Exploring Brazil

Learning Objective: To know the location of Brazil

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What do you already know about Brazil?

Think, pair, then share your knowledge.

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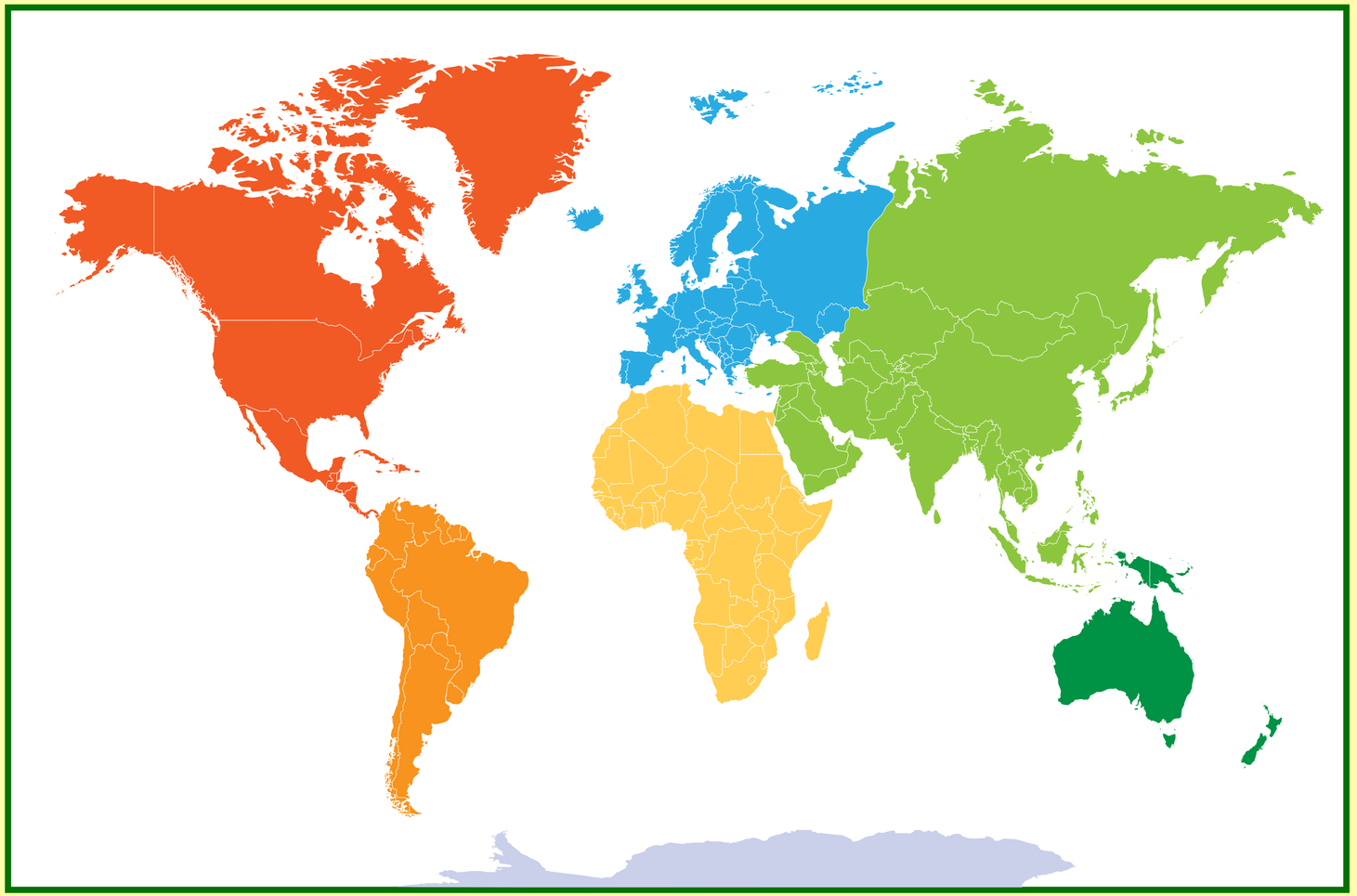
Can you identify the seven continents of the world?

Do you know which continent Brazil can be found in?



