Burundian Culture
http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/africa/bi.htm
Burundians in Iowa

“The United States has agreed to resettle a group of Burundian refugees who have lived in Tanzanian refugee camps since 1972... Known as the “1972 Burundians,” the group resides in three different refugee camps in Tanzania.... During the fiscal year 2007, the US will resettle 2,000 to 3,000 of the refugees. An additional 4,000 to 5,000 will be resettled during 2008 and 2009.”

www.culturalorientation.net
picture:news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/5088916.stm
Burundian People

- In 2008 the population was 8,692,005.
- Burundi is one of ten poorest countries in the world.
- Most Burundians live in rural areas, and about 6% of the population live in urban areas.
- Burundi is a small landlocked country in central Africa. Its main exports include coffee, tea, sugar, and cotton.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burundi
The original inhabitants of Burundi were the Twa, a Pygmy people, who now make up 1% of the population. Today the population is divided between the Hutu (85%) and the Tutsi (14%).

Twa people are known for their pottery

Family compound in Burundi

Boys at Lake Tanganyika, Burundi
While the Hutu and Tutsi are considered to be two separate ethnic groups, scholars point out that they speak the same language, have a history of intermarriage, and share many cultural characteristics. Traditionally, the differences between the two groups were occupational rather than ethnic. Agricultural people were considered Hutu, while the cattle-owning elite were indentified as Tutsi.
Burundi is a former Belgium colony and in 1963 Belgium required everyone to carry an identity card indicating tribal ethnicity as Tutsi or Hutu. This had major consequences. Burundi eliminated this segregated identification.

Ethnic violence erupted and more than 300,000 people have been killed in the civil war since 1963. Burundi continues to experience political turmoil and ethnic violence today.
Education

School has been free since 2006 and technically required for children aged 6 through 15. About one-third of the population is literate. Kirundi is the language of instruction from kindergarten through 4th grade, while French is used from 5th grade through university. Students must pass a national exam to continue past elementary. Only 10% of students pass.

The UN Children’s Fund estimated primary attendance in 1996 at 48%. Only 7% of the secondary aged students attended school, and only 4% of eligible girls.

http://www.newint.org/columns/country/2007/07/01/burundi/

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burundi
http://www.everyculture.com/Bo-Co/Burundi.html
The Universite du Burundi (1960), is located in Bujumbura. It is the leading institution of higher education. Less than 1% of the eligible population is attending colleges or universities.
Prior to the civil conflicts, there was a strong oral tradition consisting of stories, legends, fables, and poems, riddles, and songs. In this way, history and culture was passed from one generation to the next. Story-tellers are highly respected, and it is part of their duty to train young boys in the art. Storytelling was used as a way to report news, but subtlety are and creative figures of speech are more valued than is strict accuracy. Burundian’s speech is full of proverbs and metaphors rather than giving direct information.
Health Care

“The social welfare of Burundi only provides health care to those who are employed and earn a salary.(1) The Burundian health care system is rudimentary and medical facilities are limited even in the cities. More than two million people have no access to formal health care.”

(1) http://www.everyculture.com/Bo-Co/Burundi.html
http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/NEH/br-health.html
http://www.tulane.edu/~internut/Countries/Burundi/burundixx.html
There has been a dangerous increase in malnutrition and life threatening diseases. The refugee camps have been hit hard by infectious diseases." (2) There are no doctors in rural areas and even in the cities the numbers are inadequate. Mass displacements, war, a deteriorating road system, and an international embargo have made access to health care difficult if not impossible."

(2) http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/NEH/br-helth.html
“Birth usually occurs at home, assisted by midwives and other women. Six days after a baby is born, a ceremony called *ugusohora* is observed in which he or she is presented to the family. The mother receives a crown of flowers and gifts of beer and money. Children are named in the *kuva mu kiriri* ceremony. The paternal grandfather bestows on the child a proper name, a clan name, and one or two nicknames. If the family is Christian, baptism occurs at the same time. This is not done until the child reaches the age of about one year, as infant mortality is high.”
Language

• Hutu and Tutsi people speak **Kirundi**
• Twa people speak a slightly different dialect of **Kirundi**
• Official languages: **French and Kirundi**
• The language of trade and business in much of East Africa is **Swahili**. In Burundi, the region of Lake Tanganyika and Bujumbura, **Swahili** is spoken.
• English is taught in all schools.

http://www.everyculture.com/Bo-Co/Burundi.html
Kirundi (íkiRũndi)

• Kirundi or Rundi is a Bantu language with about 4.5 million speakers, most of whom live in Burundi.

• There are also some speakers of Kirundi in Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Congo-Kinshasa.

• Kirundi is closely related to Kinyarwanda.

• There has been a standardized spelling system for Kirundi since the 1940s.
Kirundi alphabet and pronunciation

Aa  Bb  Cc  cc  Dd  Ee  Ff  Gg  Hh  Ii  Jj  
A a  b  e  c e  d e  e  e  f  g  e  h a  i  j e
\[a]  [b/\beta]  [c~\gamma]  [k\acute{i}]  [d]  [e]  [f]  [g]  [h]  [i]  [d\emptyset]
jy  Kk  Ll  Mm  mp  Nn  nk  nt  ny  Oo  Pp
  k a  e l  e m  e n
  [g\acute{i}]  [k]  [l]  [m]  [mh]  [n]  [nx]  [nh]  [n]  [o]  [p]
Rr  Ss  SH  Sh  shy  Tt  Uu  Vv  Ww  Yy  Zz
  e r  e s  s h a  t e  u  v e  u w e  y e  z e
  [r]  [s]  [\acute{f}]  [\acute{f}]  [t]  [u]  [b\acute{v}]  [w]  [i]  [d\emptyset]

http://www.omniglot.com/writing/kirundi.php
Sample text in Kirundi

Abantu bose bavuka bishira bakizana kandi bangana mu gateka no mu ngingo zibubahiriza. Bafise ubwenge n’umutima kandi bategerezwa kwubahana nk’abavandimwe.

Translation
All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. *(Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)*

http://www.omniglot.com/writing/kirundi.php
• 65% population is Christian, although the majority retain some animist beliefs and practices
• 23% follow traditional beliefs
• 10% Muslim

http://www.everyculture.com/Bo-Co/Burundi.html
Food Customs at Ceremonial Occasions

“Beer is an important part of social interactions and is consumed at all important occasions, such as the marriage negotiations between two families. It is drunk through straws.”

http://www.everyculture.com/Bo-Co/Burundi.html