# Rio de Vida

## Brazil

Brazil is a large country in the continent of South America. Portuguese is the official language spoken in Brazil. Brazil is a popular tourist destination. Nearly seven million people visit each year.

**Key**

- Africa
- Antarctica
- Asia
- Australia
- Europe
- North America
- South America

## Brasília

The capital city of Brazil is Brasília. Around three million people live in Brasília. Brasília is a very modern city.

## Features of Brazil

**Landscape**

The landscape of Brazil is very varied. It has a long coastline, dense rainforests, dry grasslands and towering mountains.

**Amazon rainforest**

The Amazon rainforest is the world's largest tropical rainforest. The Amazon River runs through the rainforest.

**Climate**

The climate in Brazil is mostly hot and dry. In the tropical Amazon rainforest, it can be hot and humid.

**Sport**

Sport is popular in Brazil, especially football. The Brazilian football team have won the World Cup five times.

**Food**

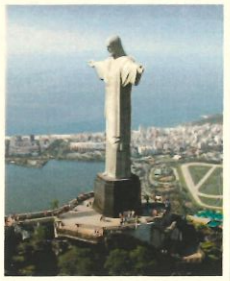
There are many types of food eaten in Brazil. A traditional Brazilian stew called feijoada is made from pork and black beans.

## Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro is one of Brazil's most visited cities. There are lots of things to see and do.

**Cable cars**

Tourists can ride two cable cars to reach the top of Sugarloaf Mountain and see views of Rio.



**Christ the Redeemer**

On top of the Mount Corcovado is an enormous statue called Christ the Redeemer.

**Ipanema Beach**

Brazil has many sandy beaches along its coastline. Ipanema Beach is a popular tourist destination.



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## Carnival

Brazil is famous for its many colourful carnivals. The Rio Carnival is a festival held every year before the Christian period of Lent and is said to be the biggest carnival in the world.

Rio Carnival

## Samba

Samba is a type of dance that is very popular in Brazil. It is based on an African dance and is very lively. Samba is performed by dancers at carnival. The dancers wear colourful costumes with sequins and feathers.

## Instruments

Music in Brazil uses many percussion instruments. These are instruments that are hit, scraped or shaken.

The **pandeiro** is a hand drum. It has cymbals around the edge and is held in the left hand. The player hits or shakes it to make a sound.

The **surdo** is a big drum. It is used to keep the beat. The player hits the skin of the drum with a beater and their hand.

The **chocalho** has one or more rows of cymbals. It can be played with one or two hands. The player shakes the chocalho to make a sound.

The **agogô** is a type of bell. Two or more bells are joined together. Each bell is a different size. The player hits the bells with a stick to make a sound.

## Glossary

| | |
|---|---|
| **cable car** | A cabin that is held on a moving cable that is used for travelling, usually up and down a mountain. |
| **capital city** | A city that is home to the government and ruler of a country. |
| **carnival** | A celebration with parades, costumes, food, music and dancing. |
| **continent** | A large mass of land. |
| **humid** | A type of weather that is hot and damp. |
| **percussion** | Instruments that make a sound when they are hit, scraped or rattled. Drums are percussion instruments. |
| **Portuguese** | The language spoken in some countries including Portugal, Brazil and Mozambique. |
| **tradition** | A belief or way of behaving by a group of people over many years. |

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