



# Teacher's Guide to Families of the World

## Brazil

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## **Script- Rural Family**

### **Luisa 10 Years Old**

It's early morning on our farm in Brazil, South America. Our rooster is already awake and crowing before my alarm clock goes off at 5:30.

My name is Luisa and I live with my mother, father, brother and grandmother on a farm, which is 360 kilometers, or 220 miles, from Rio De Janeiro, Brazil's largest city.

Our farm is an hour's drive from a town with a school, so we need to get an early start. Students in Brazil either go to school in the morning or afternoon. Our classes start at 7 o'clock and end at noon. My mother, brother, Ciro, and I drive to school together, because mom teaches ballet at our school.

For breakfast we usually have ham, cheese, hot chocolate, coffee, juice, milk, bread and butter.

Our farm is in a hilly area, and the only people nearby are the families that we hire to help us farm, cook and clean for us. Our house was built by my great grandfather 100 years ago, when he moved to Brazil from Portugal. He divided the land between his 11 children. Those children divided the land between their children. So the land that my father inherited is much smaller than the original farm.

My Mom usually drives us to school, but our car was recently stolen, so Dad's driving us this week. We have to go down a long bumpy driveway get to the paved highway we take to our school, which is in the city of Itaperuna. The city lies in a valley on the edge of a river. From a hill on the edge of the city you can see for miles around.

We go to a private school. That means that my parents have to pay for my brother and I to go there. I'm in 5th grade and Ciro is in preschool. This morning we're having geography, where we study about how people live in other countries.

Classes are taught in Portuguese, our national language. We speak Portuguese because Brazil was claimed for Portugal by Pedro Alvares Cabral, the first European to discover this area in 1500. Brazil was a

Portuguese colony until we declared ourselves an Independent republic with 26 states, in 1889. Since that time, people have come to Brazil, or immigrated, from all over the world. We say we're a country of immigrants.

Teachers move to different classrooms for each subject, while we stay in the same room.

When we have a break at 9:30, my friends and I like to get snacks from the school store.

In creative writing our teacher reads us short stories and we talk about what makes them good, before we begin writing our own stories.

Most students go home when we finish class at noon. But Mom and I still have ballet, and I have an English class later in the afternoon. We only have 2 hours before we have class again, not enough time to go back to our farm. So we usually go to my cousin's house for lunch and a rest.

My brother and I like to tell my dad funny things that happened to us at school.

Then I play video games while my mom and dad fix lunch.

Most people eat their biggest meal at noon. We're having meat, rice, black beans, and salad.

While Mom and Dad clean up the kitchen, my brother and I play more video games.

Dad calls the farm to see that everything is O.K. We go back to school at about 2 o'clock.

Mom teaches a ballet class for younger children. She used to be a professional ballet dancer.

While Mom teaches her class, I do my homework. Then a friend shows me how to use a special piece of glass to make a drawing. We trace the picture on one side of the glass from its reflection on the other side.

Then it's time for my ballet class. We practice in front of a mirror so we can see if we're moving correctly.

After ballet I go to an English class that's taught by a private company. My parents feel this is very important because they think English will be spoken for business in the most places around the world. After our class watches a video, the teacher asks us questions in English about what we've seen, and we answer her in English.

We get back to the farm at about 7 o'clock. When we greet friends or relatives we kiss them on one cheek, then on the other.

Dad goes grocery shopping at the small village about 8 Kilometers from our farm.

A person from the store helps load them into the car. On the way home Dad stops to get gas. Brazil uses both alcohol and gasoline in our cars. Gasoline is made from oil, which is pumped from the ground where it formed millions of years ago. Some day it will run out. Alcohol is made from grain, so if we run out of alcohol, we can grow more grain. Our teacher says that means alcohol is a renewable resource.

Before supper, I skate on our front porch. This floor is perfect for skating because it's made from smooth tiles that run around 3 sides of the house. Ciro likes to ride his bicycle there, too.

While Mom, Dad and our cook make supper, my brother and I like to watch TV.

Brazil has the third largest television network in the world, TV Globo.

Our family has 4 maids who help with the cooking, cleaning, laundry, and gardening. In the early days of our country, people were kidnapped from Africa to work in Brazil as slaves, especially on large farms called plantations. In 1888 Portuguese Princess Isabel signed the Golden Law, which ended slavery in Brazil.