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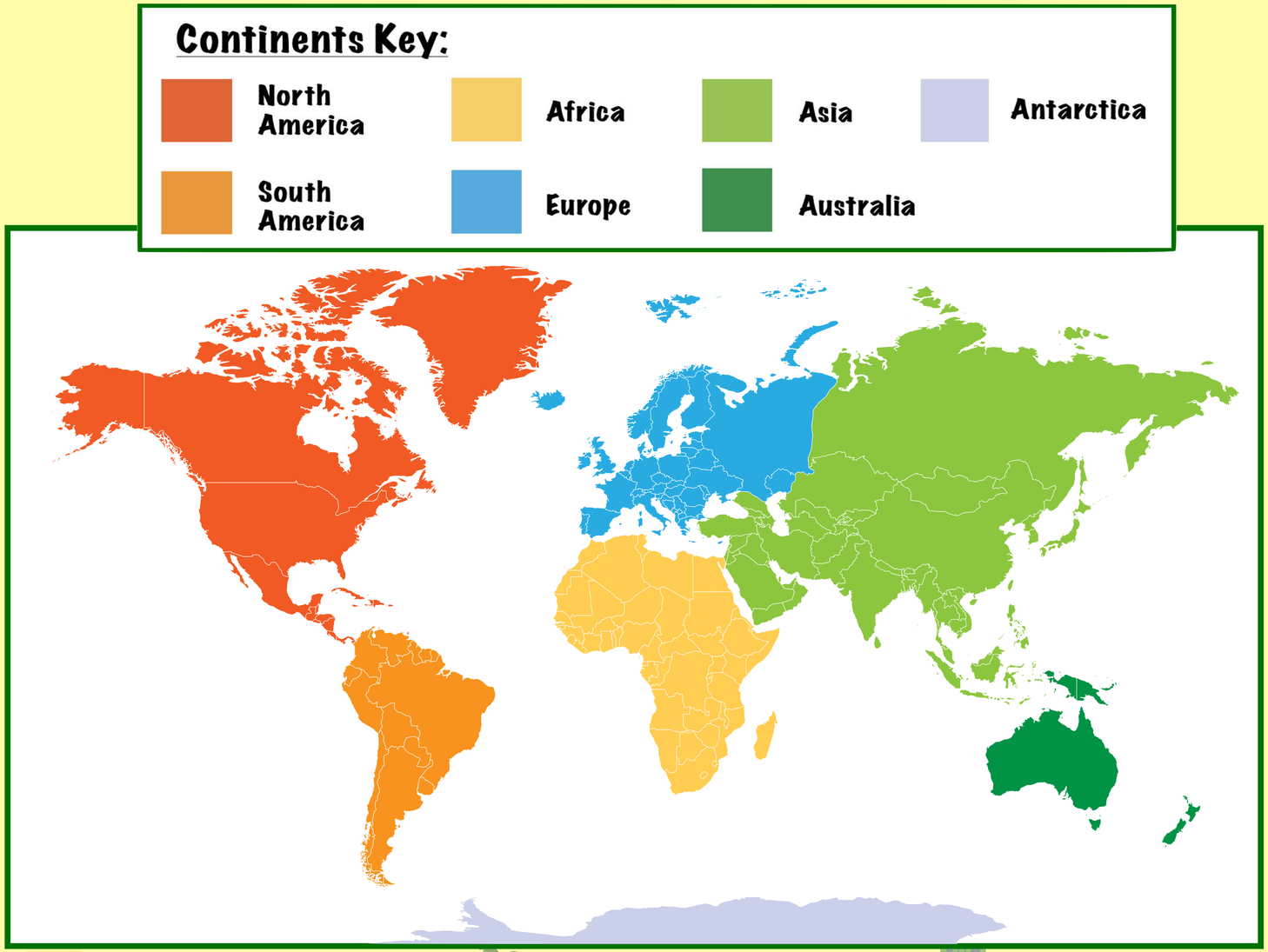
Brazil can be found in the continent of South America.

Brazil is the largest country in the continent. Can you spot it?



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Brazil is the world's fifth largest country by both area (8.5 million km²) and population (approx. 210 million people in 2018).

Look at the map of South America. How many countries share a border with Brazil?

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Every country in South America, except Chile and Ecuador, shares a border with Brazil! That's a total of ten bordering countries.

Brazil is also bordered to the east by the Atlantic Ocean.

Now let's have a closer look at the country of Brazil itself...

