



Discover Brazil

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About this guide: Little Passports has developed this guide to provide ideas, activities and resources for teachers using the World Edition subscription in the classroom.

Lesson: Discover Brazil

Suggested Use: geography, social studies

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DISCOVER BRAZIL

Brazil Profile: Brazil is the largest country in South America, filling about half of the continent's land area and population. It's the only Portuguese-speaking country in South America and the largest Portuguese-speaking country in the world. It's also considered one of the world's most diverse nations, a reflection of cultural influences of indigenous, African and Portuguese heritage.

What's included in the Little Passports Brazil Package?

- An adventure letter from pen pals Sam & Sofia
- 4-page activity sheet
- Souvenir amethyst
- Stickers to place on the suitcase, passport and map
- Luggage tag, with code to enter the online Boarding Zone

Teacher's Guide Bonus:

- Activity Sheet: "Creatures of the Amazon"



See Page 11

Pop Quiz Answer Key: 1-b, 2-c, 3-b, 4-c, 5-d

GEOGRAPHY

Facts

- Capital City: Brasília
- Official Language: Portuguese



Brazil

Brazil is best known perhaps for its large section of the Amazon Rainforest in the north of the country. About 60% of the whole Amazon Rainforest and most of the Amazon River basin, are in Brazil. It is also home to the Pantanal, the world's largest wetland. Between these two features, Brazil contains the greatest variety of animals of any country on Earth.

Rio de Janeiro, nicknamed “*Cidade Maravilhosa*,” or the “Marvelous City,” is one of Brazil’s most active cities. It is a cultural center in Brazil, boasting some of Brazil’s most popular beaches, and is home to the famous *Cristo Redentor* (Christ the Redeemer) statue which stands atop Mount Corcovado. *Cristo Redentor* is the largest Art Deco monument in the world. São Paulo is Brazil’s largest city, with about 150 museums and cultural centers, and Brazil’s largest zoo. Another popular place to visit in Brazil is Parque Nacional da Serra da Capivara, which has about 360 archaeological sites revealing thousands of prehistoric rock paintings. The oldest examples of these paintings are thought to be over 23,000 years old (some experts think they may be even older), making them the oldest pieces of rock art in the Americas!

CULTURE



Fun Fact

- In Rio de Janeiro, it’s common to see wild monkeys and toucans hanging out in the trees at city parks!

The cultural makeup of Brazil began to change in the 1500s with the arrival of the Portuguese, who began bringing African slaves to the country. The result is ultimately a country with a hodgepodge of indigenous South American tribes, Africans from many different tribes and regions and Europeans. The diversity of Brazil is clearly seen today in its popular music, dance styles and sports.

Samba Music

The samba was traditionally derived from African beats and customs, but over time began to incorporate Latin American music styles. It was performed for hundreds of years before it was made popular in the 1920s. When Africans were first brought to South America as slaves in the late 1500s, they brought with them a religion called *Candomblé*. *Candomblé* has its own special forms of music and dance that believers perform as a way of worshipping their *orixás*, which are like personal gods or saints. Slavery was abolished in Brazil in 1888 and many former African slaves

Fun Fact

- In the city of São Paulo you'll find the Museu do Futebol, a museum dedicated to the game of soccer.



moved south to Rio de Janeiro, which was the birthplace of what we know today as samba music. It is thought that the word “samba” comes from an African word for “prayer.” Today, samba music is a major part of national Brazilian festivals, like Carnival and it is performed as a way of celebrating African culture. It usually involves the use of African drums, tambourines, flutes, guitars and *cuícas* (types of drums that make high-pitched squeaky sounds).

Optional samba clips:

- Bambo du Bambu: Samba: <http://www.folkways.si.edu/ernesto-dos-santos/bambo-du-bambu-samba/world/music/track/smithsonian>
- Music of Para, Brazil: <http://www.folkways.si.edu/music-of-para-brazil-carimbo-pajelanca-batuque-and-umbanda/latin-world/album/smithsonian>

Capoeira

Capoeira is a combined form of dance, martial arts and acrobatics. It is also rooted in African music and dance. It can be described as a conversation through movement between the players. Capoeira is as much a game as it is a dance: players have to try to confuse each other through deceptive movements. The speed of the game is determined by the rhythm of the music, the prominent instruments being the *berimbau* (a one-stringed bow instrument that acts as the lead instrument of capoeira music), the tambourine, drums, bells and the *reco-reco* (a simple, ridged instrument, usually made of bamboo or metal, that's scraped with a stick).