Supper's just about ready now and it's time to get Grandma who's been watching TV in the front hall.

Supper is a lot like lunch: meat, rice, black beans, salad, bread and butter.

After supper we have a little time to ourselves. Ciro rides his bike in our backyard.

He learned to ride on the front porch, but now he can ride over the rough ground without falling off. He also likes his tree house and his swing.

I'm listening to Spice Girls. Maybe some day I'll be a singer too.

Dad checks on the cattle. We sell milk and meat to people in the nearby town.

Then Dad goes to the greenhouse to see how the young tomato plants are doing.

When the tomatoes are big enough, they'll be planted in the field. We tie the plants to bamboo poles to keep them off the ground, where they can rot or get eaten by insects. When they're ripe, our tomatoes are sold all over Brazil. Dad says the price of tomatoes is down right now so Dad and his helper won't grow as many plants as they usually do. We also grow rice, beans, corn and sugar cane.

On the way back from the field Dad saw some ants...hundreds and hundreds of ants in a long line crossing the path. Almost all the ants were carrying pieces of leaves that were much larger than they were. The leaves were from a sensitive plant. We call it a sensitive plant because when something touches the leaves, they fold together. They're sensitive to touch. We like to touch the leaves and watch them fold up. Our cook is going to her nearby home for the night.

At 8 it's time to get ready for bed. Our electric water heater fits on the pipe right where the water comes out so we have instant hot water. Before bed, I help mom a little and we have some pudding. The night is just starting to settle over the mountains when I go to bed at 8:30. Goodnight!

## **Script – Urban Family**

### **Guido 5 Years Old**

Even before I get up for school my grandparents do tai chi in a park near their apartment. Tai chi is an exercise for the mind and body developed in ancient China. It looks a little like a dance, but these are a warrior's movements done in slow motion.

Dad wakes my brother, Luca, and me at 7:30. My name is Guido and I'm 5 years old. I live with my mother, father and brother in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Mom fixes chocolate milk for us. We usually also have juice and rolls, ham and cheese.

Then we brush our teeth, and Mom helps me get dressed.

Mom gets to work on the subway, which is a train that runs under the city.

When she takes the subway she doesn't have to worry about parking the car or getting stuck in traffic.

When the subway was built a few years ago they decided to make some of the tunnels look like caves. They even put the shape of a giant bat on the ceiling!

Mom says some of our cities have the best transportation systems in the world.

Most of Brazil's population lives in cities, so it's important for us to find ways to help cities grow and still take care of our environment.

Mom works for the National Art Foundation. She looks for photographs that can be used in books about artists. Mom uses a computer to keep track of all the information she finds. She says lots of Brazilians use technology and that more Brazilians use Internet than anywhere but in the United States.

Dad works for the same government department as Mom, but he's a computer programmer. That means he writes instructions, or programs, that tell a computer how to do something, like keeping track of the information that Mom finds. Dad's good at math and that helps him in his work.

Luca's coming to our grandparents' apartment. He and I go to school in the afternoon, so we spend our mornings here. Apartment buildings often have locked gates at the entrance, so a guard lets Luca in.

Luca and I usually come here together but today mom is taking me to the doctor to get my ears checked. Luca does his homework before he does anything else.

Then he likes to go through the coin collection grandpa gave him.

After I get back from my doctor's appointment, I say Hi to Grandma and then she helps me wash my hair. Then Luca and I watch TV and work on a puzzle. When it's time to get ready for school, Grandma helps us get dressed.

Today the woman who helps grandma once a week is here to iron our clothes and clean the apartment.

Grandpa walks to school with Luca. Luca told me that when he's 10 years old he'll be allowed to go to school by himself. Luca goes to a very good public school, where he's in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. His school starts at 1 o'clock and gets out at 6. Math class is first. Later on, Luca and his friends like to buy snacks at the school lunch counter.

I'm in pre-school at a private school. While we wait for lunch, we play and have fun.

The school cooks our lunch, and we eat at noon. We usually have rice, black beans, meat and vegetables. After lunch we brush our teeth.

In the afternoon we study Portuguese. Portugal ruled Brazil for almost 400 years.

For a few years the king of Portugal even lived in Brazil and ruled Portugal from here. When the Portuguese first arrived, they found native people already living here. These people fought or fled rather than become slaves of the Portuguese.