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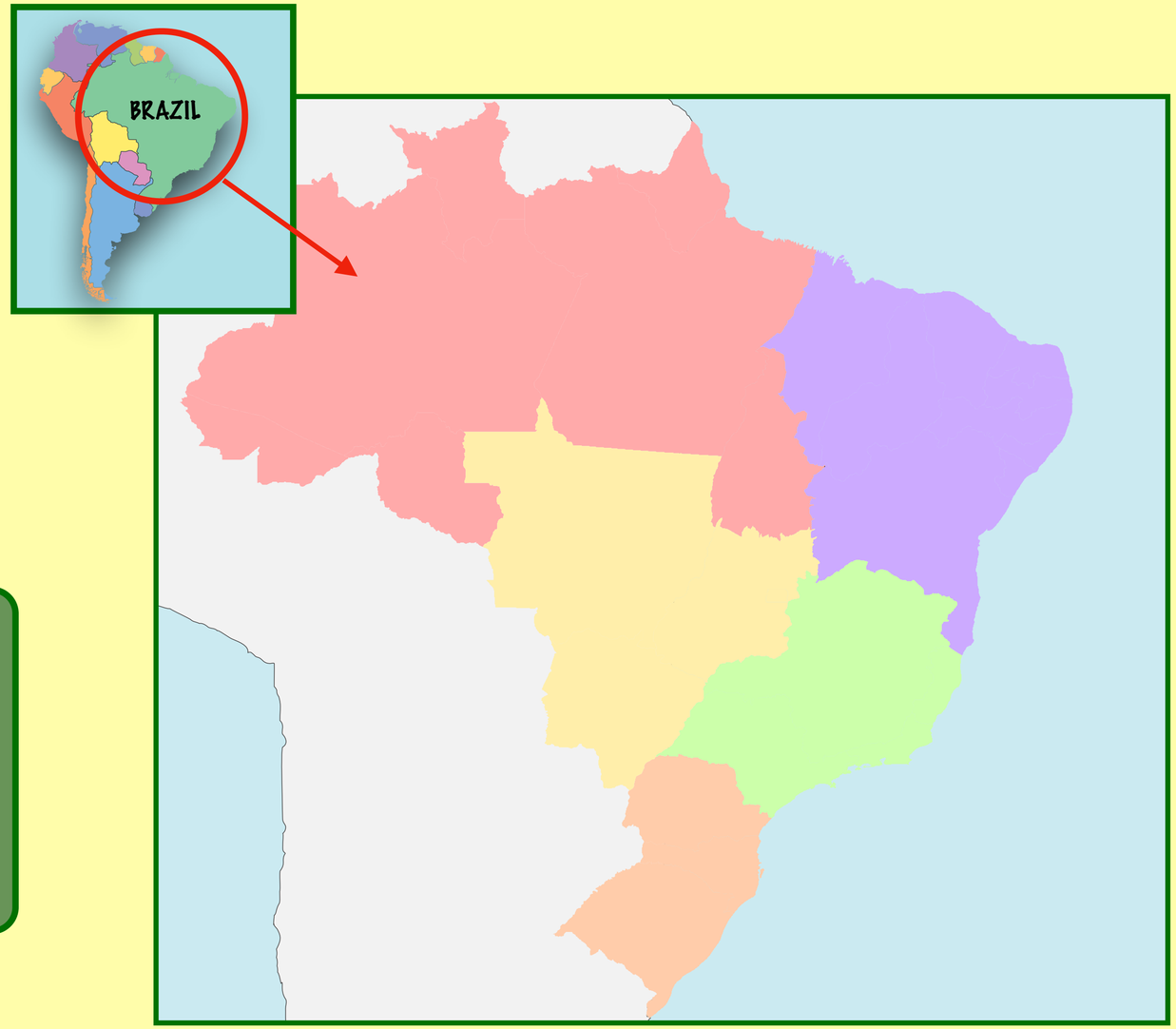
Brazil has five regions:

- North
- North-east
- West-central
- South-east
- South



What do you think each region might be like, based on its location?

Which region do you think will have the highest population, and why?

Think, pair, then share your ideas.

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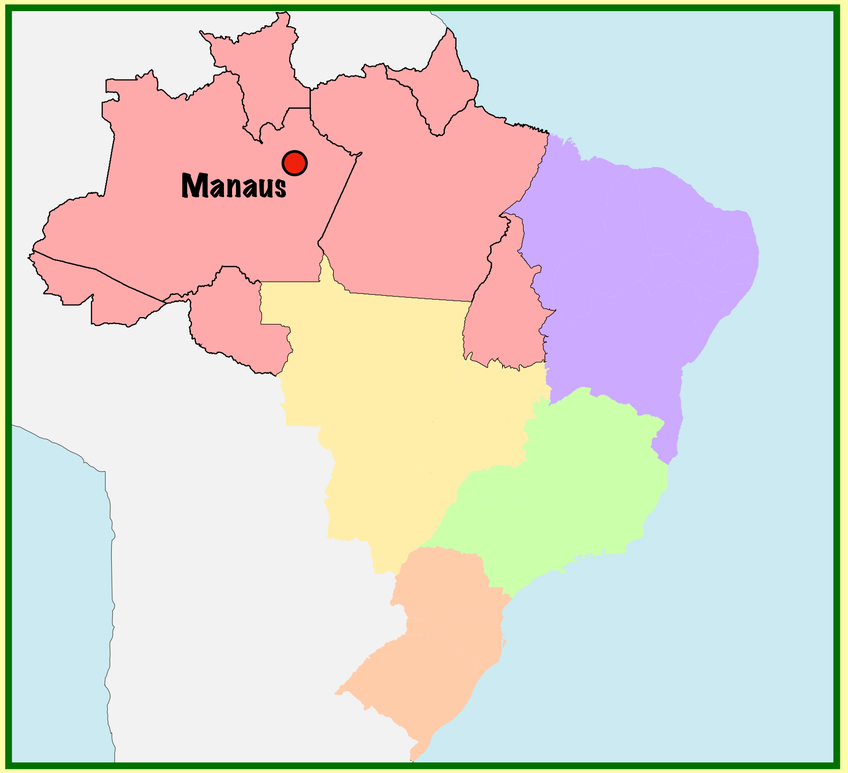
Region: North
Population: 17.7 million
Largest City: Manaus (2.1 million)