Optional capoeira video:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnxdYJjxSgo>

Soccer

Brazilians love soccer, or as Brazilians call it, *futebol*. Brazil is the only country in the world to have won the World Cup 5 times. Soccer was introduced in Brazil around 1894, when a Brazilian-born Englishman named Charles Miller began setting up soccer matches in São Paulo. Brazil's national soccer team became prominent in the 1950s when it hosted the World Cup and later won its first world title. Often considered the best soccer player of all time, Edson Arantes do Nascimento, known as Pelé, grew up in and played professionally for Brazil. Today, the Brazilian national team is well known for its bright yellow and green jerseys. The soccer World Cup was held in Brazil in 2014.

CLASS ACTIVITIES

1. Discuss different types of diversity.

- a. Ask the class what they think diversity means. Record their answers on the board.
- b. Explain that diversity exists in societies, geography and nature. Brazil is a country full of each of these types of diversity.
- c. Discuss: How is Brazil more or less diverse than where you live? What types of diversity exist in your community?

2. Listen to one of the examples of samba music:

- Bambo du Bambu: Samba: <http://www.folkways.si.edu/ernesto-dos-santos/bambo-du-bambu-samba/world/music/track/smithsonian>
 - Music of Para, Brazil: <http://www.folkways.si.edu/music-of-para-brazil-carimbo-pajelanca-batuque-and-umbanda/latin-world/album/smithsonian>
- a. Discuss: Ask students how the music makes them feel. Discuss the African roots of samba: how might the rhythm be connected with prayer or religious ritual? What is similar or different about samba when compared to music that you listen to in your community?

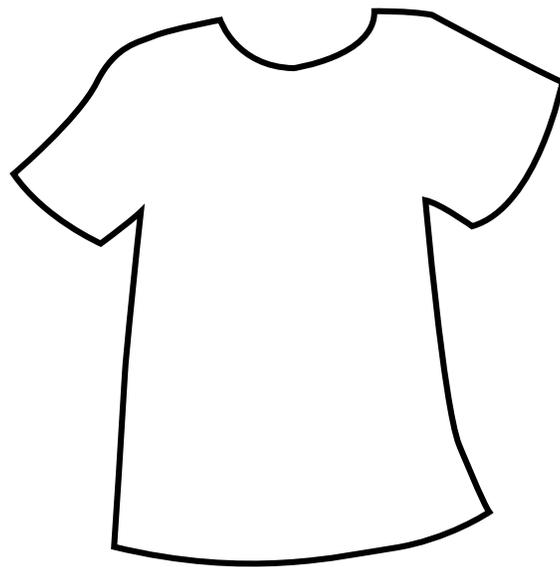
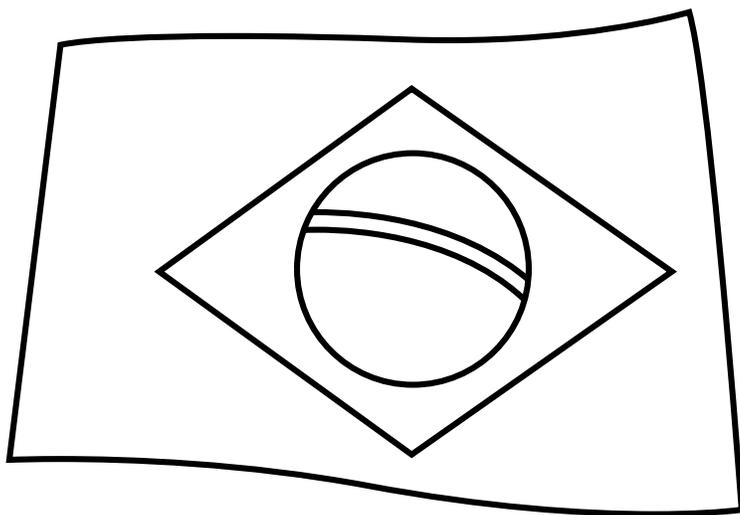
3. Watch the capoeira video:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wngxYJjxSgo>
- a. On the board, create a list of words from the class that describe the movements of the players.
 - b. Discuss: What does it look like they're doing? How can it be considered dancing as much as martial arts, or vice versa? How is the music involved in the game?

