

### The River Amazon Basin and rainforest

The **Amazon rainforest** is the **largest tropical rainforest in the world** with over half located in Brazil and covers roughly 40% of the South American continent; it covers half of Brazil. **60% of the rainforest is in Brazil** (and Peru (13%), Colombia (10%) and minor amounts in Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana).

The rainforest is within the Amazon river basin which is the **largest and densest drainage basin in the world**. It is home to many plant and animal species, some only found here.

The **Amazon River** flows through Brazil and is **6,437km long**. It is the longest in Brazil. It has around 500 -1000 tributaries, mostly flowing through dense rainforest. It flows into the Atlantic Ocean, where it ends at the mouth. The mouth is 250km wide. 20% of the Earth's freshwater flows through the Amazon. It is often referred to as 'The River Sea'.

**No bridges cross the river at any point as it is so wide. It is often a few km in width.** It's very deep in parts too. It is still such a key resource for local Amerindian tribes in the rainforest. Hydroelectric Power (HEP) dams have also been built on the Amazon and capture its magnificent power of water. (The Paraná River is the second longest in Brazil at 4,800km long).



*This is not even the widest part of the river Amazon!*

**Temperature:** 25°C and above every day.

**Rainfall:** 2000mm annually. Rain most days.

Hot and wet all year. No real seasons. Convectional rainfall – most days/every day.

### **4. The Kayapo people - life in a rural village**

The first humans arrived in South America around 10,000 BC, and their descendants continue to live in the rainforests of Brazil today. Many **indigenous** people have lived a similar way of life for hundreds and thousands of years, often hunting and gathering to source food and water. (Pupils will have learned in Year 3 history that prehistoric Britons lived a hunter-gatherer way of life until the Neolithic period). Tribes include: **Kayapo**, **Panara**, **Korubo** and **Tupi**. The numbers in each tribe are small, up to 100.

Some tribes of people still live here and no contact to the outside world. It is thought that many tribes are still undiscovered due to the remoteness of the Amazon Rainforest and their isolated way of life. Each tribe lives in a slightly different way with different traditions, customs and dress/jewellery/body paint. Many tribes live very independently of each other, often never meeting; especially given the distance and sheer size of the Amazon Basin.

#### The Kayapo tribe

They live on the Xingu river, a south-eastern tributary of the River Amazon which is 1600km long. This provides transport, fish/food and water for cooking, washing, farming and cleaning – the river is essential for life.

The village has a circle of wooden buildings with palm-thatched roofs. There is a central house, which is only used by the man where they meet socially and make decisions for the village and the tribe.

The Kayapo use face and body paint – mainly red and black from plants and wear headdresses, nose pieces on occasions. The men wear a round wooden disc in their lips.

They carry out the traditional method of **Shifting Cultivation** growing a few crops such as manioc, maize, beans and sweet potatoes, this is carried out by the women and involves 'slash and burn'. This does not harm the forest as they only live in the forest clearing for a few years before moving on. As well, they collect 250 types of nuts, berries and vegetation and hunt for fish in the river. This is done by the men. There are 650 plants in the forest which are used to create medicine by them for their own use.

#### Threats to the tribes

Development and land use change have posed threats to tribes over recent decades. Cattle ranching, logging and palm oil extraction are the main ones. Threat to the Awa tribe.





## 5 & 6: Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro is not the capital city of Brazil, nor is it its largest city:

- **Brasília** is the **capital city**; and a planned city. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its modernist architecture and uniquely artistic urban planning.
- **São Paulo** is the **largest city** in Brazil and the southern hemisphere with 13 million people; it ranks among the top 10 most populous in the world. It has the world's highest number of helicopters and helipads/ports at 215. The rich 'hop' about the city and have to, due to the high number of high-rise buildings.
- **Curitiba** is known for its sustainability and urban planning. It is one of the world's renowned 'green cities'.

