



# BRAZIL



# Welcome to Brazil!

Before we dive in, meet Archie and his friends, the Intrepid Explorers. They are five adventurous Aussie kids who travel the world on missions to recover stolen artefacts or protect endangered species. This time, they are headed to Brazil.

Before landing, they have decided to read up on the country's geography, history, and wildlife, and we hope you have fun learning with them!

And the adventure does not stop there. On our website, [www.thelittleexplorersjournal.com](http://www.thelittleexplorersjournal.com), under the resources page, we've also shared fun resources from their journey, including landmarks, more wildlife facts, quizzes, games, and activities to keep your kids learning and having fun every step of the way.



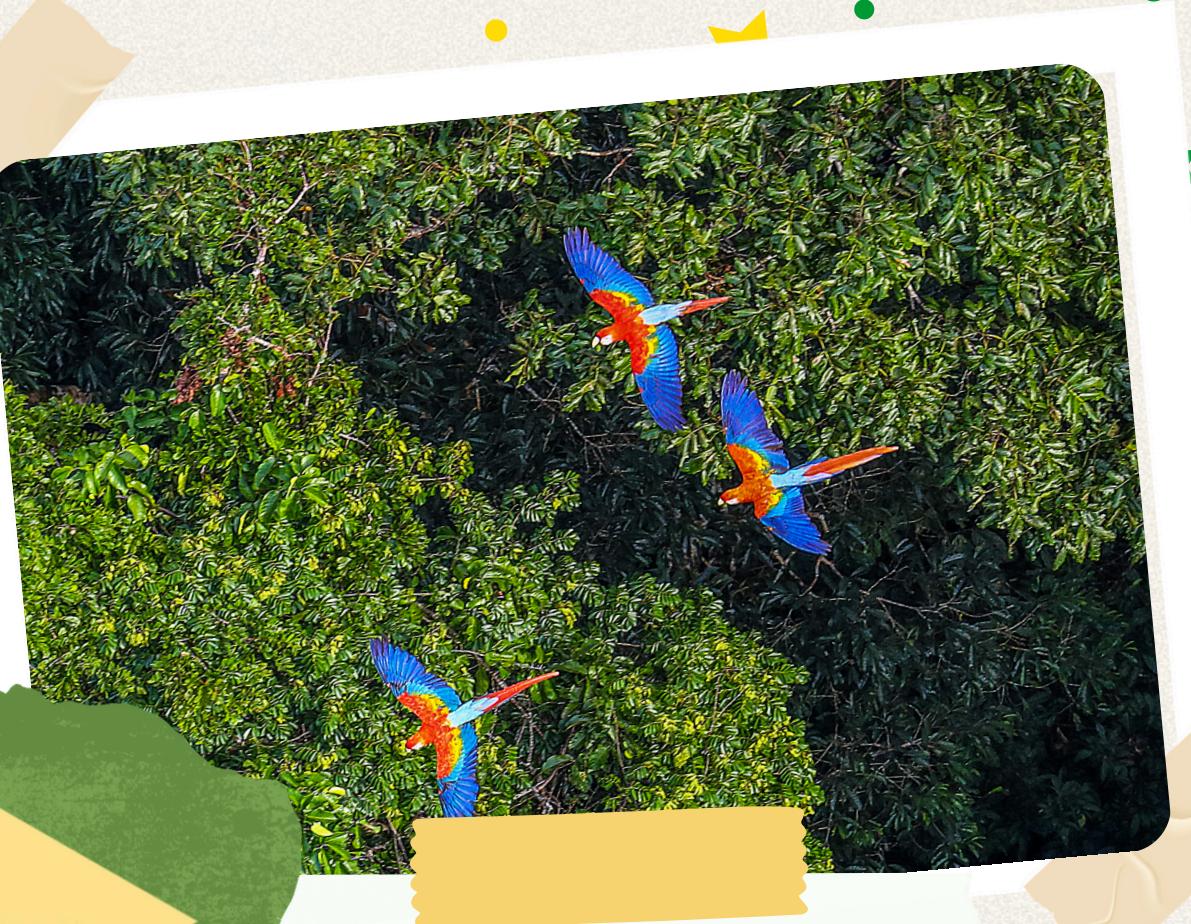
# Where is Brazil?