My parents say that today most of the few tribes left live around the Amazon River.

I have a swimming lesson twice a week. I'm learning to put my head under the water. Rio has water all along one side of the city, so it's important for us to learn how to swim. A lot of tourists come to Rio because they think it's so beautiful and lively.

Luca's school is finished at about 6 o'clock in the evening. Then twice a week he takes an English class at a private school.

At about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, while we're still at school, grandma goes to our apartment to cook supper, so it will be ready when we get home. Today she's making us baked pancakes. She cooks meat and rolls it up in the pancake.

Then she pours tomato sauce over the pancakes and bakes them in the oven.

Grandma comes down to meet me when I get home from school at 5:30. Mom just got home from work, too. So we all take the elevator to our apartment on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

Grandma fixes me a snack while mom gives me a bath. It's hot here, so it feels good to cool off before dinner in the evening.

Grandpa usually picks Luca up from school. But on days when Luca has English class, he goes to Mom's office at the art museum so they can come home together.

While he's waiting, Luca likes to draw or look at the art in the museum.

Luca and I each have dinner when we get home. When everyone gets home, we go shopping for groceries.

We pay for the groceries with money called reais. After dad picks up his dry cleaning, we're ready to head home. I like to help my dad find the way out of the garage.

When we get home, mom and dad put the groceries away while Luca and I play a video football game.

Mom washes clothes in our machine and hangs them to dry. We put them on a rack on one side of the kitchen. We pull the rack up to the ceiling so the clothes will be out of the way. Apartments cost a lot of money here, so we want to be sure we don't waste space.

Once a week dad and his friends play soccer, which we call football, and Luca and I sometimes go along. Football is the most popular game in Brazil. Rio has the biggest football stadium in the world.

These guys are practicing their football skills. You're not supposed to touch the ball with your hands, so we pass it with our feet, chest and head. Some people are so good at it; they invented a kind of volleyball they call foot volleyball because they only pass the ball with their feet, chest and head.

When we get home Dad relaxes while we get ready for bed. Mom gives me medicine for my ears. Luca and I share a bedroom with bunk beds, which take up less space than regular beds. Good night!

## Glossary

**bunk beds:** Single-sized beds stacked one on top of the other.

**colony:** A country or area that is controlled or ruled by another country.

**Golden Law:** Law that ended slavery in Brazil in 1888.

**immigrant:** A person who goes from one country to settle in another country

**kilometer:** 1000 meters or about  $5/8^{\text{th}}$  of a mile.

**Pedro Alveres Cabral:** The first European to “discover” Brazil in 1500 and claim the area for Portugal.

**Portuguese:** The people and language of Portugal, a country in Europe.

**plantation:** A large estate or farm cultivated by the people living on it.

**Princess Isabel:** Portuguese princess who signed the Golden Law, which ended slavery in Brazil.

**reals:** Official Brazilian currency.

**republic:** A country where the people elect their government.

**Spice Girls:** Popular singing US singing group.

## Discussion and Activities After Viewing

- Ask each child to list some of the similarities and differences between their family and school and those in the video.
- Invite someone from Brazil to talk with the class about growing up in Brazil and to play a Brazilian music or tell a Brazilian story.
- Ask the class what things in the video tell us that the climate in Brazil is hot.
- Discuss why Portuguese is the national language of Brazil.
- Discuss what the weather is like for a country like Brazil that lies on the Equator
- Discuss the similarities between the US and Brazil in having been “discovered” by European countries, having a population of native peoples, having been colonies, had slavery, become independent, being settled by immigrants, and being highly advanced in technology.

## Questions

1. What language is Portuguese?
2. Why is it so crowded in Rio de Janeiro?
3. What race are the Brazilians?
4. Why do you think both children go to private schools?
5. Does Brazil trade much with the United States?

## Answers to Questions

1. What language is Portuguese?

The language spoken in Brazil, Brazilian Portuguese is closely related to the Portuguese spoken in Portugal. Pronunciation is different. The word order is more flexible in Brazilian Portuguese. There are also some differences in the spelling. Portuguese is descended from Latin with numerous additions from invading Germanic tribes, Moors and interaction with colonies.

