

Brazil: A Tropical Paradise

Bordered by the South Atlantic Ocean and the countries of Uruguay, Bolivia and Argentina, Brazil is a country of contrasts. Founded by explorers nearly 200 years ago, who originated from Portugal, its beauty is unparalleled. From the sweltering Amazon basin in the north to the undulating Brazilian Highlands in the south, Brazil's topography and wildlife is as diverse as its people.

A natural wonder



Arguably the most famous river in the world, the Amazon carries more water to the ocean than any other river system in the world and is navigable for its entire 2,000 mile length. Sadly, the Amazon basin is home to the most rapidly depleting rain forest in the world: it is losing about 52,000 square miles each year! The basin, which occupies more than sixty percent of the entire country, receives more than eighty inches (about 200cm) of rain a year because of its hot and humid subtropical climate. The Brazilian Highlands contrast starkly with the meandering jungle rivers; their rugged, snow-capped peaks resemble another world.



Wild birds, dangerous snakes and deadly fish all call this part of the world their home and flourish in the untouched wilderness. Although probably best known for its incredible diversity of monkeys, the magnificent jaguar is the national animal of Brazil: potentially the best place in the world to see these charismatic cats!

Urban Geography

Two of the world's fifteen largest cities are in Brazil: Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Remarkably, these great cities are only about 250 miles (400 km) apart. The carnival in Rio de Janeiro is a festival held every year; it is considered the biggest carnival in the world, with two million people per day on the streets. However, despite its fame, it is actually Rio's neighbour Sao Paulo which is the largest city in Brazil by a considerable amount; it has the fourth largest population of any city in the world!

Eager to visit these spectacles? Because of their attraction, both cities have a huge ever-expanding ring of shanty towns and squatter settlements on their periphery.

Learning Ladder: Grammar		Colour <u>underline</u>
Relative Clause		
Subordinating conjunctions		
Semi colon between linked ideas		
Colon to add detail		
Brackets		
Writer's Toolkit: Skills		Colour circle
Effective (and subject-specific) vocabulary		
Evidence/opinion adds authority (arguably, potentially, some believe...)		
Rhetorical Question		
Exclamatory sentence		
		
		

Learning Ladder: Grammar		Colour <u>underline</u>
Relative Clause	(who..., which...)	
Subordinating conjunctions	(when, although, because, despite)	
Commas in a list	(1, 2 and 3)	
Brackets	(to clarify)	
Writer's Toolkit: Skills		Colour circle
Effective (and subject-specific) vocabulary		
Introductory paragraph		
Rhetorical Question	(Including a question mark)	
Exclamatory sentence	(Interesting fact with an exclamation mark)	
	I think this report is effective because...	
	If I could change on thing, I would...	

Learning Ladder: Grammar	Colour <u>underline</u>
Relative Clause (begins with "who")	
Subordinating conjunctions (If, Since, As, When, Although, While, After, Before, Until, Because)	
A Sub-heading (usually underlined)	
Brackets ()	
Writer's Toolkit: Skills	Colour circle
Facts	
Question	
Exclamation	

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