However, Rio is probably Brazil's best-known city. It is a city of landmarks and tourist hotspots such as Sugarloaf mountain, Christ the Redeemer statue and Copacabana and Ipanema beaches. 7 million visited in 2019. It is home to the infamous annual Rio Carnival, which is considered the biggest carnival in the world with two million people per day on the streets. The first Carnival festival occurred in 1723. Rio de Janeiro was the capital city until the late 1950s (Brazil's first capital was Salvador) then Brasília took this pivotal role; and until the mid 1960s it had the largest urban area, which has now been superseded by São Paulo. Rio is the second largest city in Brazil and lies on the east coast, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Its population is just under 7 million.

Rio de Janeiro is popular with tourists all year round due to its location as it has spectacular scenery, with mountains and forests surrounding it. Many tourists visit the carnival, beaches and landmarks. This generates great **wealth** for the city and nation. The World Cup and Olympics aided this. Rio, like many of the Brazilian cities contrasts wealth with extreme **poverty**. The poorest in such urban areas live in **favelas** – shanty settlements/slums (see next slide for more detail). Many rich people also live in the city. Rio and São Paulo are where Brazil's richest residents reside, including billionaires. It is richest region of the country.

### The favelas of Rio

A third of the population of the city live in **favelas** (pronounced fah-vel-ah). There are roughly 1,000 favelas in Rio, and they are home to about 1.5 million people. They are often referred to as the 'people on the hill'. Favelas include **Rochina, Vidigal, Mare and Santa Marta** in Rio.

A favela is an informal settlement (often known as a slum or shantytown in other parts of the world). They are usually located on the outskirts of the urban area but increasingly in Rio they are found more centrally. This often means they are alongside the more affluent of the city.

They consist of varying material such as concrete, brick and corrugated iron and, compared to the shanties of parts of Africa and Asia, are often considered very substantial. Dwellings are often built on top of one another in a stacking arrangement and clinging to the steep hillslopes of Rio. Building on top saves space and allows for a greater density of people in the favela.

Most favelas lack effective sewage systems, access to clean water and waste management systems. The communities have become so densely built up due to their ad-hoc nature that roads and utilities for a modern infrastructure are nearly impossible to install. They do not follow building codes. Many homes hook up to electricity illegally, so a mass of wires are usually seen.



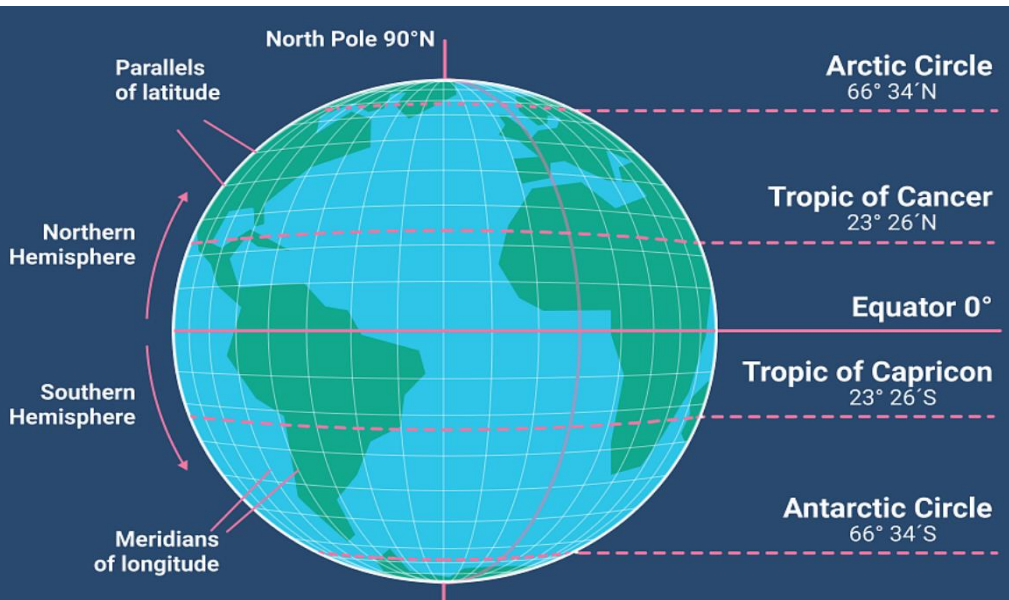
Map to show main cities of Brazil





# Brazil

## L1: Lines of latitude and longitude;



## L2: Where is Brazil?

-Brazil is located in South America.

