

Summary: Brazil

Land of the Amazon

Brazil is the largest country in South America. It has many natural resources. The Amazon River goes through the rain forest in the northern part of Brazil. There are many beaches on the coast. Brazil has good land for farming and cattle.

American Indians lived in Brazil for many years. The first Europeans came from Portugal in the 1500s. Most people in Brazil today speak Portuguese. Europeans forced African slaves to work on huge sugar cane farms. Brazil ended slavery in 1888.

People from Europe went to Brazil to find work. Immigrants from Germany lived in the south because the climate reminded them of home. People from Japan and Italy worked on coffee farms. Some bought their own farms.

New Lives, Old Ways

Immigrants often keep their own ways of doing things. They also learn new ways. Many people whose ancestors are Italian or Japanese live in São Paulo, Brazil's biggest city. People print Japanese newspapers and make Japanese crafts. These immigrants pass their traditions to the next generation.

People in Brazil are also very modern. They use cell phones, email, and the Internet to stay connected to people all over the world. They use satellites to communicate over long distances.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

ancestor *noun*, a relative who was born long ago

generation *noun*, a group of people born and living at about the same time



After You Read

REVIEW Why did some European settlers go to Brazil?

Underline the sentences that tell why people from Europe went to Brazil.

REVIEW In what ways might immigrants pass their traditions to new generations? How do the Japanese in Brazil pass their traditions to the next generation? Highlight the sentence that tells the answer.