2. Why is it so crowded in Rio de Janeiro?

The city is hemmed in by mountains. People want to live where there are jobs and amenities such as culture, music and good schools. That is why land and housing is expensive. That is why middle class people live in smallish apartments. The poor people put up shacks on the mountainsides, where there is no electricity, water or sewage.

3. What race are the Brazilians?

The Brazilians are descendants of Portuguese settlers, Amerindians and Africans and later immigrants from all over the world. A third of Brazilians can claim Amerindian ancestry and forty percent can claim African ancestry. Brazilians are very proud of their multi-hued population.

4. Why do you think both children go to private school?

The children go to private school because their parents think it is better than public schools. Private schools get better prepared students since the parents are understand the value of a good education and are able to keep the children in school. In public schools, some of the students may have to work to help the family, some of the parents do not understand the value of education.

5. Does Brazil trade much with the United States?

Brazil produces most of the coffee used in the United States. Being in the southern hemisphere means that the seasons are reversed. Buyers in the US can buy fruits in the southern hemisphere when it is winter in the US.

## Some Things We've Learned About Brazil

(Please circle the correct answer).

1. T F Spanish is the national language of Brazil.
2. T F Most people in Brazil live on farms or in the Amazon jungle.
3. T F Brazil is on the continent of Africa.
4. T F Weather in most parts of Brazil is hot.
5. T F Rice and black beans are eaten often in Brazil.
6. T F Brazil's population is made up of a mixture of people from all over the world.
7. T F Very few Brazilians use technology.
8. T F In Brazil, "football" means soccer.
9. T F The official currency of Brazil are reais.
10. T F Brazil is a colony of Portugal.
11. T F Brazil is a republic with 26 states.
12. T F Brazil has some of the best transportation systems in the world.
13. Why do the parents in this video think it's important to learn English?
14. Why does the city family use bunk beds and hang clothes in the kitchen?
15. Draw a series of pictures telling Guido or Luisa's story. Try to include as much detail as you can remember from each part of the story.

## **Introduction**

Brazil is the largest country in South America. It is famous for the Copacabana and Ipanema beaches of Rio de Janeiro, the Iguasu falls, and Pele. It is the land of the bossa nova, exuberant Carnivals, soccer champions and the Amazonia rainforest.

## **The Land**

Brazil is about the size of the United States. Brazil can be divided into four regions. The Amazon basin is a low lying area of grasslands and tropical forests subject to period flooding. A plateau of highland lies south of the Amazon basin. This plateau drops off precipitously by the sea. Between the plateau and the sea lies the Atlantic seaboard, which range from 125 miles in width in the north to nothing in the south. This lowland is rimmed with beaches and swamps. Another basin, the Paraguay Basin, lying in the southeast, is characterized by open forest, low woods and scrubland.

## **The Climate**

Brazil has a humid tropical and subtropical climate. The seasons are reversed in the southern hemisphere, so the winters are in July and August. In the north, there is not very much temperature variation between summer and winter. In the south, winters are cooler with freezing temperatures near Sao Paulo. Summer in Rio can be hot and humid with temperatures in the 90s, (upper 30s Centigrade). In the winter, the high temperature can range from 70 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit (21 – 30 degrees C). Most of the precipitation occurs in the summer months.

## **Plant and Animal Life**

While much of the original habitat has been changed by human activity, there is still a tremendously diverse plant and animal life in Brazil. The country ranks first in the world for numbers of species of primates, amphibians and plants; third for bird species; and fourth for species of butterflies and reptiles. In the rainforests of the Amazon, some tributaries have remained practically unexplored. Thousands of species of plants and insects remain unidentified. Notable animal species include the rhea, an ostrich like animal; the giant pirarucu fish, which can grow to 9 ft and 400

lbs (3 meters and 200 kilos); manatees and dolphins; and the giant anaconda snake.

## **People**

Today while fewer than 200,000 Amerindians live in the Amazons, as many as a third of Brazilians can claim Amerindian descent. African slaves were later brought in to work on the plantations and mines. As many as forty percent of Brazilians can claim some African ancestry. Millions of European immigrants also came to Brazil, the most numerous being the Portuguese and the Italians. Less numerous were those from Spain, the Middle East, as well as some Germans and Japanese. Most Brazilian are Catholics, but many also follow beliefs from Africa as well as Amerindian animism.