Despite being the largest of the regions, comprising of seven states, the North has the lowest **population density** in the country. This is due to the region being almost entirely covered in the Amazon rainforest.

Population density is a measure of how many people live in a particular area. A high population density means that the area is crowded, whereas a low population density means that the area is uncrowded.

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Region: North-east
Population: 53. 3 million
Largest City: Salvador (2.7 million)

This region of Brazil is made up of nine states. It was the first area of the country to be discovered by Portuguese explorers at the beginning of the 16th century. Salvador was the country's first capital city, and remained so until 1763.

This area of Brazil is also the most impoverished. This means it is the poorest region.

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Region: Central-west
Population: 13. 4 million
Largest City: Brasilia (2.6 million)

This region of Brazil is comprised of three states and the Federal District, where the current capital of the country, Brasilia, is located. This region also has a low population density. Much of the area is covered in the Pantanal.

The Pantanal is a natural area consisting of the world's largest tropical wetland area. The marshes and swamps here are home to a huge variety of plants and animals.

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Region: South-east
Population: 80. 3 million
Largest City: Sao Paulo (1 1 million)

Comprising of four states, the south-east has the highest population density of all the regions. It is also the richest region. It has the most vehicles, industries, airports, ports, hospitals, universities, schools and houses compared to any other region.

This area of Brazil has the two largest cities in the country - Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Rio de Janeiro was the country's capital from 1763 until 1960.

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Region: South
Population: 25. 8 million
Largest City: Curitiba (1.8 million)

This is the smallest of the five regions of Brazil, and is made up of just three states. It has the highest standard of living out of all the regions.

The standard of living refers to the amount of wealth, comfort, material goods and necessities available to people. This is usually linked to the amount of employment available, and the rate of pay.

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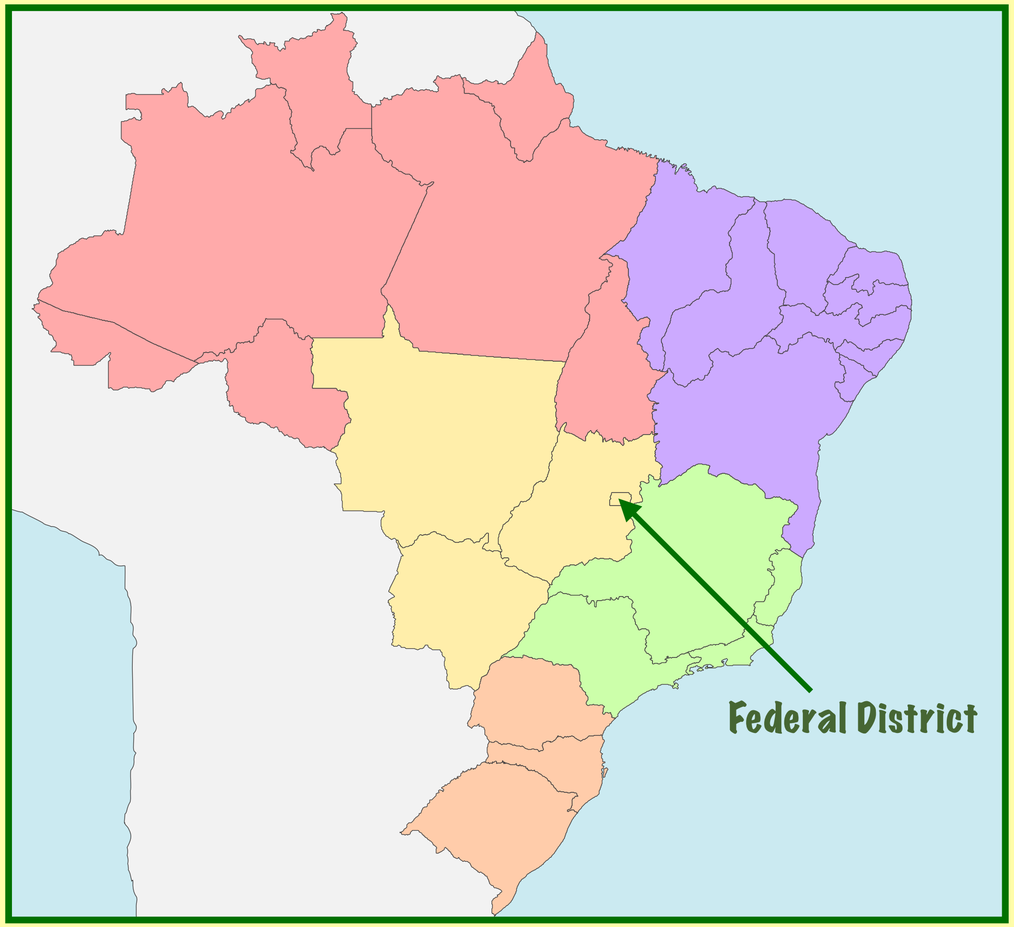
Altogether, the five regions of Brazil comprise of 27 states (one of which is a Federal District).