Brazil is the largest country in South America and the fifth largest country in the world, covering nearly half of the continent and stretching along the Atlantic Ocean for about 7,400 kilometres.



# Where is Brazil?

Shaped like a giant triangle, Brazil shares borders with almost every South American country except Chile and Ecuador.



1. Colombia
2. Venezuela
3. Guyana
4. Suriname
5. French Guiana
6. Uruguay
7. Argentina
8. Paraguay
9. Bolivia
10. Peru

# Brazil Country Profile



**Capital City:** Brasilia (since 1960)  
**Population:** Approximately 212 million (2025)  
**Currency:** Brazilian real  
**Official Language(s):** Portuguese

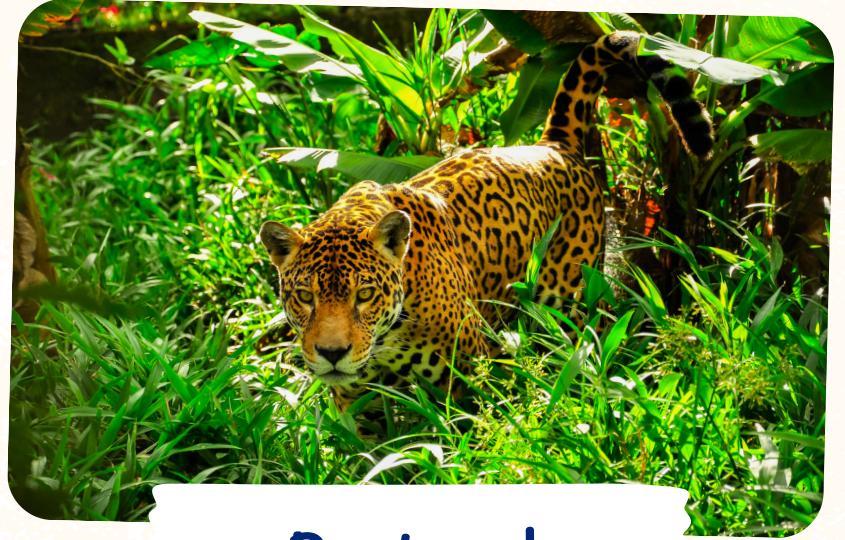
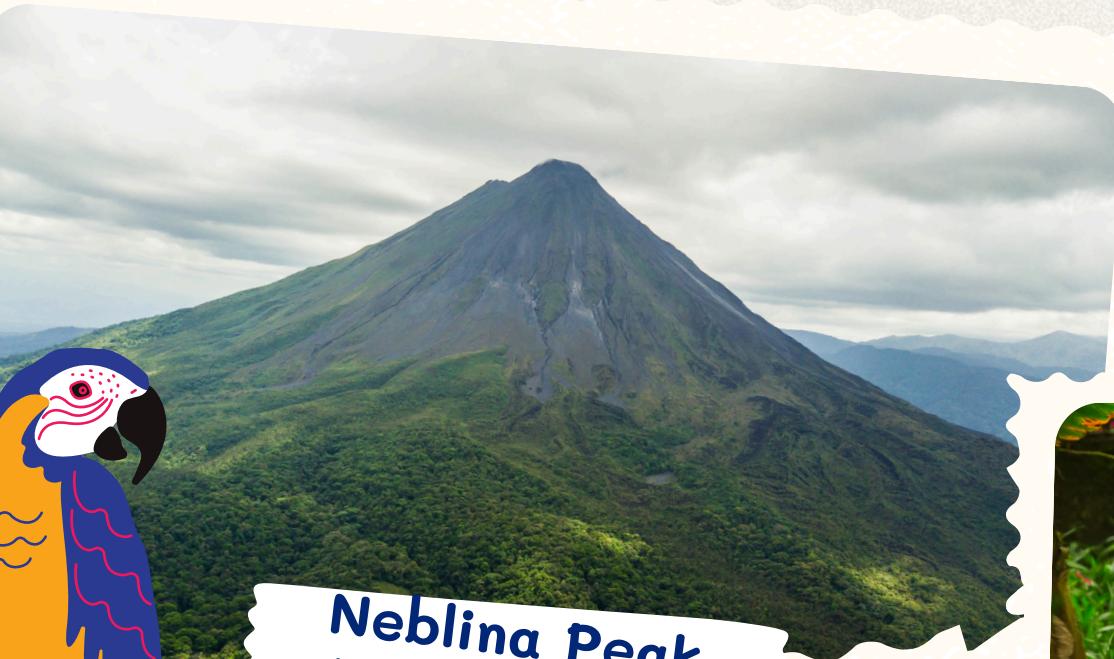


