

Brazil



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Did You Know?

Brazil is named after the Brazilwood tree.



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Where Is Brazil?



Brazil is the largest country in South America and the fifth largest country in the world!

It has a long coastal border with the Atlantic Ocean and borders with ten different countries.

Using an atlas, can you find the names of all the countries Brazil shares a border with?



Fast Facts About Brazil

Population:
196.6 million

Capital city:
Brasília

Largest city:
São Paulo

Currency:
Real

Main religion:
Catholicism

Official language:
Portuguese*

*although there are about 180 indigenous languages!

Brazilian Flag



In the middle of the flag is a blue globe with 27 stars.

Can you find out the meaning of the flag and the words in the middle?

History of Brazil



Brazil is the only Portuguese-speaking country in South America.

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SEP]

In 1494, the treaty of Tordesillas divided the Americas between Spain and Portugal (Line of Demarcation).

Portugal claimed possession of Brazil on 22nd April 1500, as Pedro Álvares Cabral, the Portuguese fleet commander, landed on the coast.

Brazil gained its independence from Portugal in 1822.

The culture of Brazil is still mainly influenced by the Portuguese.

The Amazon River



The Amazon is the largest river in the world and the Amazon rainforest is the largest tropical forest in the world.

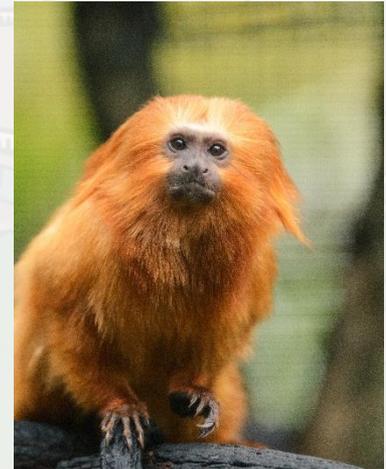
Amazon Rainforest

The Amazon rainforest covers more than 50% of the country.

It is the world's largest jungle.

The Amazon rainforest is very important for the health of the whole planet.

Nearly 20% of the Amazon has been lost already. Climate change and deforestation (cutting down trees) could mean another 20% of the forest may have disappeared by 2035!



Climate of Brazil



It's summer in December – it's extremely hot!
It is winter in June – but Brazil doesn't get much snow!

The People of Brazil



About 60 per cent of the country's population are of European ancestry - German, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish.

Afro-Brazilians make up about 7 per cent.

Amerindians, the original Brazilians, form less than 1 per cent of Brazil's people.

Many Brazilians have mixed ancestry.

The People of Brazil

Brazil is quite a wealthy country.

But the gap between the richest and the poorest people is one of the biggest in the world.

About 40 million people live in poverty.
That's about 1 in 5 Brazilian people.

17.5 million people live in Brazil's largest city, São Paulo. It is a very crowded place to live!

There are 30,000 millionaires in São Paulo.
But 3.5 million people live in poverty and 15,000 live on the streets.



Indigenous People



People from indigenous communities are some of the poorest in Brazil.

Amerindian groups in the Amazon area still use their own languages.

Many indigenous people living in Brazil live in the Amazon region.

The indigenous people who live in the forest have to move when the trees are cut down.

Carnivals



The greatest and most celebrated festival in Brazil is the *Carnaval* in Rio de Janeiro.

The typical Rio carnival parade is filled with revellers, floats, costumes and adornments from samba schools in the city

This is four days of music, singing and dancing!

The Carnival in Rio de Janeiro is a world famous festival held before Lent every year and considered the biggest carnival in the world with two million people per day on the streets. The first festivals of Rio date back to 1723.



Brazilian Trade

Can you think of any products which are produced in Brazil?

Brazil is the largest coffee producer in the world.

Brazil is also the world leader in the production of livestock.

There are many mines in Brazil, mining minerals and steel.

Brazil has many natural resources such as iron ore, manganese, and many other minerals. There is also a wide range of agricultural products, such as coffee, bananas, cacao beans, cattle, cotton, horses, lemons, maize, oranges, pineapples, rice, sheep, soybeans, sugar cane, nuts, timber, and tobacco, that helped make Brazil a growing economic power.

Brazilian Food



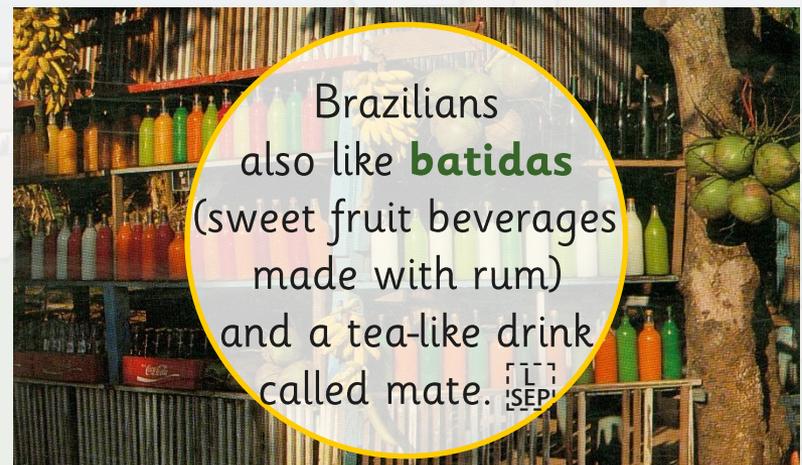
Feijoada,
Brazil's national
dish, combines black
beans, dried beef,
and pork.



Brigadeiro
is a chocolate
fudge snack which
is also very
popular.



Coffee
is Brazil's
chief drink.



Brazilians
also like **batidas**
(sweet fruit beverages
made with rum)
and a tea-like drink
called mate.



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