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): tortillas [1]
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: black beans [5]
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: n/a
- 2.4 Food storage: in pottery [5]
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: women make the food [5]
- 2.6 Land tenure: everyone has land to work [3]
- 2.7 Ceramics: made lots of pottery [5]
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: none
- 2.9 Food taboos: none
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft?: none [5]

3. Anthropometry

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

Although there was no evidence found for exact heights and weights, from their folktales it seems as though they are smaller than the average human size. Their creation myth says that first large robust black people were created, then large blonde white people were created, and finally when the Mayans were created, they were very small and yellow skinned.

4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f): puberty [3]
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): n/a
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f): large, around 8 children or so [3]
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f): three years [3]
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): n/a
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: very small [3]
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: n/a
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: Not seen
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: male inheritance of land and goods [3]
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: parents and offspring have a very loving relationship, but the males do punish their children a lot in order to raise them properly [3]
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: not seen.
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): endogamy [3]
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized?: the husband is the only father, much like typical modern beliefs of conception [3]
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows"): receptacle in which fetus grows. [3]
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?: no. conception happens from one sexual intercourse [3]
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape: happens but not from husband wife, but other men [3]
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin) no preferred category [3]
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms? Females may use contraception but it is seen as bad for male and female health, otherwise, not much sexual freedom [3]
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring: no extramarital partners, don't claim extramarital offspring [3] often force the woman to abort the child [3]
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children? The mother's family (sisters and mother) raise the children [3]
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females: n/a
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades: no evidence
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older): no distinctions [3]
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect?: it is the women's job to take care of elders, even their husbands family. They watch over the old and also prepare the body for burial once they die [3] They also have great respect for kin and are raised to be respectful [3]
- 4.24 Joking relationships?: n/a
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: patrilineal [3]

- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules: no formal rules noted, but the normal avoidance is taken [3]
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?: Yes there is a formal marriage ceremony [3]
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name? names change when you reach certain ages and take on certain responsibilities [3]
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?) within the community [3]
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? Marriages are not arranged [3]
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: no. [3]

Warfare/homicide

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: n/a
- 4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: outgroup more common [5]
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: n/a
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): good relations, trade relationships [5]
- 4.18 Cannibalism?: no cannibalism

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: 8,000 [1]
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): no mobility
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): status classes [3]
- 5.4 Post marital residence: n/a
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): defined boundaries that are guarded by males who take turns guarding the entrances [3]
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): The youth and children are given more chores and things to do, and treat their elders with respect. The elderly women are good at witchcraft and magic [3][5]
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: no joking relationships [3]
- 5.8 Village and house organization: Villages are formed with houses built near each other. Stratified system for higher status people [5]
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): no specialized structures [3]
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? Sleep on the ground on mats [5]
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: lineages [3]
- 5.12 Trade: trade sheep and wool with neighboring groups [5]
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? Yes [3]

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

- 6.0 Time allocation to RCR: much time spend dedicated to RCR. Lots of praying daily and magic is thought of as the cause of most things that happen [3]
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): had shamans and herbal medicines to cure people [3]
- 6.2 Stimulants: not seen.
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): at death they paint the house with lime or yellow clay, so that the dead spirit won't recognize the house and try to come back [3]
- 6.4 Other rituals: rituals done when dead such as washing the body in water and boiled flowers, then throwing that water on the cemetery so the sins of the deceased will disappear [3]
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): Grandmother of earth and Grandfather in heaven made the first black people, who were tall and robust. But they did not want black people. So they made more people out of dough, who became white and blonde people. But they wanted their children to look like them, so they made a third set out of ground up corn. The third set of children were the mayans, who were short and copper skinned. The mayans eat tortillas because they are made out of corn, and since the white people are made out of dough they can't stand the sun. [4]
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): have festivals, dances, music, and weaving art [3]
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR: not seen.
- 6.8 Missionary effect: Changed to Christianity and only believed in one God [3] [1]
- 6.9 RCR revival: not seen [3]
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: They believe that the spirit ghosts of the dead appear and still walk the earth after someone dies [3]
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people? No.
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy? No. [3]
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.): black magic is practiced by some [1] believe in spirits, witchcraft, and multiple gods [3]

7. Adornment

- 7.1 Body paint: elaborate body paint [6]
- 7.2 Piercings: nose, ears, lips [6]
- 7.3 Haircut: no special haircut [6]
- 7.4 Scarification: no [6]
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): feathers [5] beads [7] headdresses and beads on the arms, large stones on the face and lip, large necklaces [6]

- 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: when you die they dress you in all white with red flowers and mayan faces on the clothes [3] ritual adornment wearing large necklaces, headdress, paint, etc. [6]
- 7.7 Sex differences in adornment: men wear long pants, women wear skirts, everyone wears elaborate bright colors and hats [5] During rituals, men wear the elaborate costumes of hats and beads and women wear elaborate beaded dresses [6][7]
- 7.8 Missionary effect: rituals done less or not at all [3]
- 7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: not seen

8. Kinship systems

- 8.1 Sibling classification system: classified as brother and sister. [3][5][1]
- 8.2 Sororate, levirate: no. [3]
- 8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.): No preferred cousin spouses. [3]

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

Numbered references

1. According to Our Ancestors, Mary Shaw
2. http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=agu
3. Ignacio The Diary of a Maya Indian of Guatemala, translated by James D. Sexton
4. Heart of Heaven, Heart of Earth and Other Mayan Folktales, James D. Sexton and Ignacio Bizarro Ujpán
5. Maya of Guatemala, CarmenL. Pettersen
6. <http://www.google.com/imgres?q=aguacateco&start=21&num=10&um=1&hl=en&biw=1280&bih=597&tbn=isch&tbnid=v8HkyF7T6sPuGM:&imgrefurl=http://www.10puntos.com/las-profecias-mayas/&docid=TXipeJgLnyLiKM&imgurl=http://www.10puntos.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/sociedad-maya.jpg&w=438&h=316&ei=p86aT4L3KInEgOeHifWSDw&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=222&vpy=303&dur=441&hovh=140&hovw=183&tx=168&ty=130&sig=107866390792333998440&page=2&tbnh=129&tbnw=165&ndsp=27&ved=1t:429,r:14,s:21,i:35>
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