# Geography of Brazil

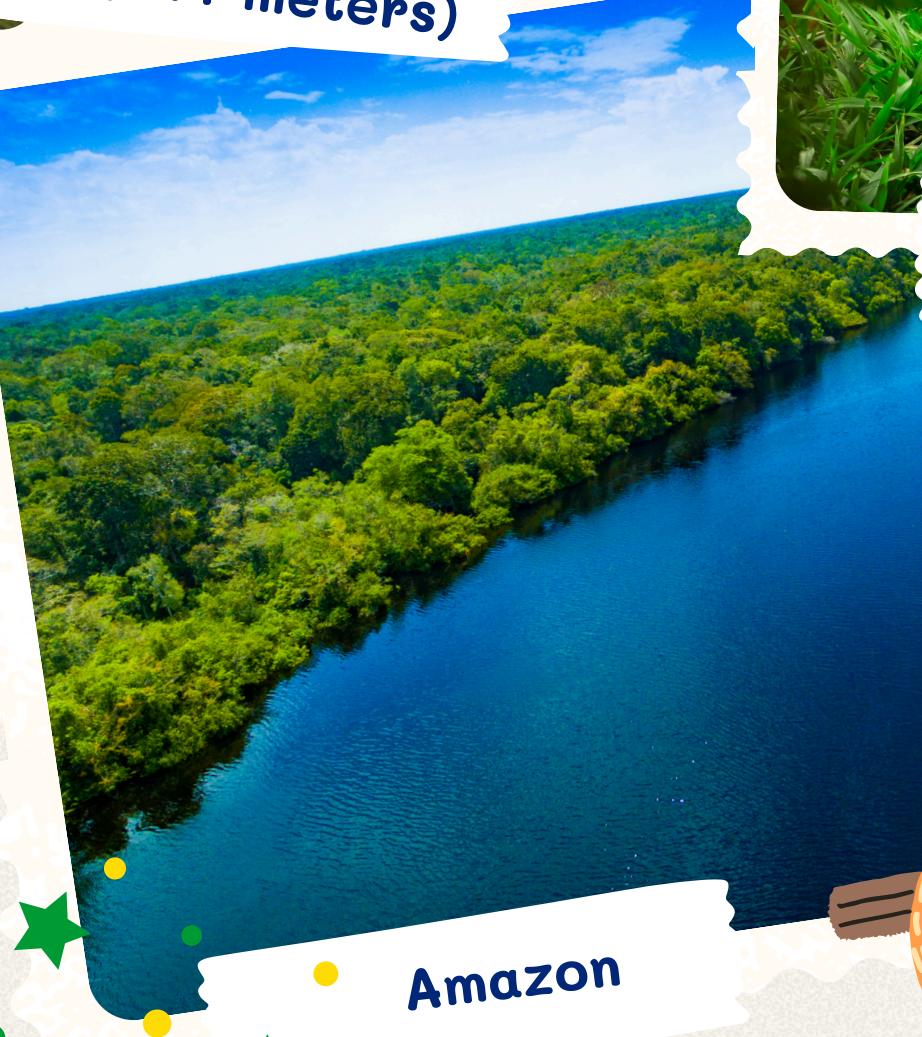
Because Brazil is so large, the country has an incredible variety of landscapes, including dense rainforests, wide grasslands, high plateaus, wetlands, hills, mountains, and long coastal plains. The north of the country is dominated by the Amazon Rainforest and the Amazon River system, which is made up of hundreds of rivers and streams (1100 tributaries) and is one of the longest and most powerful river networks on Earth. In central Brazil, the land rises into high plateaus and the Cerrado, the world's most biologically rich savanna, while western Brazil is home to the Pantanal, one of the world's largest wetlands that floods during the rainy season. In southern Brazil, the climate is cooler and the land is covered with green grasslands, forests, and a long coastline dotted with islands and beaches. This region is also home to incredible natural wonders like Iguazu Falls, one of the largest waterfall systems in the world, and deep canyons carved by rivers over millions of years.



