



5 Facts to Know About: The Crow Religion

- 1) The Crow religion is the native practice of the Crow tribe. The Crow are from what is now Wyoming, Montana, and North Dakota. There are currently about 12,000 members of the Crow tribe. Not all Crow people practice their native religion, Christianity and other Native American revivalist movements are represented in their population.
- 2) The Crow religion is a monotheistic faith tradition. They believe the universe is made of three realms- the physical world, the spiritual world, and the highest level that only the omnipresent, omnipotent God inhabits.
- 3) Two of the most famous ceremonial rituals of the Crow people are the Sun Dance and the vision quests. The Sun Dance involves physically exhausting oneself while praying in the hot sun to achieve a vision, good luck, or another purpose.
- 4) The vision quests are a rite of passage involving contact with the spiritual world to give a person *Baaxpée*, or “power transcending the ordinary.”
- 5) Intent is very important during ceremonies. It is called *diakaashe* (“he really did it”).

Learn more at:

<http://www.crow-nsn.gov/>

<http://tribalnations.mt.gov/crow>

These five points are not meant to be comprehensive or authoritative. We hope they will encourage you to explore this tradition more deeply and seek out members of this community to learn about their beliefs in action. It is our firm belief that in understanding our differences we will better understand our common humanity

11/2017