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  Cultural, historical and statistical country information.
Brazil
Brazil is the largest country in South America in both area and population.

Brazil nut
Brazil nut, also called para nut, comes from a large, evergreen tree found mainly in forests near the Amazon River and its ....

Prendergast, Maurice Brazil
Prendergast, Maurice Brazil (1858-1924), was an American painter and illustrator.

Portuguese language
Portuguese language is the official language of Portugal, Brazil, Mozambique, and Angola.

Argentina
Argentina is the second largest country in area in South America, after Brazil, and the eighth largest in the world.

Lula da Silva, Luiz Inácio
Lula da Silva, Luiz Inacio (1945-...), served as president of Brazil from 2003 through 2010.

Brasilia
Brasilia (pop. 2,081,146), is the capital of Brazil and one of the world's leading examples of large-scale city planning.

Pedro II
Pedro II (1825-1889), was emperor of Brazil from 1831 to 1889.

Candomblé
Candomblé is a set of religious practices that began among slaves in Brazil during the 1800's. Most of these slaves were ....
Brazil, /briːzl/ (Portuguese: Brasil), is the largest country in South America in both area and population. It occupies almost half the continent and has about as many people as all other South American nations combined. Brazil ranks fifth in both area and population among the countries of the world.

Brazil has a varied landscape. The world's largest tropical rain forest sprawls across much of the north. The mighty Amazon and other numerous rivers wind through this vast green area of towering trees and steamy jungles. Cloud-capped mountains rise north of the forests and border the Atlantic Ocean in the southeast. Dry plains extend across parts of northeastern Brazil. The low plateaus of central and southern Brazil have fertile farmlands and lush grazing areas. Bread, white beaches line glistening seashores on the nation's long Atlantic coast.

The forests, rivers, and mountains of Brazil have long hindered travel inland, and the country's vast interior remains little developed. About 80 percent of all Brazilians live within 200 miles (320 kilometers) of the Atlantic coast. Nearly all of Brazil's big cities and towns are on or near the coast. One of the largest cities in Brazil's interior is Brasilia, Brasilia is also the capital of the country. The city was built about 600 miles (970 kilometers) from the coast to help draw Brazilians inland.

São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro are the country's two largest cities. São Paulo is one of the largest cities in the world in terms of population. This modern, fast-paced urban area is also Brazil's chief commercial and industrial center. Rio de Janeiro, often called simply Rio, is one of the most densely populated cities in South America. Rio is a major tourist attraction. The city is known throughout the world for its breathtaking coastline, exciting nightlife, and colorful festivals.

Brazil's people come from many backgrounds. About half the country's population are of European ancestry—mostly German, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish. Many other Brazilians are of mixed African and European ancestry, and some are entirely of African descent. Indigenous Brazilians (American Indians) form less than 1 percent of the population.

Rich natural resources have helped make Brazil a growing economic power. Brazil is the world's largest "coffee pot," producing about a third of the total coffee crop each year. It also ranks among the world's leading countries in the production of a wide variety of agricultural items, including bananas, cacao beans, cattle, corn, cotton, horses, lemons, oranges, pineapples, rice, soybeans, sugar cane, and tobacco. Huge supplies of nuts, timber, and other products come from its forests, and power plants on its rivers generate a great amount of electric power. Brazil produces large quantities of iron ore, manganese, and many other minerals needed by industry.

Brazil's industrial growth since the mid-1990s has helped Brazil become one of the world's leading manufacturing nations. Brazil is a leading automobile manufacturer, and it is a major oil producer. Brazil has a growing population of high-income workers. These Brazilians enjoy many of the world's modern conveniences. The country has good, well-equipped hospitals and a modern transportation system.

Brazil has the highest number of Portuguese-speaking people of any country in the world. Portuguese is the country's official language. The people speak a mixture of European and African languages, and these linguistic mixtures form the basis of Brazil's rich folk culture. Many Brazilians are Catholic; however, the country has several religious groups including Jews, Muslims, and Bahá'ís. The official currency is the real. The capital of Brazil is Brasília, which is in the center of the country. São Paulo is the country's largest city.