**Neblina Peak  
(3,014 meters)**



**Pantanal**



**Amazon**



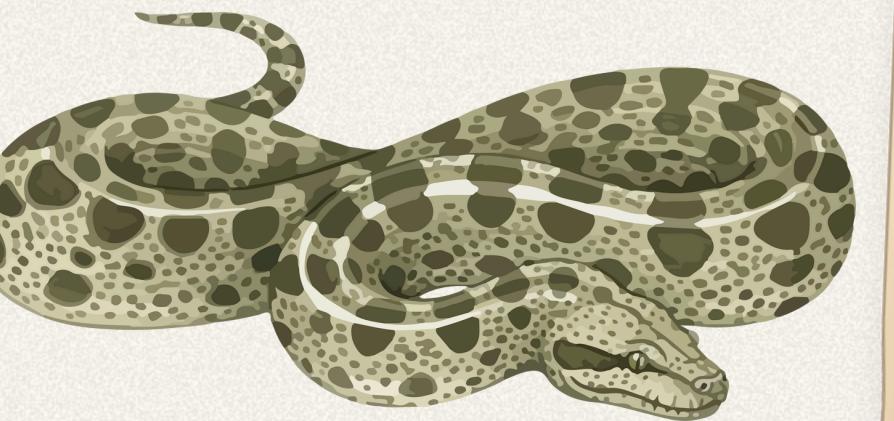
# History of Brazil

People have lived in Brazil for a very long time. Scientists once believed the first people arrived from Asia about 10,000 years ago, but new discoveries show that humans may have been living there for at least 32,000 years. And some experts think they may have travelled from islands in the Pacific Ocean. Long before Europeans arrived, Brazil was home to around 30 million Indigenous peoples, also called Amerindians, who lived in many different groups with their own languages, homes, and ways of life. In the late 1400s, during the Age of Exploration, European sailors from Portugal reached the coast of Brazil, and Portugal officially began colonising the land in 1530. The Portuguese set up sugarcane plantations along the coast and later sent gold and diamonds back to Europe, using enslaved people from West Africa to do much of the hard labour. When large gold deposits were discovered inland, people moved deeper into the country to search for riches. Over time, many Brazilians grew unhappy with Portuguese rule, and in 1789 a rebellion began the push for independence. In 1822, Brazil became an independent country, and after years of change, the monarchy ended in 1888, leading Brazil to become a republic.



# Wildlife in Brazil

Brazil is home to an incredible variety of wildlife because it has many different habitats, from rainforests and rivers to wetlands, grasslands, and coastlines. In the Amazon Rainforest, animals like jaguars live among dense trees where they can hunt and hide, while sloths spend most of their lives high in the canopy, moving slowly to save energy. Monkeys swing through the treetops, and brightly coloured toucans and poison dart frogs use colour to communicate or warn predators. The Amazon's rivers are home to piranhas, which live in freshwater schools, and the pink river dolphin, or boto, which uses echolocation to navigate murky water. It's also home to the green anaconda, the world's heaviest snake!



