



Embratur

3. Brazil - the Country and its People

Here you will find out how Brazil developed over the centuries and why people travelled to live in the country.

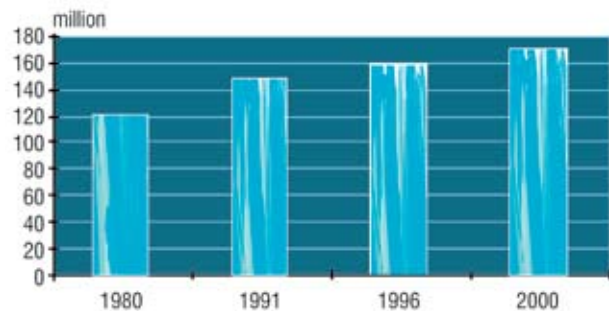
3.1 How many people live in Brazil?

- ◆ Brazil is now the fifth most populous country in the world. Its population in 2000 was 170 million, according to that year's census, and the government estimate in July 2008 was 189 million.
- ◆ Two thirds of these people live along the coast and in the major cities.
- ◆ Over 19 million live in greater São Paulo and over 11 million in greater Rio de Janeiro.

Here are some interesting statistics from the census of 2000:

- ◆ The population today is ten times greater than it was in 1900
- ◆ 86 million are women
- ◆ 84 million are men
- ◆ 32 million live in rural areas
- ◆ 138 million live in urban areas

This shows population graphs for last twenty years.



TOTAL POPULATION 1980 - 2000

On December 21 2008 the following figures were registered

Population Estimates at 12:22pm:

- ◆ In Brazil:
185,223,376 inhabitants
- ◆ In the World:
6,598,202,087 inhabitants.

For the latest population figures for Brazil, visit the website at the end of the fact sheet.



- 1 What is the difference when compared with today's statistics?

See whether the population has increased while you have been working on this fact sheet!

3.2 Where did the first Brazilians come from?

The people of Brazil are descended from those who came from many other parts of the world. Some came many thousands of years ago, some came hundreds of years ago and some came during the last century.

There are four main origins of the Brazilian people:

- ◆ Original inhabitants – Indian people like the Kayapo and the Yanomami
- ◆ Successive European settlers – mainly Portuguese
- ◆ Africans from the west coast, who came as slaves



José Medeiros

A BRAZILIAN OF AFRICAN ORIGIN



José Medeiros

XINGU INDIAN



Antonio Silva

INDIAN MOTHER AND CHILD

- ◆ Migrant workers from Europe, and more recently from other countries outside Europe

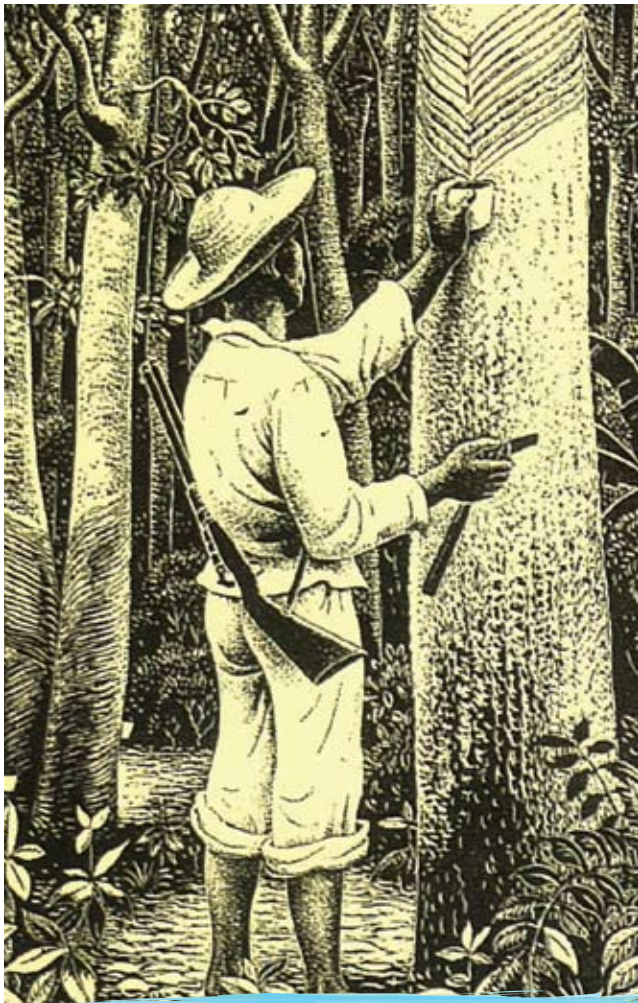
South America was the last continent to be settled by Early Man. The first settlers to Brazil would have travelled across to North America from what is now Russia to the area known today as Alaska at the end of the Ice Age around 9,000 BC. They would then have travelled slowly down the North American continent until they reached South America. The Indians who still live in remote areas of Brazil are the descendents of these early people.

