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EBJ Knowledge Organiser History Year 5

Spring 1 How has Brazil changed?



Brazil

Brazil is the largest country on the continent of South America and the fifth largest country in the world. It shares land borders with 10 other South American countries and has a long coastal border with the Atlantic Ocean.

There are approximately 860,000 indigenous peoples in Brazil, in over 300 different ethnic groups. Many indigenous peoples in Brazil live in the Amazon region. Some speak their own languages. Some indigenous peoples have nomadic lifestyles, travelling between areas. One of Brazil's most famous celebrations is Carnival, a four-day festival leading up to Lent. Millions of Brazilians take part in the celebrations. Dancers or musicians come from samba schools and people are involved in the construction of floats for performers to appear on.

The Amazon Rainforest makes up around 40% of the total area of Brazil. It is home to several million species of animals, plants, birds and insects. It is believed that many may still be unrecorded! Wildlife includes tapirs, red deer, jaguars, manatees, capybaras and other rodents, along with several types of monkeys.



Carnivals

The greatest and most celebrated festival in Brazil is the carnival held in Rio de Janeiro. This is four days of music, singing and dancing!

This is a world-famous festival held before Lent every year and is considered the biggest carnival in the world, with two million people per day on the streets. The first festivals of Rio date back to 1723.

The typical Rio carnival parade is filled with revellers, floats, costumes and adornments from samba schools in the city.



History of Brazil

Brazil is the only country in South America where Portuguese is the official language. In 1494, the treaty of Tordesillas divided the Americas between Spain and Portugal (Line of Demarcation).



Portugal claimed possession of Brazil on 22nd April 1500, as Pedro Alvares Cabral, the Portuguese fleet commander, landed on the coast. Brazil gained its independence from Portugal in September 1822.

The cultures of various Indigenous Peoples have together influenced the way of Brazilian life. The Portuguese culture is one of the most dominant; from it, the Brazilians acquired their language, their main religion and many of their customs.



Isabel, Princess of Brazil

Isabel, Princess of Brazil was born 29th of July 1846 and died the 14th of November 1921, she was heiress to the Brazilian throne. Married to Gastão of Orléans, count d'Eu, on 15 October 1864, she assumed the **regency** in her father's absence in 1871, 1876, and 1887. Strong-willed, she displayed an uncommon ability to govern during her first regency. In Brazilian history her name is associated with **emancipation** and the abolition of slavery. In 1871 she signed the Law of the Free Womb (Free Birth Law), which freed newborn slaves. Her major achievement was the **Lei Aurea** of 13 May 1888, which abolished slavery!



Earliest Inhabitants

Brazil's earliest inhabitants were the Indians. More than one hundred native tribal groups inhabited the land. They did not plant crops, but hunted and gathered fruits and berries.



Key Vocabulary

Culture, diversity, rainforest, city, coast, religion, Portuguese, Brasilia, Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, population, carnival, vegetation, indigenous, independence, monarchy