Which region do you think you would most like to visit, and why?



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This is the flag of Brazil. It consists of a green background with a yellow rhombus, in the centre of which is a blue circle. The motto 'Ordem e Progresso' (which means 'Order and Progress') is written across it, and there are 27 white five-pointed stars.

What do you think the 27 stars might represent on the flag?

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Each star represents one of Brazil's 27 states.

The colours of the Brazilian flag also have a symbolic meaning. The yellow represents the wealth of Brazil. The green symbolises the flora and fauna, particularly the Amazon rainforest.

The position of the stars represent the constellations that could be seen in the night sky in 1889, the year that the country became known as the Republic of the United States of Brazil. (In 1967, this was changed to the Federal Republic of Brazil.)

Now it's time for you to use your map skills to show what you have learnt about Brazil so far.

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Plenary:

Now you know where Brazil is located in the world, but what does it look like as a country from the 'ground' view?

Take a look at the photos on the following slides...

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Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro

What can you see?

What can you tell about Brazil from this photo?

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What can you see?

What can you tell about Brazil from this photo?

Bom Jesus Street, Old Recife

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Farol da Barra in Salvador

What can you see?

What can you tell about Brazil from this photo?

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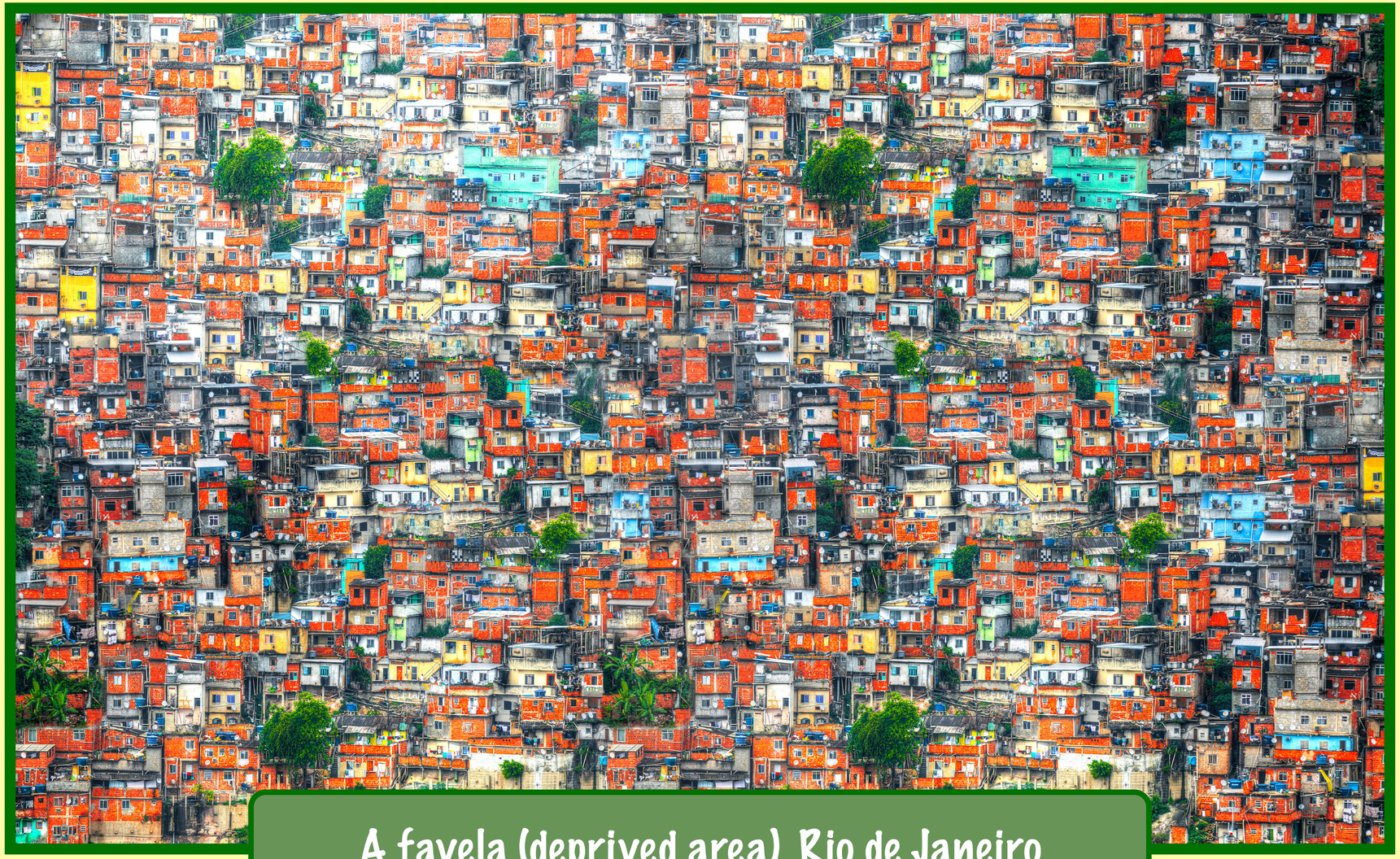
What can you see?