The traditional staples of the Brazilian diet are white rice, black beans and manioc flour, for the poor this is often their only meal. For those who aren't poor there is a great variety of food. Steak, chicken or fish are all favorites. The best known Brazilian speciality is feijoada, a black bean and meat stew.

Brazil is an underdeveloped country, where the annual income of the people is similar to that of Turkey or South Africa. More than 75% of the population is urban. Brazil is one of the ten largest economies of the world. There are advanced manufacturing and service industries as well as subsistence farmers. Brazil is one of the ten largest automobile manufacturers in the world. As many as 30% of the people still work in agriculture. Brazil is a leading producer of coffee, cotton, soybean and sugarcane.

Less than 25 percent of primary students go on to high school, and as many as a third have less than four years of education. Illiteracy rate is close to 20%. The problems of poverty and illiteracy are most pronounced in the northeast of the country. The poor who have migrated to the cities live in shantytowns around them. According to a 1996 United Nations report Brazil has the world's most unequal distribution of wealth.

Soccer is the most popular participatory and spectator sports. There are professional basketball, soccer and beach volleyball teams. Chess is also widely followed. The most famous festival is Carnival. This occurs at midnight on the Friday before Ash Wednesday and lasts for five days. It is

celebrated all over Brazil. It is part costume ball, part dance extravaganza. In Rio de Janeiro, an entire street is designed for samba parades.

## **History**

The Amerindian population in Brazil were either nomads or the more numerous skilled farmers and hunters. Until recently it was thought that there were no civilizations, but now evidence exists that dense settlements existed in the southern Amazon areas from 1200 – 1600 CE. It is estimated that millions of Amerindians lived in Brazil practicing agriculture, making pottery, building roads, bridges and towns with moats and walls. Thousands of pottery shards have been uncovered. A demographic collapse occurred with the coming of Europeans and their new diseases.

In 1500, the Portuguese accidentally discovered Brazil on their way to India. They soon found that sugar canes grew well in the north. Many Amerindians were enslaved to work on the plantations. These slaves quickly perished due to disease or the hardship of slavery. The Jesuits did protect those Amerindians who had converted, and a growing mestizos population became part of the Brazilian heritage. Amerindians captured in warfare however were still enslaved. The Brazilian economy was characterized by a series of commodity based growth spurts. Initially there was brazilwood and sugar cane, then there was gold and diamonds, and finally coffee and rubber. Millions of African slaves were brought to work in the mines and plantations.

In 1807, the Prince Regent of Portugal escaped to Brazil as Napoleon invaded. After his father returned to Portugal, his son declared Brazilian independence in 1822, helped write a constitution and became Brazil's first emperor. Brazil during the nineteenth century was still predominantly an agricultural economy with sugar, cotton and cattle the major sources of revenue. Most land were held a small number of people. Slaves were often freed and there were more freed slaves and their descendants than slaves as early as the 1820s. There was also a growing mulatto population of mixed African and Portuguese descent.

Slave trade was abolished in 1851, and all slaves were emancipated in 1888. That year also saw the overthrow of the monarchy and the establishment of a republic. For the next sixty years the land owning elites in conjunction with the military were able to choose the president. In 1930, junior officers in the

military seized power and installed a fascist regime. In the 1950s, the government spent large sums to develop the industry; by the early 1960s, the economy was battered by inflation and the president was overthrown by a military coup. The Brazilian economy grew rapidly in the 1970s and 1980s, using large amount of foreign loans. When the economy slowed and the loans became burdensome, the military handed power back to a civilian government. In November 1989, Brazilians had their first opportunity to elect a president by popular vote in almost 30 years.

The country is still hamstrung by underdeveloped human resources but it is now a net creditor and has had successive years of over 6% growth. It has enormous natural resources in iron ore, petroleum and it is the largest producer of sugar, coffee and beef and one of the largest producers of soybean, oranges, iron ore and bauxite (used to manufacture aluminum).



Map and Flag of Brazil



## Basic Facts About Brazil

### Introduction

**Background:** Following three centuries under the rule of Portugal, Brazil became an independent nation in 1822. By far the largest and most populous country in South America, Brazil has overcome more than half a century of military intervention in the governance of the country to pursue industrial and agricultural growth and development of the interior. Exploiting vast natural resources and a large labor pool, Brazil became Latin America's leading economic power by the 1970s. Highly unequal income distribution remains a pressing problem.

