

The image shows the Brazilian flag waving. It features a green field with a large yellow rhombus in the center. Inside the rhombus is a blue globe with white stars and a white banner with the motto "ORDEM E PROGRESSO".

# BRAZIL

***"Never poke a jaguar with a short stick."***

Brazilian proverb

## 1. Brazil Discussion

1. What is Brazil famous for?
2. What is the capital of Brazil? What do you know about that city? Which other important cities or places in Brazil do you know about?
3. Have you ever visited Brazil? If so, what did you do? If not, where would you like to visit? What would you do there?
4. Would you like to live in Brazil? Why or why not? Where is the best place to live in Brazil?
5. What do you know about the culture of Brazil? Do you know about any cultural events, festivals or other traditions that take place in Brazil?
6. What do you think about Brazilian food? Have you ever tried it? What are the best dishes?
7. What do you know about the music of Brazil? How about TV shows or films? What are the best TV shows, films or music from Brazil?
8. Which sports is Brazil known for? Which sports is Brazil good at?

## 2. Brazilian People

- **Joaquim Jose da Silva Xavier** – Born in 1792 on a farm near the village of Santa Rita do Rio Abaixo in Minas Gerais, Joaquim Jose da Silva Xavier was a leading figure in the Inconfidência Mineira movement that sought to liberate Brazil from Portuguese colonial rule and establish an independent republic. He witnessed first-hand the Portuguese exploitation of the land and people, inspiring him to participate in the conspiracy to declare independence for which he was ultimately hanged by the Portuguese.
- **Don Pedro II** – Born in 1825 in Rio de Janeiro, Pedro II was Brazil's last emperor before the country became a republic. After his father's abdication in 1831, Pedro II became Emperor of Brazil at the age of just five. Under Pedro II's rule, Brazil became an economic power, civil liberties were guaranteed, and slavery was abolished. This led to Pedro II becoming hugely popular amongst Brazilians, even after he was ousted by a coup d'état in 1889.
- **Pele** – Born in 1940 in Minas Gerais, Pele is possibly the most famous Brazilian of all time, not to mention widely considered to be the greatest footballer of all time. Pele began his professional career at 15 years old at Santos, a team he remained at for 18 years. But Pele will be most remembered for his performances on the international stage, helping Brazil win three World Cups and cementing his country's place as one of the greatest national teams in history.
- **Paulo Coelho** – Born in 1947 in Rio de Janeiro, Coelho is perhaps one of Brazil's most famous writers, especially for his novel *The Alchemist*, which follows a young shepherd on his dreamlike journey from Andalucía to the pyramids of Egypt. Before committing himself to writing, he had been arrested by the military government for writing "subversive" left-wing songs and had received a spiritual awakening while walking the 500-mile St James' Way in northern Spain.
- **Ayrton Senna** – Born in 1960 in São Paulo, Ayrton Senna was one of the greatest Formula One drivers of all time. Senna's first F1 race was on home territory in the 1984 Brazilian Grand Prix, although he would be forced to retire from the race early. His first win came only a year later at the Portuguese Grand Prix, and his first of three World Championships came in 1988. Senna tragically lost his life in a crash while leading in the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix.
- **Royce Gracie** – Born in 1966 in Rio de Janeiro, Royce Gracie was one of the most influential figures in the development of modern mixed martial arts (MMA). Gracie's father, Hélio Gracie, was one of the founders of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, a martial art based around controlling an opponent and taking them to the ground before attempting to force them into submission via joint locks and chokeholds. Royce was the man who took this style to the world stage, winning the first and second UFC titles.

### The people of Brazil speaking activity

1. Which of these people did you already know about?
2. Which of these people had the most impressive achievements?
3. Who are some other important Brazilians, past or present, that you know about? Why are they important?
4. Do you know about any famous actors, artists or sports stars from Brazil?
5. What do you think about people from Brazil? Have you ever met any? How were they? (If you are from Brazil, how would you describe the people from your country?)
6. What are some stereotypes of Brazilians?

### 3. Video: Brazil Travel Guide

You are going to watch a video by Mojo Travels called "Top 10 Places You Have to Visit in Brazil."

**Watch the video here:** <https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-brazil/>

**While you watch the video, answer the following questions:**

#### Multiple choice

1. What filters the lagoons in Lençóis Maranhenses National Park?  
*a) salt          b) sand          c) volcanic ash*
2. On which coast can you find Lençóis Maranhenses National Park?  
*a) north          b) south          c) east*
3. Which country is São Luís compared to?  
*a) Barbados    b) Cuba          c) Jamaica*
4. When did São Luís become a UNESCO World Heritage Site?  
*a) 1997          b) 1998          c) 1999*

#### Sentence completion

5. Cuiabá Diamantina covers nearly \_\_\_\_\_ square miles.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Amazon is situated in Brazilian territory.
7. Olinda is one of the best-preserved \_\_\_\_\_ cities in Brazil.
8. At Bonito you can find an underground lake the size of a \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Short answer

9. What are banned from some streets in Paraty?
10. Big cities in Brazil have a bad reputation for what?
11. What is the population of Rio de Janeiro?
12. How many individual waterfalls make up the Iguazu Falls?

## 4. Brazil Conversation Questions

1. What do you think are the main differences between Brazil and your country? (If you are from Brazil, which countries are most similar and different to yours?)
2. Do you know any Brazilian words or sayings?
3. What did Brazil give to the world?
4. What are some important events from Brazil's history?
5. How important is Brazil in the world?
6. How important will Brazil be in the future?
7. What do you know about the government or politics of Brazil? (If you are from Brazil, what do you think about your government?)
8. What kind of relationship with Brazil does your country have? (If you are from Brazil, which countries does Brazil have good and bad relations with?)

## 5. Brazil Writing Task

Write about your opinion of Brazil. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- What Brazil is most famous for.
- Some important events in Brazil's history.
- What you know about the culture of Brazil and its people.