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Families Around the World Curriculum Map

Students will strengthen reading, research, and a multitude of other skills by becoming more familiar with the location, physical features, lifestyles, and traditions of families living in sixteen different countries in the world. Students will reinforce and develop their skills in brainstorming, making comparisons, noting similarities and differences, researching using the Internet, and surveying and graphing. Information sheets and activities are designed to promote a more accepting and understanding attitude towards people from other lands through knowledge gained while researching and completing the various activities.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- become more knowledgeable about different countries around the world; their location; physical features; resources; major industries; tourist attractions.
- become more aware of the culture, food, lifestyle of families, language, education, and traditions of people who become citizens in their country.
- become more understanding and less judgmental of a culture that has some people who have committed acts of violence in countries of the world.
- be encouraged to make friends with people from other countries and to welcome them to their country.

For the Teacher:

- Learning Outcomes
- Teacher Preparation
- Teacher Input Suggestions
- Teacher Assessment Rubric
- Student Self-Assessment Rubric

For the Students:

- Countries Around the World - Before and After You Read Worksheet
- Family Life Around the World - Before and After You Read Worksheet
- Comparing My Country to a Different Country Using a Venn Diagram Worksheet
- Comparing My Country's Lifestyle to a Different Country's Lifestyle Using a Venn Diagram Worksheet
- Comparing Two Different Countries Around the World on a Venn Diagram Worksheet
- Comparing Two Different Family Lifestyles on a Venn Diagram Worksheet
- Countries' Comparison Chart - Noting Differences and Similarities Worksheet

16 Countries Including:

1. All About Italy

- Family Life in Italy
- Researching Famous Places in Italy (Worksheet)

2. All About Japan

- Family Life in Japan
- Researching Japan's Interesting Attractions (Worksheet)

3. All About Germany

- Family Life in Germany
- Researching Famous Places in Germany (Worksheet)

4. All About Australia

- Family Life in Australia
- Researching Australian Wildlife (Worksheet)

5. All About India

- Family Life in India
- Researching Famous Attractions in India (Worksheet)

6. All About China

- Family Life in China
- Researching Famous Sights to See in China (Worksheet)

7. All About Mexico

- Family Life in Mexico
- Researching Famous Places in Mexico (Worksheet)

8. All About Brazil

- Family Life in Brazil
- Researching Interesting People and Places in Brazil (Worksheet)

9. All About Russia

- Family Life in Russia
- Researching Interesting Places in Russia (Worksheet)

10. All About Poland

- Family Life in Poland
- Researching Famous Places to Visit in Poland (Worksheet)

11. All About Afghanistan

- Family Life in Afghanistan
- Researching Interesting Places and Plants in Afghanistan (Worksheet)

12. All About Saudi Arabia

- Family Life in Saudi Arabia
- Researching Famous Places in Saudi Arabia (Worksheet)

13. All About Ukraine

- Family Life in Ukraine
- Researching Famous Places in Ukraine (Worksheet)

14. All About Madagascar

- Family Life in Madagascar
- Researching Famous Animals in Madagascar (Worksheet)

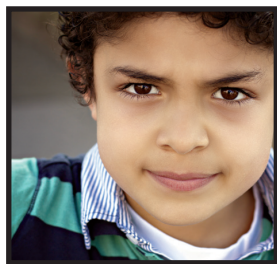
15. All About Peru

- Family Life in Peru
- Researching Famous Places in Peru (Worksheet)

16. All About the Netherlands

- Family Life in the Netherlands
- Researching Famous Places in the Netherlands (Worksheet)

All About Brazil



"**Alô**" or "**Hello!**" My name is André and I live with my family in a large city called Brasilia, which is the capital city of the country of Brazil. My country is located in the continent of South America. I am going to share with you information about my country.

Did you know that Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world and covers almost half of South America? It shares borders with all the other countries except for Ecuador and Chili. Brazil's long coastline along the Atlantic Ocean has many beaches and tourists love to visit them.

Brasilia, our capital city, was built in the shape of an airplane. The wings are used for businesses and homes and the nose is where hotels and office buildings are located. The center of the plane is the location where our government buildings are found. The government that runs my country is called a "Federative Republic" which is headed by an elected President.