Pedro Álvares Cabral, the Portuguese explorer, reached the coast of Brazil on April 22 1500. The explorers settled along the north east coast where the climate was warm and moist. Other Portuguese explorers followed Cabral in search of valuable goods for European trade. However, the land away from the coast remained unexplored. In the first century after its European discovery, the country's major export—giving its name to Brazil—was brazilwood, from a large tree whose trunk contains a prized red dye. In 1549 Brazil became a colony of Portugal and the city of Salvador became the capital. The Portuguese spread inland from the coast when gold and silver were discovered in the highlands.



EARLY EXPLORERS FROM PORTUGAL

In the 17th century sugar cane was introduced as a crop and soon large plantations were developed to grow it for export to Europe. The Portuguese landowners then had to bring captured slaves from Africa to work in the plantations: it was estimated that ten million slaves were taken to Brazil before slavery ended in 1888. The Portuguese settlers frequently intermarried with both the Indians and the African slaves, and there were also mixed marriages between the Africans and Indians. As a result Brazil's population is intermingled to a degree that is not found elsewhere.



A RUBBER TAPPER

Around two hundred years ago many people travelled from Europe to start new lives abroad. Opportunities existed for people to work in Brazil on sugar plantations and in the rubber industry, and when coffee took the place of sugar as Brazil's most important product, a wave of European immigrants settled in the country. People from such European countries as Italy, Germany, Spain and Poland went to Brazil to start a new life, and this continued into the 20th and 21st centuries.



BRAZILIANS ORIGINATE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

Nelson Lafraia

DID YOU KNOW THAT BRAZIL HAS...

- ◆ The largest population of Italian origin outside Italy, with over 25 million Italian Brazilians
- ◆ The largest Japanese population outside Japan, with 1.6 million Japanese Brazilians
- ◆ The largest Arab population outside the Middle East, with 10 million Arab Brazilians
- ◆ The second largest German population outside Germany, with 12 million German Brazilians
- ◆ The second largest Spanish population outside Spain, with 15 million Spanish Brazilians
- ◆ The second largest Polish population outside Poland, with 1.8 million Polish Brazilians

HOWEVER...

The largest and oldest European ethnic group in Brazil are the Portuguese Brazilians — most Brazilians can trace their ancestry to an ethnic Portuguese or a mixed-race Portuguese. The census of 2000 gives the following statistics in relation to the ethnic origins of the population:

53.7% European origin,
38.4% mixed origin,
6.2% African origin,
0.4% oriental origin
0.4% indigenous



Nelson Lafraia

BRAZILIANS HAVING FUN

3.3 What language do the people of Brazil speak?

Portuguese is the official language of Brazil. Except for the languages spoken by Indian tribes living in remote reservations, Portuguese is the only language of daily life. You will notice that the name of the country is spelt differently in Portuguese than in English – Brasil instead of Brazil. You will also notice that accents are used above certain letters in the Portuguese words.

Here are some common words and phrases used in Brazil:

Hello = Olá
Good Morning = Bom dia
Good Afternoon = Boa tarde
Good night = Boa noite
What time is it? = Que horas são?
See you = Até logo

Portuguese is also the official language of Angola, Cape Verde, East Timor, Guiné-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and São Tomé e Príncipe.

3.4 What are the national symbols of Brazil?

The Brazilian national flag features a yellow diamond on a green background. The green represents Brazil's lush vegetation and yellow represents wealth in gold. In the centre of the diamond there is a dark blue sphere representing the deep colour of the sky in the tropics. The sphere contains twenty-seven stars representing the capital of the country and its federal states, and across the middle of the

sphere runs a white banner bearing the words *Order and Progress*.

Click on this link below for more information about the other national symbols.



BRAZIL NATIONAL FLAG

3.5 What is the capital city of Brazil?

Many people think it is Rio de Janeiro. However, Brasília is the capital city of the country. The city is situated inland and was built between 1956 and 1960. Look at the photographs in the gallery below — what do you think of the design?



BRASÍLIA



BRAZILIAN CONGRESS



SEE THESE LINKS!

Population maps showing increase since 1960:

http://www.ibge.gov.br/ibgeteen/atlasescolar/mapas_pdf/brasil_densidade_demografica.pdf

For the latest population figures for Brazil, visit this website:

<http://www.ibge.gov.br/english/disseminacao/online/popclock/popclock.php>

National symbols:

<http://www.brazil.org-uk/brazilinbrief/symbols.html>



PHOTO GALLERY



Nelson Lafraia

brazilian partying



Embratur

presidential palace



Ademar Pereira

friends



Embratur

view of Brasilia



José Medeiros

Brazilian boy



Daniela Silva

boys at play