What can you tell about Brazil from this photo?



A favela (deprived area), Rio de Janeiro

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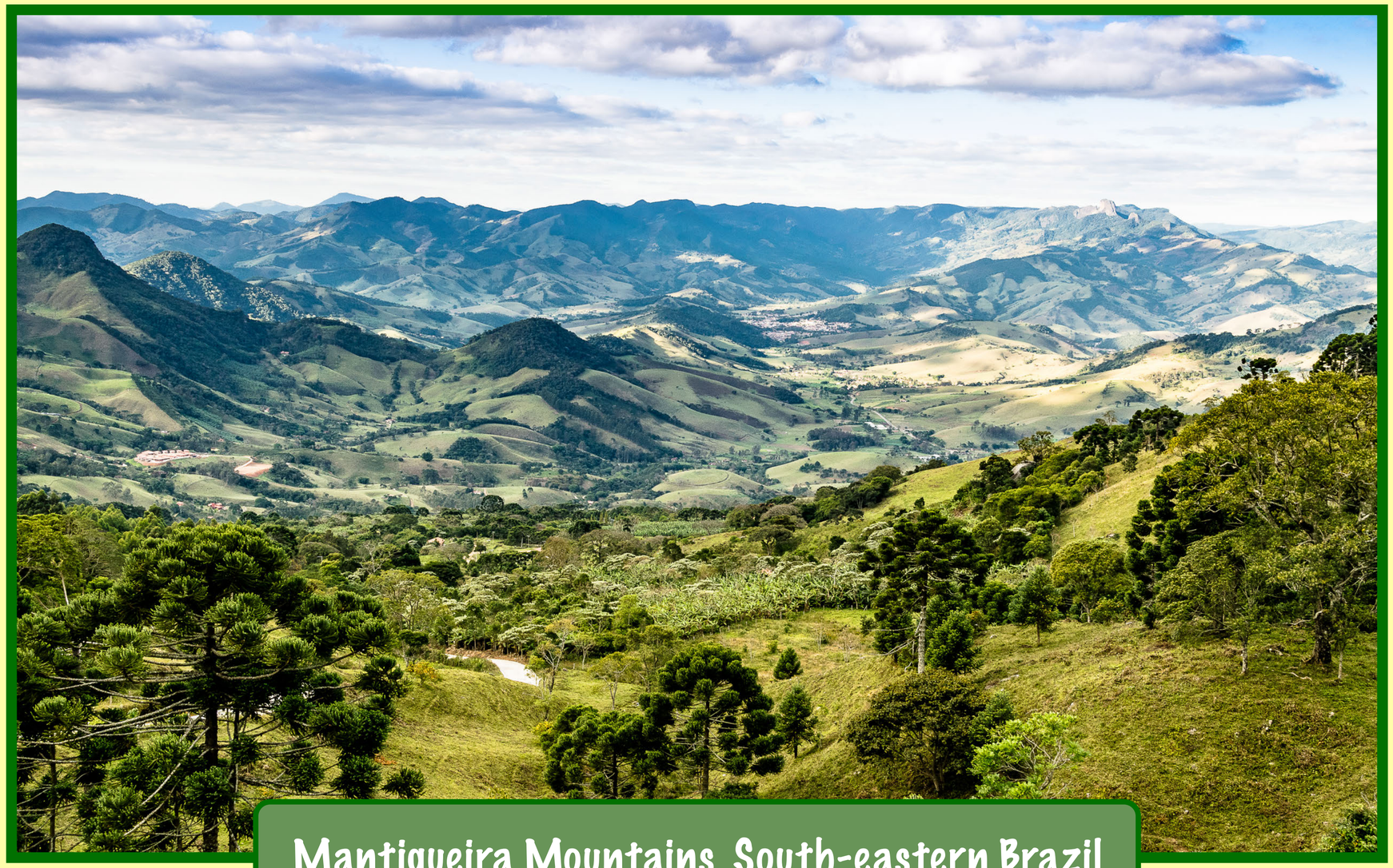