### Geography

**Location:** Eastern South America, bordering the Atlantic Ocean

**Geographic coordinates:** 10 00 S, 55 00 W

**Map references:** South America

**Area:**

*total:* 8,511,965 sq km

*land:* 8,456,510 sq km

*water:* 55,455 sq km

*note:* includes Arquipelago de Fernando de Noronha, Atol das Rocas, Ilha da Trindade, Ilhas Martin Vaz, and Penedos de Sao Pedro e Sao Paulo

**Area - comparative:** slightly smaller than the US

**Land boundaries:**

*total:* 14,691 km

*border countries:* Argentina 1,224 km, Bolivia 3,400 km, Colombia 1,643 km, French Guiana 673 km, Guyana 1,119 km, Paraguay 1,290 km, Peru 1,560 km, Suriname 597 km, Uruguay 985 km, Venezuela 2,200 km

**Coastline:** 7,491 km

**Maritime claims:**

*contiguous zone:* 24 nm

*continental shelf:* 200 nm

*exclusive economic zone:* 200 nm

*territorial sea:* 12 nm

**Climate:** mostly tropical, but temperate in south

**Terrain:** mostly flat to rolling lowlands in north; some plains, hills, mountains, and narrow coastal belt

**Elevation extremes:**

*lowest point:* Atlantic Ocean 0 m

*highest point:* Pico da Neblina 3,014 m

**Natural resources:** bauxite, gold, iron ore, manganese, nickel, phosphates, platinum, tin, uranium, petroleum, hydropower, timber

**Land use:**

*arable land:* 5%

*permanent crops:* 1%

*permanent pastures:* 22%

*forests and woodland:* 58%

*other:* 14% (1993 est.)

**Irrigated land:** 28,000 sq km (1993 est.)

**Natural hazards:** recurring droughts in northeast; floods and occasional frost in south

**Environment - current issues:** deforestation in Amazon Basin destroys the habitat and endangers the existence of a multitude of plant and animal species indigenous to the area; air and water pollution in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and several other large cities; land degradation and water pollution

caused by improper mining activities

*note:* President CARDOSO in September 1999 signed into force an environmental crime bill which for the first time defines pollution and deforestation as crimes punishable by stiff fines and jail sentences

**Environment - international agreements:**

*party to:* Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Nuclear Test Ban, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands, Whaling

*signed, but not ratified:* Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol

**Geography - note:** largest country in South America; shares common boundaries with every South American country except Chile and Ecuador

## People

**Population:** 198,860,370

**Age structure:**

*0-14 years:* 26%

*15-64 years:* 66%

*65 years and over:* 6%

**Population growth rate:** 1.19% (2009 est.)

**Birth rate:** 18.04 births/1,000 population (2009 est.)

**Death rate:** 6.32 deaths/1,000 population (2009 est.)

**Net migration rate:** -0.03 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2009 est.)

**Infant mortality rate:** 22.6 deaths/1,000 live births (2009 est.)

**Life expectancy at birth:**

*total population:* 72.5 years

*male:* 68.5 years

*female:* 76.6 years (2008 est.)

**Total fertility rate:** 2.21 children born/woman (2009 est.)

**Nationality:**

*noun:* Brazilian(s)

*adjective:* Brazilian

**Ethnic groups:** white (includes Portuguese, German, Italian, Spanish, Polish) 54%, mixed white and black 38%, black 6%, other (includes Japanese, Arab, Amerindian) 1%

**Religions:** Roman Catholic (nominal) 80%

**Languages:** Portuguese (official), Spanish, English, French

**Literacy:**

*definition:* age 15 and over can read and write

*total population:* 8% (2006 est.)

