

Brazil

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Geography

My country, Brazil, is located in South America. It is the biggest country in South America, and is the fifth largest nation in the world. Brazil has an area of about 3,286,470 square miles or 8,511,965 square kilometers. It is well known for its dense forests. One of these dense forests is the Amazon, which is the world's largest jungle. In Northern Brazil, it is dominated by the Amazon River and other jungles around it. The Amazon River is made up of a bunch of different waterways. Brazil isn't all jungle though. Brazil also has dry grassland (pampas), pine forests, rugged hills, stretched out wetlands, and more.



For many years, scientists thought that Brazil was first founded by Asians about 10,000 years ago. But new evidence shows that at least 32,000 years ago, there were people living there. Some experts believe that they may have come from islands in the Pacific Oceans. During the great European explorations in the late 15th century, Brazil was added to the map. It was led by Spain and Portugal. In 1530, Portugal established its first colony in Brazil. Colonists created sugarcane plantations along the coast. They also sent diamonds and gold back to Europe. Not long after, people from West Africa were brought to Brazil as slaves. The slaves had to harvest sugarcane and mine for gold. The discovery of large inland gold brought thousands of people as far away as Europe to the interior of Brazil to come mine for gold. May years later, in 1789, Brazilians tried to kick out their Portuguese rulers. This didn't end up working, but it started a movement towards independence. By 1822, Brazil was a ruler nation. This means that Kings of Portuguese bloodline ruled until 1888. Military leaders and landowners banished the king, and Brazil became a federal republic in 1888.

History



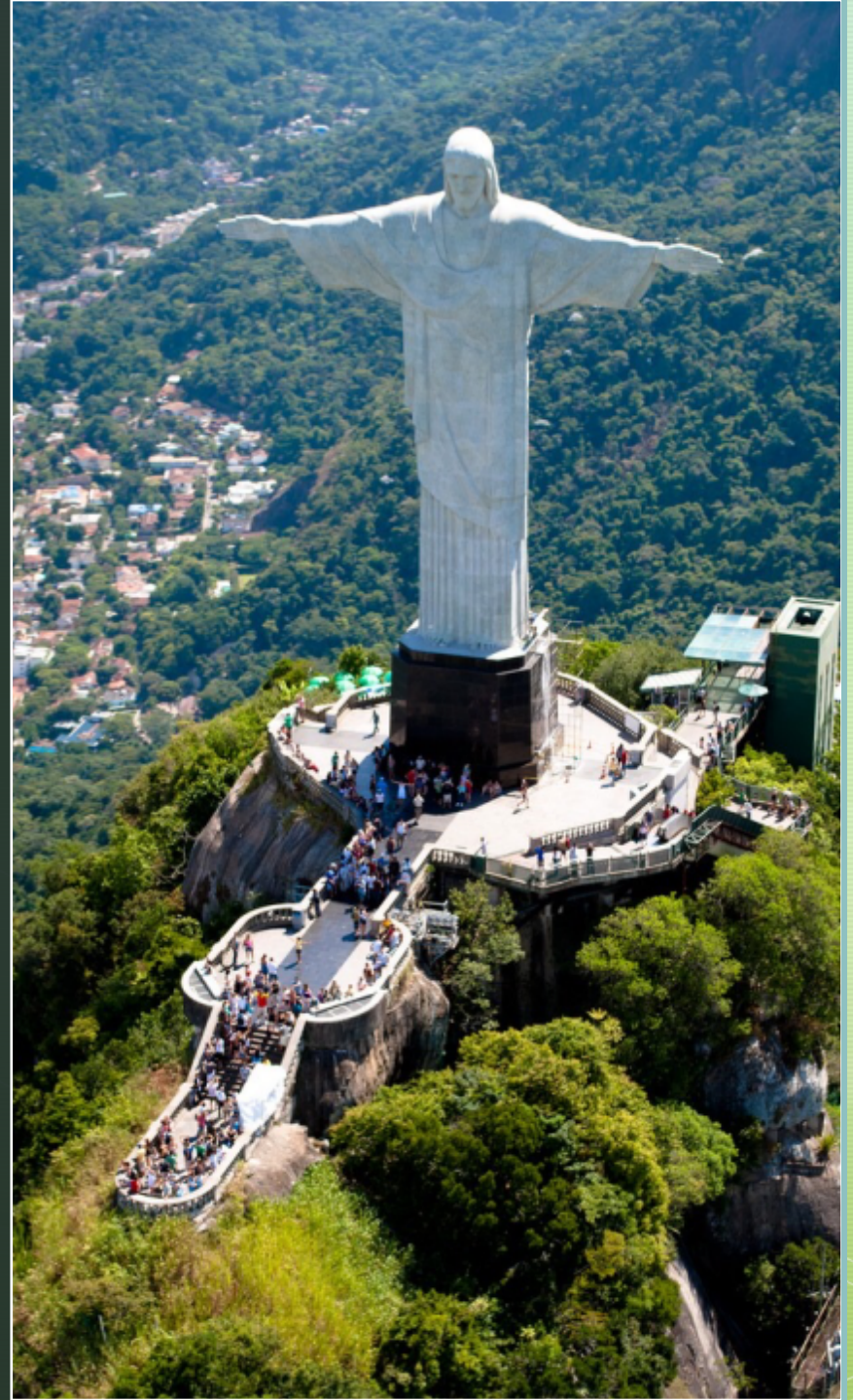
Culture

- Brazil is a federal republic, and that is their government. A federal republic is a federation of states with a republican form of government. The central government has complete control/power over all of political life.
- The currency that is used in Brazil is Brazilian Real. One Brazilian Real is worth eighteen cents in United States money.
- The official language of Brazil is Portuguese. This is because it was Portugal that found Brazil.
- The flag of Brazil (Bandeira do Brasil) is known as the *Yellow and Green One*. This is because the flag has a yellow diamond on a green background. Written across the flag is *Ordem e Progresso*, which means order and progress.
- Brazil has the largest amount of Catholic Christians in the world, and has been the main religion since the beginning of the 16th century. They celebrate a lot of Christian holidays such as Easter, Christmas, and All Souls' Day.
- There are many sports played in Brazil. A few main ones are, Soccer (which they call football), volleyball, and tennis.



Love About Brazil

- I love the *Cristo Redentor (Christ the Redeemer)* located in Rio de Janeiro. This is the large statue of Jesus Christ with his arms outstretched 28 meters.
- Another thing I love about Brazil is the Iguazu Falls which is located at the point where Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina meet. It is a semicircle of 247 waterfalls, and some of them are more than 100 meters high.
- Something else I like about Brazil is that I can relate to their main religion, Catholic Christian. They celebrate a lot of the same holidays that I do, and I like to see that it's a small world.
- Another thing that I like about Brazil is that, for the most part, the climate is warm. It makes you feel like it's summer all the time. Even though spring is my favorite season, I still like the warm feeling of summer.
- The last thing that I really like about Brazil is the main sports they play. An example of this is volleyball. I love playing volleyball, and I think it's so cool that I can connect that with Brazil.



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