South America is a **continent** made up of twelve countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela; and two dependencies of the Falkland Islands (British) and French Guiana (France).

Brazil borders the **Atlantic Ocean** to the east and has the **River Amazon** flowing throughout the country, one of the world's major rivers.



## What is latitude and longitude?

To help locate where a place is in the world, people use imaginary lines:

- To find out how far **north** or **south** a place is, lines of **latitude** are used. These lines run parallel to the Equator.
- To find out how far **east** or **west** a place is, lines of **longitude** are used. These lines run from the top of the Earth to the bottom.

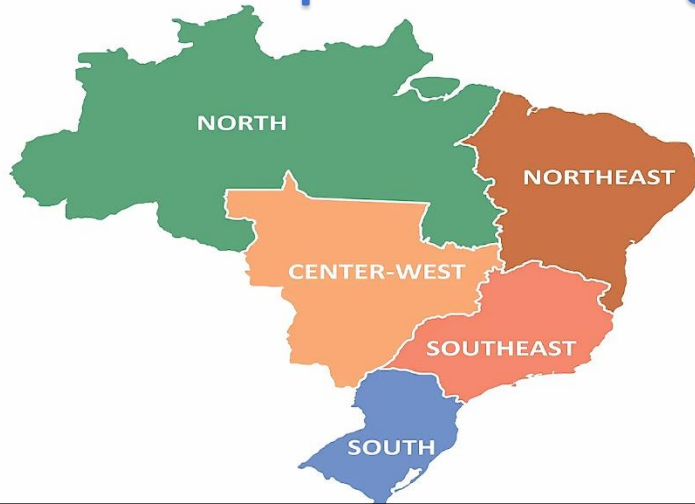
## Hemispheres

The **Equator** is at the centre of the lines of latitude and is at 0° latitude. Anything lying south of the Equator is in the **Southern Hemisphere** and is labelled °S. Anything lying north of the Equator is in the **Northern Hemisphere** and is labelled °N. The North Pole is 90° N and the South Pole is 90° S.

The line labelled 0° longitude is called the **Prime Meridian** or the **Greenwich Meridian** and runs through London. Anything lying east of the Greenwich Meridian is in the **Eastern Hemisphere** and is labelled °E. Anything lying west of the Greenwich Meridian is in the **Western Hemisphere** and is labelled °W.



# L3: Brazil political regions



Brazil is split in to 5 political regions as shown in the picture above.

Inside these regions are states. There are 27 states that make up the Federative Republic of Brazil.

São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Minas Gerais in the south are the three richest states of Brazil. Piauí, located in the northeast is the poorest state.



# L3: Brazil Physical regions

Brazil is split in to 3 main physical regions:  
Amazônia, Cerrado and The Brazilian highlands

## The Cerrado

This is a tropical savanna (or savannah) region in central Brazil, to the south-east of the Amazon river basin. Savanna vegetation consists of a mixture of **grassland, trees and shrubs**. Towards the west are swampland areas.

**Temperature:** 22 -27°C.

**Rainfall:** 800- 2000 mm annually.

Warm/hot all year. A dry season during the winter (April – September).



## The Brazilian Highlands

This in the south-east of Brazil, meeting the Atlantic Ocean. The majority of the country's population live here due to the more favourable climate. Even though it is highland, it has a tropical climate. **Grassland and open tropical forests** grow in coastal and mountainous areas. Heights up to 2000 metres above sea level.

**Temperature:** 23 - 27 °C coastal. 19 - 21 °C inland and on higher land.

**Rainfall:** 1500-2000 mm annually.

Hot and wet summers. Warm, dry winters.