## Government

**Country name:**

*conventional long form:* Federative Republic of Brazil (Republica Federativa do Brasil)

*conventional short form:* Brazil (Brasil)

**Government type:** federative republic

**Capital:** Brasilia

**Administrative divisions:** 26 states (estados, singular - estado) and 1 federal district\* (distrito federal); Acre, Alagoas, Amapa, Amazonas, Bahia, Ceara, Distrito Federal\*, Espirito Santo, Goias, Maranhao, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Para, Paraiba, Parana, Pernambuco, Piaui, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Rio Grande do Sul, Rondonia, Roraima, Santa Catarina, Sao Paulo, Sergipe, Tocantins

**Independence:** 7 September 1822 (from Portugal)

**National holiday:** Independence Day, 7 September (1822)

**Constitution:** 5 October 1988

**Legal system:** based on Roman codes; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

**Suffrage:** voluntary between 16 and 18 years of age and over 70; compulsory over 18 and under 70 years of age

**Executive branch:**

*chief of state:* President

**Legislative branch:** bicameral National Congress or Congresso Nacional consists of the Federal Senate or Senado Federal (81 seats; three members from each state or federal district elected according to the principle of majority to serve eight-year terms; one-third elected after a four year period, two-thirds elected after the next four-year period) and the Chamber of Deputies or Camara dos Deputados (513 seats; members are elected by proportional representation to serve four-year terms)

**Judicial branch:** Supreme Federal Tribunal, 11 judges are appointed for life by the president and confirmed by the Senate

**Political parties:** Brazilian Democratic Movement Party or PMDB; Brazilian Labor Party or PTB; Brazilian Social Democracy Party or PSDB; Brazilian Socialist Party or PSB; Brazilian Progressive Party or PPB; Communist Party of Brazil or Pcdob; Democratic Labor Party or PDT; Liberal Front Party or PFL; Liberal Party or PL; Popular Socialist Party or PPS; Worker's Party or PT

**International organization participation:** AfDB, BIS, CCC, ECLAC, FAO, G-11, G-15, G-19, G-24, G-77, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICFTU, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, Inmarsat, Intelsat, Interpol, IOC, IOM (observer), ISO, ITU, LAES, LAIA, Mercosur, NAM (observer), NSG, OAS, OPANAL, OPCW, PCA, RG, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNMOP, UNTAET, UNU, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, WTrO

**Diplomatic representation in the US:**

*chancery:* 3006 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008

*telephone:* [1] (202) 238-2700

*FAX:* [1] (202) 238-2827

*consulate(s) general:* Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Juan (Puerto Rico), and San Francisco

**Diplomatic representation from the US:**

*embassy:* Avenida das Nacoes, Quadra 801, Lote 3, Brasilia, Distrito Federal Cep 70403-900 Brazil

*mailing address:* Unit 3500, APO AA 34030

*telephone:* [55] (61) 321-7272

*FAX:* [55] (61) 225-9136

*consulate(s) general:* Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo

*consulate(s):* Recife

**Flag description:** green with a large yellow diamond in the center bearing a blue celestial globe with 27 white five-pointed stars (one for each state and the Federal District) arranged in the same pattern as the night sky over Brazil; the globe has a white equatorial band with the motto **ORDEM E PROGRESSO** (Order and Progress)

## **Economy**

**Economy - overview:** Characterized by large and well-developed agricultural, mining, manufacturing, and service sectors, Brazil's economy outweighs that of all other South American countries and is expanding its presence in world markets. Having weathered 2001-03 financial turmoil,

capital inflows are regaining strength and the currency has resumed appreciating. The appreciation has slowed export volume growth, but since 2004, Brazil's growth has yielded increases in employment and real wages. The resilience in the economy stems from commodity-driven current account surpluses, and sound macroeconomic policies that have bolstered international reserves to historically high levels, reduced public debt, and allowed a significant decline in real interest rates. A floating exchange rate, an inflation-targeting regime, and a tight fiscal policy are the three pillars of the economic program. From 2003 to 2009, Brazil ran record trade surpluses and recorded its first current account surpluses since 1992. Productivity gains coupled with high commodity prices contributed to the surge in exports. Brazil improved its debt profile in 2006 by shifting its debt burden toward real denominated and domestically held instruments. LULA DA SILVA restated his commitment to fiscal responsibility by maintaining the country's primary surplus during the 2006 election. Following his second inauguration, LULA DA SILVA announced a package of further economic reforms to reduce taxes and increase investment in infrastructure. The government's goal of achieving strong growth while reducing the debt burden is likely to create inflationary pressures. In 2009 the world financial crisis reduced exports by 20% and the growth rate to 0% from 5% in 2008.

