Music

- The typical music of the Dominican Republic is Merengue and Bachata. In addition to Merengue, there is Tipico.
- Merengue is more fast, joyful, and fun. Bachata is more slow danced, romantic, and at the same time heartbreaking.
- The typical instruments for both genres are the accordion, the guira, and the tambora. The guira is a cylinder steel instrument (about one foot high) with a handle, which gives a unique sound to the music.
- The tambora is a drum that is placed on the lap and played with your hand on one side and wooden stick on the other.
- Dominicans both here and on the island never miss a chance to dance to their native music.

Food

- Food is an essential part of the typical Dominican household.
- The meals are usually served at around the same time everyday. Breakfast is at 8:30 in the morning, lunch is at noon or 1:00 P.M., and dinner is around 6:00 in the afternoon.
- The typical Dominican meal is called La Bandera Dominicana, in other words, the Dominican Flag. La Bandera Dominicana consists of green salad, meat, white rice, stewed beans, and fried plantains.
- There is also the sancocho which is made most likely on special occasions. It is a soupy stew which consists of many vegetables, pork, and chicken.
- Most young women on the island learn how to cook at a very young age.

Republica Dominicana

Just like the carnival that is celebrated in February every year in the Dominican Republic, the Dominican Day Parade is celebrated here in New York every August. Rain or shine, many Dominican-Americans line up along the sidewalks of 6th Ave to show off their great pride for their native country. The parade provides Dominican New Yorkers as well as all New Yorkers with live performances on floats, los diablos, dancers, loud music, and well known figures from both the island and New York. The parade is a great element in the life of Dominican-Americans. It provides us with a many things that we would see back home. It is as if the island were brought to us just for that day: Our own Dominican Republic in New York.

Faceless Dolls

- One of the best known souvenirs from the Dominican Republic is the Muñeca De Limé; in other words, the faceless dolls.
- Made of clay and representing the housewives and how hardworking Dominican women are to make sure their home is taken care of.
- “Faceless” because our culture is unique. We have different roots tracing from the Africans and Europeans.
- There is no set facial expression for the doll or skin color because we Dominicans could range from really dark to really light.

Carnival

- El Carnaval (carnival) is one of the biggest events of the year in the Dominican Republic. It is celebrated every February in La Vega, Dominican Republic.
- The carnival is one of the most spirited events filled with traditional music, masks, dances, and bright colors. It is celebrated in other cities of the island, but the carnival in La Vega is the most known.
- The start of the carnival dates back to the time of Christopher Columbus and the 1870’s in celebration of the Dominican independence being regained.
- Even though most of the costumes are similar to that of devils, they are not worshiping him at all.
- The carnival is celebrated through the whole month of February starting with the pre-Lenten services, celebration throughout the whole month, and celebrating the independence on February 27th.