



Embratur

1. Brazil - The Land

This fact sheet introduces you to the beautiful country of Brazil with its varied scenery.



1 What do you know about Brazil? What is Brazil famous for? Make a list of the facts that you know about the country and its people.

2 What would you like to know about Brazil?



3 Look at the short movie clips below to see what life in Brazil is really like. Can you write some notes on what you have found out about living in the country?

 www.brazil.org.uk/school/video.html



José Medeiros

AMAZON FOREST

1.1 Where is Brazil?

Brazil is one of thirteen countries in the continent of South America. It has borders with all the other countries except Chile and Ecuador. Most of Brazil is in the Southern Hemisphere between the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn. It lies between the Atlantic Ocean in the east and the Andes mountains in the west.



IBGE

FIVE BIGGEST COUNTRIES

1.2 Why is the country called Brazil?

When Portuguese explorers first discovered the land we now know as Brazil, they found trees with a deep red colouring inside the trunk. They used the name pau-brasil to describe them. Pau is Portuguese for “wood”, and brasil is said to have come from brasa, Portuguese for “ember” – a glowing material left after a fire has gone out. Brazilwood became a large part of the exports of the newly discovered land.



Antonio Silva

The best quality bows that are used with stringed musical instruments such as violins and cellos are made from Brazilwood, known as Pernambuco wood.

Unfortunately, over-exploitation of the trees led to a steep decrease in the number of brazilwood trees in the 18th century, and this caused the collapse of trade in this wood. This species of tree is now almost extinct and is listed as an endangered species, which is why trading in Brazilwood is banned.

EXPLORERS ARRIVED IN A SHIP LIKE THIS

1.3 How big is Brazil?

Brazil is the largest Latin American country, occupying an area of 3,286,470 sq. miles (8,511,965 sq. km) and covering nearly half of the South American landmass. It is the fifth largest country in the world after the Russian Federation, Canada, China and the United States. It is thirty five times the size of the United Kingdom.

The distance from north to south and from east to west is nearly as far as the distance from London to New York.

The capital city of Brazil is Brasília.



BRAZIL CONSISTS OF FIVE REGIONS

IBGE

1.4 What is the land like?

Brazil is made up of:

- 🍃 Narrow coastal plains alongside the Atlantic Ocean
- 🍃 Lowlands, especially in the basin of the Amazon
- 🍃 Plateaus, especially inland from the Atlantic Ocean
- 🍃 Mountains just inland from the coastal plain and in the north.
- 🍃 The highest mountain in Brazil is Pico da Neblina (3,014 metres) in the north on the border with Venezuela.
- 🍃 The River Amazon is the world's second longest river after the Nile. It rises in the Andes mountains before flowing east across Northern Brazil to the Atlantic Ocean. The Amazon Basin – the land drained by the river and its tributaries – has more fresh water in it than any other river basin in the world.
- 🍃 The other main rivers are the Tocantins, the São Francisco and the Paraná.
- 🍃 The Iguazu Falls are one of the great natural wonders of the world and can be found on the border of Brazil and Argentina. Five times larger than the Niagara Falls, the falls here consist of 275 individual falls that stretch nearly two miles across the Iguazu River.



Ademar Pereira

A BRAZILIAN BEACH



Embratur

THE AMAZON WINDS ITS WAY THROUGH BRAZIL



Embratur

IGUAÇU FALLS



Embratur

COASTLINE



SEE THESE LINKS!

Map showing countries across the world:

www.ibge.gov.br/7a12/mapas/mundo/planisferio_pol.pdf

Map showing continents:

www.ibge.gov.br/7a12/mapas/mundo/continentes.pdf

Photo of Pau-Brazil:

upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/fb/Paubrasil.jpg

Physical map of Brazil:

www.ibge.gov.br/ibgeteen/atlasescolar/mapas_pdf/brasil_fisico.pdf

Iguaçu Falls:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iguazu_Falls

World Factfile for Brazil

www.guardian.co.uk/country-profile/brazil

PHOTO GALLERY



Embratur

Iguaçu Falls



Embratur

Iguaçu Falls



Embratur

muddy waters meet the sea



José Medeiros

unmade roads



Denise kremer

farmland



Denise kremer

new roads



Embratur

Brazil's largest city - São Paulo



Nelson Lafraia

São Paulo city centre



Erika Tambke

Rio de Janeiro



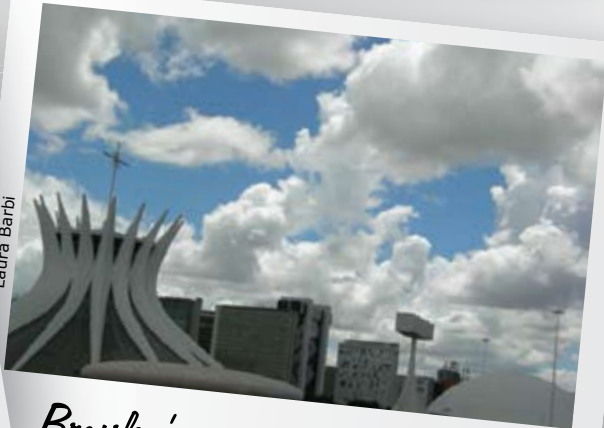
Embratur

Rio's beaches



Laura Barbi

A wet day!



Laura Barbi

Brasilia's cathedral