Our flag has a green background that represents our lush fields and forests. In the middle of the green background is a large yellow diamond that represents the gold found in our country. In the center of the diamond is a blue globe filled with 27 white stars. They represent the states in the country. On the globe is a white band that bears the country's logo "Order and Progress."

The people, in Brazil, have come from many european backgrounds as our country was visited by many explorers and settled by people from many countries. Many slaves were brought to Brazil from Africa to work on the plantations. For this reason skin color in Brazil ranges from very dark to white. Most of the remaining Amazon native people live deep in the Amazon Tropical Rainforest. Portuguese is the main language spoken and the main religion is Roman Catholic. Our dollar is called a "real" and our coins are five, ten, twenty-five and thirty "centavos." We do not have a centavo for one penny.

Since the equator passes through Brazil our seasons are reversed to those experienced in North America. Our summer is from December through to March. The temperature can go up to 120° F (49° C). During our winter, temperatures can get as low as 50° F (10° C).

Flag of Brazil



Map of Brazil





Brazil's Tropical Rainforest

(Amazon Red Fish) which is 15 feet (4.5 meters) long. It is also the home to the most deadly flesh-eating fish, the "piranha." The Amazon native forest people live mainly in this area.

Brazil has five different climatic zones. The Amazon Basin in northern Brazil is hot and uncomfortably humid and often has rain. It contains the Amazon River and the Amazon Rainforest. The Amazon River is the second longest river in the World. It is so large that ocean-going ships can travel on it. Hundreds of plants grow everywhere and many species of birds, insects, and animals live in the tropical rainforests. The Amazon River has the longest fish in the world called the "pirarucú"



Piranha

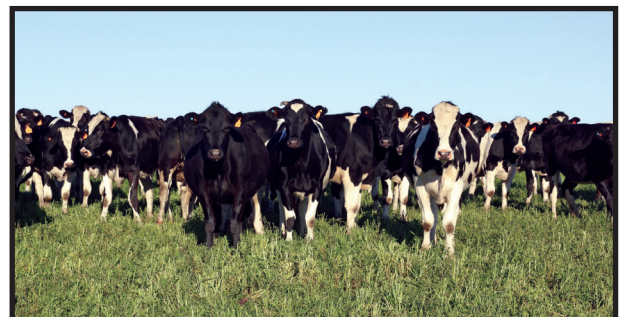
In the North-east of Brazil, the temperatures can be 90° F to 100° F (32° - 38° C). It rains a lot in this area as well but it can be also very dry which causes droughts. About one quarter of the Brazilian people live in this area. The West Central Region is warm with a dry season. This area is tropical with marshlands, lakes, and rivers. It also has one of the last original forests in the world.

More than 40% of Brazil's people live in the South-East Region. Two main cities are found in this area. They are Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. Rio de Janeiro is famous for its beautiful beaches and hotels but also for its "favelas" or shantytowns for the poor. In the favelas there is very little running water and children must carry cooking water from nearby wells and rivers. Sewers carry human waste to the ocean by the rivers. People wash their clothes in these rivers and disease is easily spread. In São Paula, there are many businesses and industries. The rich soil in this region grows half of Brazil's coffee, cotton, fruit, and vegetables.



A Favela in Rio de Janeiro

The Southern region of Brazil is made of flat plains and forested mountains. This area has ranches and plantations. The cowboys who work on the flat pampas grasslands are called "gaúchos." Brazil has the second largest herd of beef in the world. This area has warm summers and cool winters.



Cattle Ranch



My country is also rich in minerals and there are many mines. Bauxite, copper, nickel, gold, silver, lead, mica, titanium, manganese, uranium, coal, asbestos, tin, and industrial diamonds are mined in Brazil.

Many Brazilians work at some type of industry. There are many factories that turn iron ore into steel and wood into furniture. They also make textiles, heavy machinery, chemicals, cement, and shoes.

The farms in Brazil are called "plantations" and usually only grow one type of crop. It may be Brazil-wood, sugar, coffee or rubber. Some plantations are used for grazing animals. Other crops raised in Brazil are tobacco, cotton, rice, beans, oranges, nuts, and bananas.



Coffee Plantation



A Brazilian Soccer Player

Like most people in other countries, the people in Brazil enjoy watching sports such as basketball, volleyball, tennis, boxing, and auto-racing. Soccer or "futebol" fill the stadiums found in every large city in Brazil. Brazilians like to surf, ride bicycles, and play soccer and volleyball on the beach. They also love their music and dancing. Our samba music and samba dancing are famous all over the world.

