

Brazil— Exploring the human and physical characteristics

Year 5

Geography

Human Geography

The history of Brazil can be split into two distinct sections: Before 1500, Brazil was settled by thousands of small tribes. Post-1500 Portuguese settlers have had a profound impact on all aspects of Brazilian life.

Population		The population of Brazil is around 212 million people. This is around half of all of the people in South America. Across the country, there are 26.5 people per km ² , which makes Brazil the 4 th most densely populated country in South America.
Settlements		The capital city of Brazil is Brasilia. It was specially designed to be the capital of Brazil, and currently has a population of around 2.4 million. However, Sao Paulo (12.1 million) and Rio de Janeiro (6.3 million) are much larger and more populous cities.
Economic Activity		The Brazilian real is the national currency of Brazil. There has always been huge inequalities of wealth in Brazil, however between 2004 and 2013 the economy rapidly developed, lifting 29 million people out of poverty.
Resources/Trade		The top exports of Brazil are soy beans, iron ore, crude petroleum, raw sugar and cars. Portuguese is the first language of Brazil, which has helped to build strong trade with European countries.

Comparison with the UK

-The UK is in Europe, in the northern hemisphere, whilst Brazil is in South America and lies mostly in the southern hemisphere.

-Due to its position over the Equator, most parts of Brazil are much warmer than the UK. The UK has a temperate climate, whilst many parts of Brazil do not have clear seasons.

-Brazil is much larger than the UK – 8.51 million sq. km compared to 243,610sq km.

-More people live in Brazil, 209 million people compared to 66 million in the UK.

-However, Brasilia has a smaller population than London: 2.4 million people compared to 8.4 million.

-Brazil is situated on its continent, whereas the United Kingdom is an island country.

Recommended books set in or about Brazil:

Journey to the River Sea: Eva Ibbotson

Amazon Adventure: Unfolding Journeys: Stewart Ross & Jenni Sparks

The Great Kapok Tree : Lynne Cherry

The Explorer: Katherine Rundell



London



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Key Facts

Continent: South America

Population: 209 million

Capital City: Brasilia

Largest City: São Paulo

Currency: Brazilian Real

Official language: Portu-

Main Religions: Christiani-

Famous Landmarks: Christ the Redeemer, Amazon

Climate: Brazil has an average winter temperature of 15°C. During the

Traditional Food: Feijoada is a rich, hearty **stew** made with different cuts of **pork** and

Flag:



Overview

-Brazil is a large country in South America.

-Brazil shares a border with 10 different countries. The only South American countries that it does not border are Chile and Ecuador.

-It also has a long coastline on the Atlantic Ocean.

-Brazil covers an area of 8.51 million km² - by far the largest South American country by area.

-About 209 million people live in Brazil. The capital city is Brasilia.

-Brazil contains about 60% of the Amazon rainforest. It is also home to large, bustling cities like Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

Physical Geography

-Brazil has a wide variety of landscapes, including rainforests, grasslands, mountains and deserts.

-Brazil is the largest country in South America and the fifth largest in the world.

-The majority of the Amazon Rainforest (around 60%) is in Brazil. Much of the climate is tropical, with the south being relatively temperate.

-The Equator runs through northern Brazil. Most of the country lies in the Tropic of Capricorn.

-The highest mountain in Brazil is Picoda Neblina, at 2,994m, a mountain in the Serra da Neblina near the border with Venezuela.

-Other Brazilian highlands are found in the south of the country.

-60% of the Amazon River is in Brazil. By some measures, the Amazon is the longest river in the world! The Rio Parana and Negro River are other large rivers in the country.



Key Vocabulary

Human Geography: looks at the impact and behaviour of people and how they relate to the **physical** world

Economic activity: The word '**economy**' describes how a country or place is doing in producing/making goods, and how much money it has. The amount a country sells and makes is called **economic activity**.

Trade links: Buying and selling things is called *trade*

Physical Geography: looks at the natural processes of the Earth, such as climate and plate tectonics.

Climate: the long-term pattern of weather in a particular area.

Biomes: a large area characterized by its vegetation, soil, climate, and wildlife.

Map of Brazil

