



Luisa Ribeiro

6. Schools in Brazil

Are Brazilian schools very different from your own school?

Children in Brazil begin school when they are five. Most children in towns and cities attend school although there are still some children who do not do so. Before they are five they can attend pre-school groups or nurseries. Children are expected to remain in school until the age of fifteen, when they can choose either to leave or to continue in secondary education until they are seventeen. In secondary schools they can learn skills for certain jobs or prepare to move on to universities.

There are many private schools in Brazil. These are usually found in the large towns and cities and are attended by children from middle and upper class families.

The school day is broken into two sessions. The first session starts at 7.15am and ends at 11.45am while the second starts at 2.30pm and finishes at 5.00pm. Children will attend one or the other sessions.

Some schools have computers that can be used by pupils and there is a new scheme being implemented in state schools – “One Laptop per Child”. Many families now have access to computers either at home or in community centres.



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PORTUGUESE LESSON



Antonio Silva

A COUNTRY SCHOOL

Basic resources are provided at schools – books, notebooks, pencils, rulers – but supplies are sometimes limited.

There are after school activities involving sports – football, handball, volleyball, table tennis, athletics – and competitions take place between schools. Music is also enjoyed during and after school.

There are also opportunities for children to take part in music and dance activities both in and after school.

Some children spend their free time playing on the nearby beaches while others go to the cinema or visit their families. Homework is often set and may be completed during the morning or afternoons when children are not at school.

A school meal is provided by the school and is prepared by canteen staff. The menu could include such food as rice, beans, meat or fish or eggs, vegetables and fruit. There are expectations that schools provide a nutritionally balanced diet for children while certain foods such as soft drinks, burgers, sweets and chewing gum have been banned.

Families enjoy eating dinner together. The staple diet is rice, beans, salad and vegetables and these are usually eaten with chicken, fish



Denise Kremer

A PRINTING WORKSHOP



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A SCHOOL LIBRARY



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ICT LESSONS



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LEARNING ON THE INTERNET



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IN THE SPORTS HALL



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A MUSIC SESSION



Nelson Lafrata

A BALANCED MEAL



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A SPECIAL TREAT: STEAK AND CHIPS



Ademar Dias

A SNACK: PALMHEART PASTRY WITH SUGARCANE JUICE



J M Alkmin

MANGO, COCONUT, CASSAVA AND BANANAS

or red meat. However, pasta and pizza are also popular foods. Fresh fruit juices are drunk in Brazil with different kinds of fruit available in different parts of the country. These include oranges, mangoes, pineapples, guava, and passion fruit. Street markets can be found which sell a range of locally grown fruit and vegetables. Families in Manaus will eat fish as the river Amazon provides a rich source of tasty fish. See the gallery of photographs below.

Did You Know?

Açaí (pronounced assa-EE), which is gaining in popularity in Britain as a food supplement and an ingredient in smoothies and juices, comes from the berries of a palm tree found mostly in the Amazon region. In Brazil, açaí is commonly consumed as a frozen pulp mixed in a blender with syrup of guaraná (another Amazonian



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A BOWL OF AÇAÍ

berry): the result is a very thick, cold soup with a distinctive deep purple colour. Favourite accompaniments include granola and banana. Rather like Marmite, that famous British delicacy, açaí tends to divide opinion: there are many people who avoid it entirely but many who are virtually addicted to it.

PHOTO GALLERY



Nelson Lafraia

fish market



Nelson Lafraia

fruit market



Sara Tomlinson

at work



Sara Tomlinson

class display



Nelson Lafraia

vegetable stall



Nelson Lafraia

delicious fruit