I hope you enjoyed reading about my unusual country.

"Caio" or "Good-bye!"



Football Stadium in Brazil



Family Life in Brazil



"Bom-dia" or "good day!" My name is Camille and I am André's older sister. I am going to tell you about how a family lives in Brazil and about some of our traditions.

My family lives in a large house in Brasilia that has many rooms. Our parents both work and have good paying jobs. My father works for the Brazilian government and my mother works as a manager of a bank.

We also have a maid who cleans, cooks, and does our laundry. Many other Brazilians live in apartments or smaller homes decorated with brightly colored mosaics made of tiles on the outside walls. Out in the country wealthy farm families live on "fazendas" or plantations. Poor families live in small houses of woven branches that has been plastered with mud. People who live in cities but cannot afford an apartment or house must live in the "favelas" or shanty towns or slums. Their homes are temporary structures made of bits of cardboard, wood, and scraps of metal. Often there is no running water.



A Brazilian Home

André and I begin our day with "café de manhã" which is our breakfast. We may have coffee, steamed milk, fruit, biscuits or bread and sometimes cheese or meat. Our biggest meal is called "almôça" and it is served at noon. School is over and many businesses and shops close so that people may go home for this meal. At almoço beans, rice, meat or seafood, salad, fruit, potatoes, and breads are served. My family's favorite dish is "feijoada." It is a black bean stew with smoked meat. It was first made by the slaves in Brazil and now it is our national dish. At dinner time we usually have a light snack such as a ham and pineapple sandwich. Did you know that Brazilians drink more fruit drinks than soda pop? In the evening my family likes to watch television together and munch on popcorn.



Feijoada

In Brazil, we have three levels of schools. In most schools the students wear school uniforms that have the name of the school on it. Our small schools provide students with primary education. Children begin school at five and must attend school until they are 15. Secondary school must be attended until you are 17. Then students can go to college or university. Many children in Brazil do not attend school because they are needed to work and help their family. André is in grade 7 and I am in grade 10. We both go to private schools that our parents pay for.

School in Brazil starts at 7:30 in the morning and ends at 1:00 in the afternoon. André has five classes to attend each day. The subjects are Portuguese, math, social studies, English, physical education and theater. I go to a private high school and study math, history, science, English, and physical education. In Brazil, our summer holidays take place in January and February. Our school year begins in early March.



In our summer, which is Brazil's hottest time of the year, our family heads to the beaches. Sometimes we travel to Rio de Janeiro to enjoy Ipanema and Copacabana Beaches, which are world famous. Many people in Brazil cannot swim but enjoy splashing about in the water and lying in the sun on the sand. André and I can swim and love to surf on the water and play volleyball and soccer on the shore.

Shopping in Brazil is a family event. We all go to the open air market where fruit, vegetables, and flowers are sold. We can buy fresh bananas, pineapples, oranges, nuts, herbs, and spices. André and I love to visit the sweet shop at the market to buy chocolate.

Like other countries, Brazil has annual events that take place at which we celebrate as a family. One of our favorite festivals is called "Carnaval" (Carnival). It is held in late February, just before Lent which is a religious holiday. Carnaval lasts for four days and five nights and ends on Ash Wednesday. Before Carnaval people plan their costumes and practise their dancing and skits and organize the events.



Brazil's Carnaval



Samba Dancers



A Beach in Brazil

André and I love to watch the parades filled with dancers and musicians from the many samba schools in Brazil. They perform in front of judges who vote on the dancing, costumes, and the music of each samba school.

Businesses and stores close for the four days. Food and drink is sold by street vendors to the people participating and to those watching. It is a very exciting holiday but very tiring. On the last day of Carnaval the streets are filled with trash left by the people. By noon on Ash Wednesday all is quiet, streets are cleaned and the period of Lent begins.

I hope you now know more about my country and the Brazilian way of life.

"Ciao!" or "Good-bye!"

Interesting People and Places in Brazil

Brazil is an interesting land to explore. It has many beautiful natural wonders, aboriginal people living like their ancestors, and a tropical rainforest filled with unusual plants and animals.

Using the Internet or the library, research the following topics. Record the information that you found in five interesting sentences on the lines provided.



Sugarloaf Mountain



Iquaca Falls



The Indians of the Rainforest

