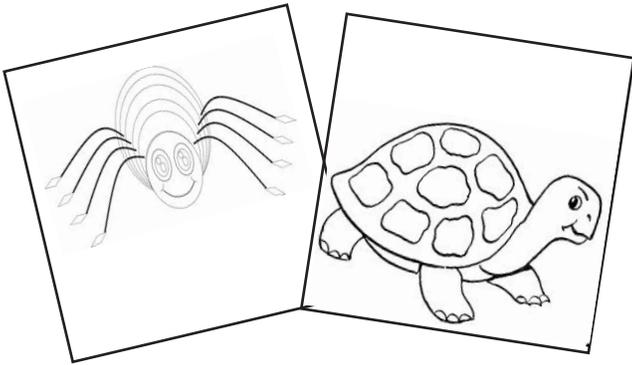


Africanisms also survive through writing and religion. Many stories, known and folktales, were passed down from generation to generation to teach lessons to the youth. African Retentions also are present in religious practices in the New World teaching unity and the importance of living a principled life.



Oral Tradition; Stories, Folktales, and Proverbs
Trickster tales, common in Africa for a long time use the main character Anansi, the spider. In the US and Brazil, the trickster character is also well known in folktales. In the U.S. Br'er Rabbit always outsmarts his enemy while learning valuable lessons. In Brazil, the turtle appears in over 100 folktales and survives his circumstances with his slow pace and persistence.

Can you think of any stories or cartoons that teach a lesson? What is the moral of the story?

Religion

Africans brought their spirituality, rituals and music to the New World and integrated them in many ways with Christianity. In the U.S., African retentions include: invocation of the Holy Spirit, emotional conversion, and lively spiritual music in many African American churches. Spiritual music and dance are also highly prominent in the Brazilian religion of Candomble. In Brazil, orixas (African dieties) are associated with Catholic saints.