Mantiqueira Mountains, South-eastern Brazil

What can you see?

What can you tell about Brazil from this photo?

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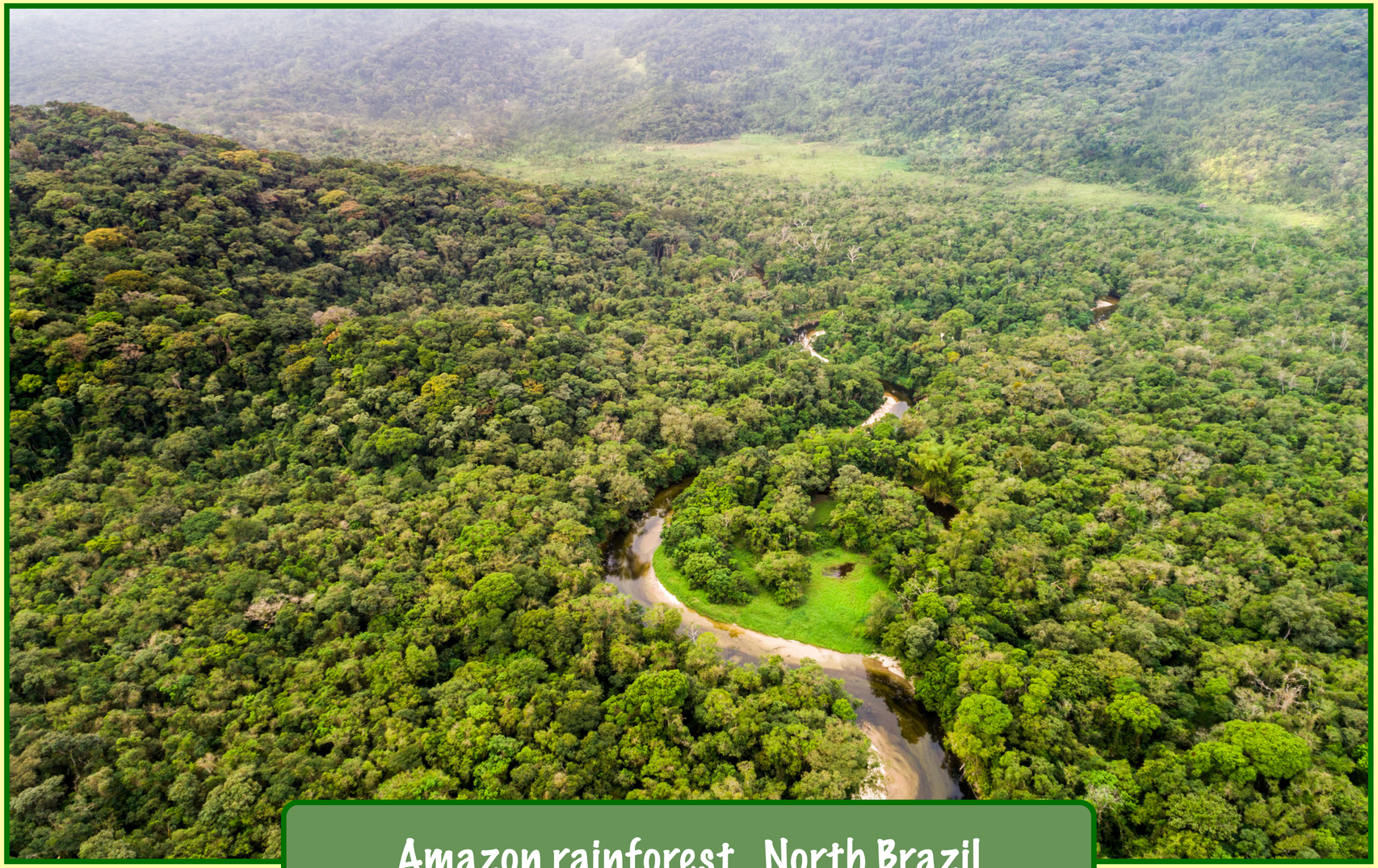
What can you see?