4. Read Sam and Sofia's letter from Brazil to the class.

- a. Discuss: Ask students which animals they would most likely encounter in the heart of the Brazilian Amazon, and which ones they would want to avoid. Make a list on the board.
- b. Have each child draw a picture of the animals they chose.

- 5. Pass around the piece of amethyst that you received in the Brazil package.**
- a. Learn: Large quantities of amethyst were found in Brazil in the 1800s. Before then, the mineral was considered as valuable as rubies and emeralds. While it is no longer as rare as those stones, it is still very popular because of its cool purple hue. The ancient Greeks believed that wearing amethyst would keep a person clear-headed and quick-witted. It has been used in royal crowns and religious jewelry, and is the February birthstone.
- 6. Activities: Pass around copies of the activities from page 1 and page 4 of the Brazil activity sheet.**
- a. Also, pass out a print-out of the brigadeiro recipe on pages 2 and 3 for students to take home and make with their parents for extra credit.
- 7. Play: organize a soccer match. Split the class in half, and at recess or any designated time for physical fitness, “coach” your class in the rules of soccer. Be sure to use the substitution system if each team is too large for everyone to be playing at once.**
- a. Afterwards, discuss: Why might the sport be so popular in Brazil and other parts of the world? How popular is it in your community, or to each student?
- 8. Create: Have students design their own Brazil soccer jersey, or have them draw and color their own Brazil flag.**



Enlarge images on photo copier

9. Make a class chart with the topics “Physical Geography” and “Culture.”

- a. Read out the different facts that you learned while exploring Brazil (such as, “Brazil is the largest country in South America,” or “the word ‘Samba’ means ‘prayer’”). Ask the class whether it is a fact about Brazil’s physical geography or about its culture, and then write the fact in the correct area of the chart. Hang the chart up somewhere in the room afterwards for students to remember what they learned about Brazil.

10. Class Passports: At the beginning of the lesson, a small blank notebook was given to each student in the class.

- a. At the end of the lesson, set aside some time for them to design a full-page passport “stamp.” This can be drawing a picture of something that stood out to them from the lesson, a collection of notes that they took during the lesson or a written reflection on the lesson as a whole. Make sure they know that the passports will be reviewed for consistency with the information that was taught to them.
 - i. Have a handful of students volunteer to share their Brazil “stamp” with the class.

VOCABULARY

Art deco – A decorative art style of the 1920s and 1930s.

Berimbau – A bow-shaped percussion instrument used in capoeira music.

Candomblé – A religion with its own special prayer music and dances. It was brought to South America by African slaves beginning in the late 1500s.

Capoeira – A Brazilian martial art and dance style.

Carnaval – A week of celebration that takes place during the week before Lent.

Cuíca – A type of drum used in samba music that makes squeaking sounds.

Diversity – A diverse place contains people from many different cultural and social backgrounds.

Indigenous – People who are native to a particular place are indigenous to it.

Orixás – gods and spirits of ancestors in the Candomblé religion.

Pantanal – A region containing the world's largest wetland.

Reco-reco – A percussion instrument (usually made of bamboo or metal) used in capoeira music and played by scraping its ridged surface.

Samba – A style of music and dance in Brazil incorporating African and Latin American musical elements.

Wetland – Land that is saturated with water, either year-round or seasonally. Marshes and swamps are examples of wetlands.

POP QUIZ

Read each question. Circle the letter next to the correct answer.



1. **Brazil is the world's largest producer of these products:**

- a. Pork, bananas and tea
- b. Orange juice, sugar and coffee
- c. Rice, mangoes and beans

2. **Review: What is the Pantanal?**

- a. A rainforest
- b. A desert
- c. A wetland
- d. A mountain

3. **Review: What does the word "samba" mean?**

- a. Library
- b. Prayer
- c. Celebration
- d. Remember

4. **What popular festival is Brazil best known for hosting?**

- a. Holi
- b. Oktoberfest
- c. Carnival
- d. La Tomatina

5. **Review: Who was Pelé?**

- a. A Brazilian president
- b. An important capoeira player
- c. A famous samba musician
- d. A famous Brazilian soccer player



Creatures of the Amazon



South America's Amazon rainforest is home to butterflies and frogs of all different colors. Follow the steps below to draw these colorful rainforest creatures.