**GDP:** purchasing power parity - \$2.024 trillion (2009 est.)

**GDP - real growth rate:** 0.1% (2009 est.)

**GDP - per capita:** purchasing power parity - \$10200 (2009 est.)

**GDP - composition by sector:**

*agriculture:* 20%

*industry:* 14%

*services:* 66% (2009)

**Population below poverty line:** 31% (2009 est.)

**Household income or consumption by percentage share:**

*lowest 10%:* 0.9%

*highest 10%:* 44.8% (2009)

**Inflation rate (consumer prices):** 4.2% (2009)

**Labor force:** 95.2 million (2009 est.)

**Labor force - by occupation:** services 66%, agriculture 20%, industry 14%

**Unemployment rate:** 7.4% (2009 est.)

**Industries:** textiles, shoes, chemicals, cement, lumber, iron ore, tin, steel, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, other machinery and equipment

**Industrial production growth rate:** -7% (2009 est.)

**Agriculture - products:** coffee, soybeans, wheat, rice, corn, sugarcane, cocoa, citrus; beef

**Exports:** \$160 billion (f.o.b., 2009)

**Exports - commodities:** manufactures, iron ore, soybeans, footwear, coffee

**Exports - partners:** US 14%, China 12%, Argentina 8%, Germany 5%, (2009)

**Imports:** \$136 billion (f.o.b., 2009)

**Imports - commodities:** machinery and equipment, chemical products, oil, electricity

**Imports - partners:** US 14%, China 12%, Argentina 8.8%, Germany 5%, Nigeria, Japan (2009)

**Currency:** 1 real (R\$) = 100 centavos

**Exchange rates:** reals (R\$) per US\$1 – 2.03 (2009), 1.85 (2007), 1.804 (2000), 1.815 (1999), 1.161 (1998), 1.078 (1997), 0.918 (1995)

**Fiscal year:** calendar year

## Communications

**Telephones - main lines in use:** 41 million (2009)

**Telephones - mobile cellular:** 150 million (2009)

## Transportation

### **Railways:**

*total:* 28,295 km (1,122 km electrified); note - excludes urban rail

### **Highways:**

*total:* 1.75 million km

*paved:* 184,140 km    *unpaved:* 1,795,860 km (2007 est.)

**Waterways:** 50,000 km navigable

**Ports and harbors:** Belem, Fortaleza, Ilheus, Imbituba, Manaus, Paranagua, Porto Alegre, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande, Salvador, Santos, Vitoria

### **Merchant marine:**

*total:* 174 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 3,964,808 GRT/6,403,284 DWT

**Airports:** 4000 (2009 est.)

**Airports - with paved runways:** 718

## **Websites**

[travel.yahoo.com/t/South\\_America/Brazil/essent.html](http://travel.yahoo.com/t/South_America/Brazil/essent.html)

[darkwing.uoregon.edu/~sergiok/boaviagem.html#start](http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~sergiok/boaviagem.html#start)

## **Recipes**

### **XINXIM DE GALINHA**

#### **Chicken xinxim**

**3 chicken fillets, cut into small pieces**  
**sunflower oil**  
**200g shrimps**  
**2 large onions**  
**1 large tomato**  
**fresh coriander (to your taste)**  
**2 limes**  
**2 garlic cloves**  
**black pepper(freshly milled)**  
**salt**  
**a little bit of water**

- 1. Make a marinate of the juice of the limes with the crushed garlic and the freshly milled black pepper. Sprinkle over the pieces of chicken. Stand aside for about 1 hour.**
- 2. In the blender, put 1 onion, 100 gr shrimps (half of the total) 1 tomato (without skin) the coriander and a little bit of water.**
- 3. Heat the oil in a frying pan. When the oil is hot, fry the onion for about 2 minutes, then add the marinated chicken, leave for another 5 minutes and add the rest of the shrimps and the preparation from the blender.**
- 4. Simmer for 30 minutes and serve with rice.**

## Activity

Make a reco-reco. The reco reco is a scraper kind of instrument. You scrape a stick along the ribs to make a great sound. This instrument has its roots with the music of the early Amerindian population of Brazil.

What you need

A corrugated cardboard

Safety scissors for Children

Unsharpened pencil

Steps

- 1 Ask a grown up to cut out a fancy shape from a piece of cardboard
- 2 Peel off the top layer of the cardboard to reveal the ribs
- 3 Scrape the pencil across the ribs to sounds