What can you tell about Brazil from this photo?



Amazon rainforest, North Brazil

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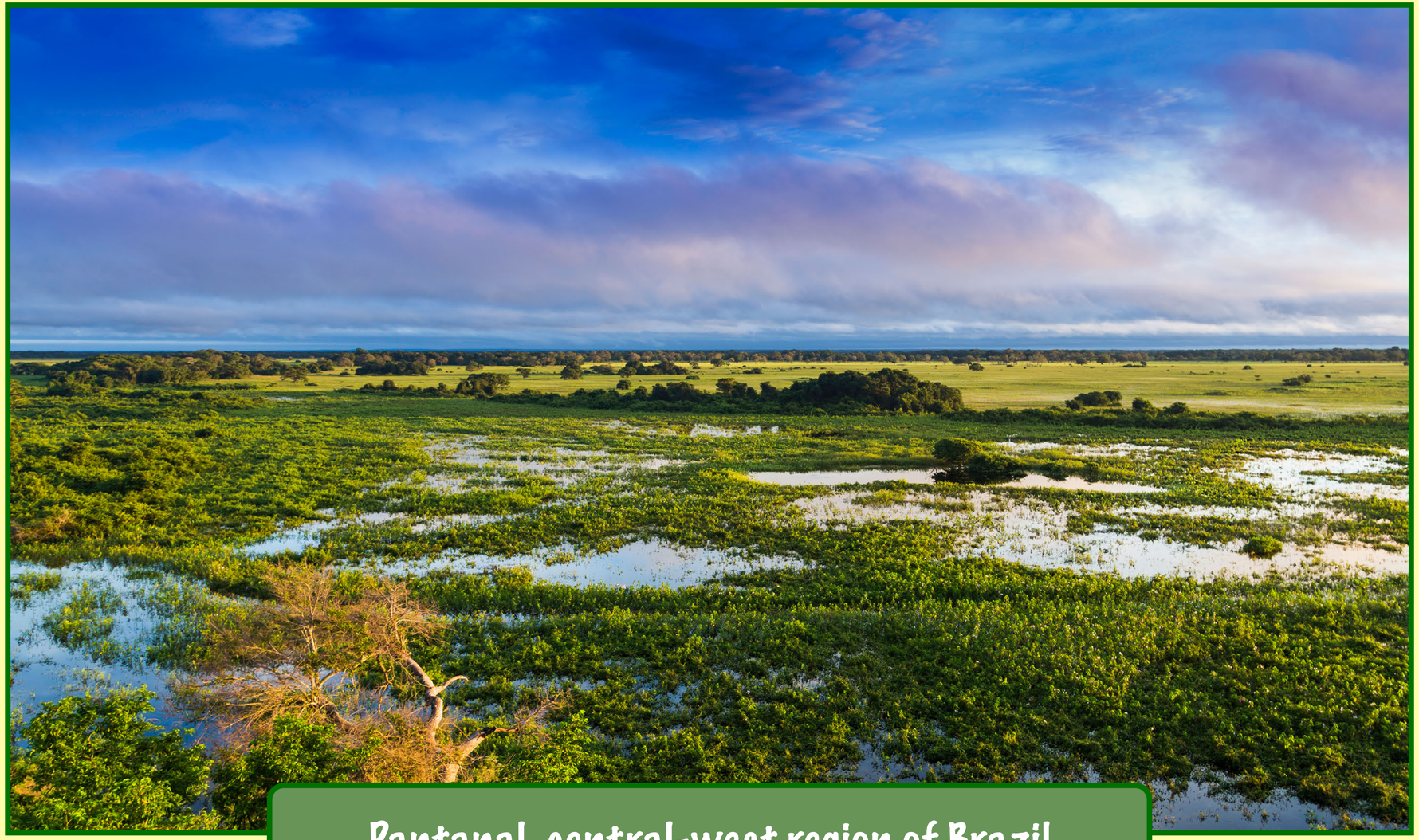

Pantanal, central-west region of Brazil

What can you see?

What can you tell about Brazil from this photo?

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