



3a. Brazil - the Country and its People

Here you will find out how Brazil developed over the centuries and why people travelled to live in the country.

The people of Brazil are descended from people who came from many other parts of the world. Some came many thousands of years ago, some came hundreds of years ago and some came during the last century.

The Brazilian people originate from:

1. Original inhabitants

Indian people like the Kayapo and the Yanomami;

2. European

settlers after the discovery of the country – mainly Portuguese;



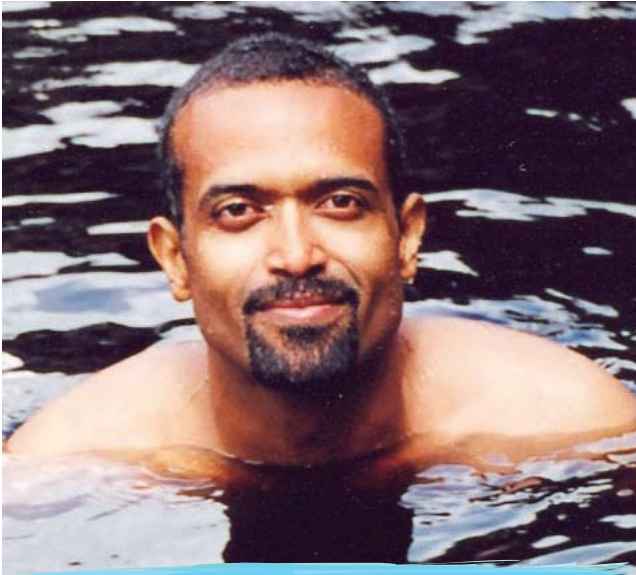
XINGU INDIAN GIRL



BRAZILIANS ORIGINATE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

3. Africans

from the western coast of Africa who came as slaves.



John Rhodes



José Medeiros

TWO BRAZILIANS OF AFRICAN ORIGINS

4. migrant workers

from Europe, and more recently from other countries outside Europe, to work in the big cities.



Nelson Lafraia



Nelson Lafraia

BRAZILIANS ORIGINATE FROM MANY COUNTRIES

SÃO PAULO CITY CENTRE

The first settlers to Brazil would have travelled across to North America from what is now Russia to the area known today as Alaska. This would have happened at the end of the Ice Age in about 9,000 BC. They would then have travelled slowly down the North American continent until they reached South America.

The Indians who still live in remote areas of Brazil are the descendents of these early people.

Pedro Álvares Cabral, the Portuguese explorer, reached the coast of Brazil on April 22 1500. The explorers settled along the north east coast where the climate was warm and moist.

Other Portuguese explorers followed Cabral in search of valuable goods for European trade. However, the land away from the coast remained unexplored.

In the first century after its European discovery, the country's major export—giving its name to Brazil—was brazilwood, from a large tree whose trunk contains a prized red dye.

In the 17th century sugar cane was introduced as a crop and soon large plantations were developed to grow it for export to Europe. The Portuguese landowners then had to bring captured slaves from Africa to work in the plantations. The Portuguese settlers frequently intermarried with both the Indians and the African slaves, and there were also mixed marriages between the Africans and Indians. As a result Brazil's population is a mixture of cultures and races. Most Brazilians possess some combination of European, African, Amerindian, Asian, and Middle Eastern background.



EARLY PORTUGUESE EXPLORERS



A RUBBER TAPPER

Around a hundred years ago many people travelled from Europe to start new lives abroad. Opportunities existed for people to work in Brazil on sugar plantations and in the the rubber industry, and when coffee took the place of sugar as Brazil's most important product, a wave of European immigrants settled in the country.

1 How big is the country?

Brazil is the fifth largest populated country in the world. Its population today is estimated at 189 million. Two thirds of these people live along the coast and in the major cities. Over 19 million live in greater Sao Paulo and 11 million in greater Rio de Janeiro. The photographs in this fact sheet will show you how large the cities are.

For the latest population figures for Brazil, visit the website at the end of the fact sheet.

What language do the people speak?

Portuguese is the official language of Brazil. You will notice that the name of the country is spelt differently in Portuguese than in English – Brasil instead of Brazil.

Here are some common words and phrases used in Brazil:

Hello = Olá
Good Morning = Bom dia
Good Afternoon = Boa tarde
Good night - Boa noite
What time is it? = Que horas são?
See you = Até logo

POPULATION CHART

Population and its Annual Rate of Growth

Year	Population (million)
1776	1.9
1876	10.9
1900	17.3
1940	41.2
1970	93.2
1980	121.3
1991	146.9
1995	155.8
1997	159.8
2000	170
2009	192

Brasília: capital of Brazil

Brasília became the capital city of Brazil in 1960. It was built in four years on a site that was chosen so that the city would be more central and nearer the heart of the country. Look at the photographs in the galleries below. What do you think of the city?



BRASÍLIA

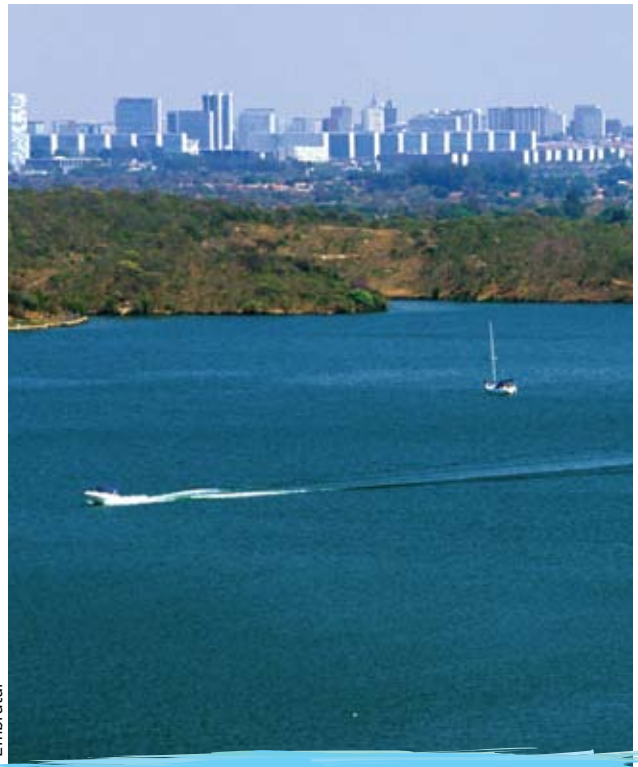


BRAZILIAN CONGRESS



Embratur

INSIDE THE CATHEDRAL



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BRASÍLIA



SEE THESE LINKS!

Population maps showing increase since 1960:

http://www.ibge.gov.br/ibgeteen/atlascolar/mapas_pdf/brasil_densidade_demografica.pdf

For the latest population figures for Brazil, visit this website:

<http://www.ibge.gov.br/english/disseminacao/online/popclock/popclock.php>



PHOTO GALLERY



Nelson Lafraia

brazilians partying



Embratur

presidential palace



Ademar Pereira

friends



Embratur

view of Brasilia



José Medeiros

Brazilian boy



Daniela Silva

boys at play