# Wildlife in Brazil

In the Pantanal wetlands, seasonal flooding creates shallow lakes where caimans, capybaras, and giant otters thrive, and hundreds of birds gather to feed and nest. Along Brazil's Atlantic coast, like Praia do Forte in Bahia, sea turtles come ashore to lay their eggs on sandy beaches from September to March, while humpback whales travel to the Brazilian coastline to give birth, especially near Abrolhos National Marine Park between July and September.

In the Cerrado's forests, grasslands, and open plains, spiny armadillos dig burrows, long-snouted anteaters use their sticky tongues to eat thousands of ants, and the tall, fox-like maned wolf hunts at dusk. These animals help keep the ecosystem balanced by controlling insects, spreading seeds, and shaping the land they live on.



Giant armadillo



# Landmarks in Brazil

Brazil attracts millions of visitors each year because of its famous landmarks, historic cities, and natural wonders. In Rio de Janeiro, the Christ the Redeemer statue stands about 30 metres tall on top of a mountain called Corcovado and has become a symbol of the country, while nearby Sugarloaf Mountain, rising nearly 400 metres above the ocean, offers sweeping views of the city and sea. On the border with Argentina, Iguazu Falls is one of the largest waterfall systems in the world, made up of more than 270 waterfalls, with the tallest drops reaching about 82 metres, making them even higher than Niagara Falls. Brazil is also home to important historic cities such as Salvador, famous for its colourful colonial buildings and strong African cultural heritage, and Ouro Preto, known for its steep streets, old churches, and gold-mining history from the 1700s.

Iguacu Falls



# Culture and traditions in Brazil

One of the most famous events is Carnival, celebrated in cities like Rio de Janeiro and Salvador, where people wear colourful costumes, dance samba in parades, and play drums in the streets. Music is a big part of life, from the fast rhythms of samba and forró in the northeast to the gentle guitar melodies of bossa nova in Rio. Brazilians also celebrate Festa Junina in June, a festival with bonfires, traditional foods, dancing, and games to honour rural life. Religion plays an important role too; many people celebrate Catholic holidays such as Christmas and Easter, while others practice Afro-Brazilian traditions like Candomblé, blending African, Indigenous, and European influences. Family and community are very important, and meals, music, and celebrations are often shared with friends and neighbours. Brazilians also love football (soccer). Another popular activity is capoeira, a unique mix of dance, music, and martial arts that began with enslaved Africans in Brazil.



Festa Junina

# Curiosities in Brazil

Rio de Janeiro was once the capital of Portugal, which meant it was the only European capital to be located outside Europe.



Brazil is home to the largest population of Japanese people outside Japan.



Rio de Janeiro was named in error. A Portuguese explorer thought it meant 'the mouth of a river' when in fact it means 'January River'. According to a report from Brazil's National Indian Foundation, there were 70 uncontacted tribes in Brazil in 2007.



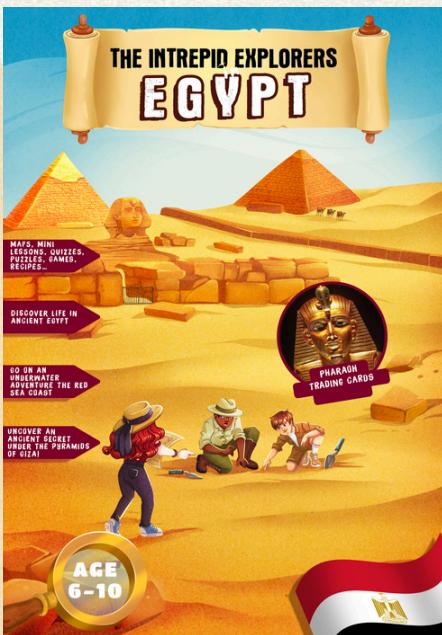
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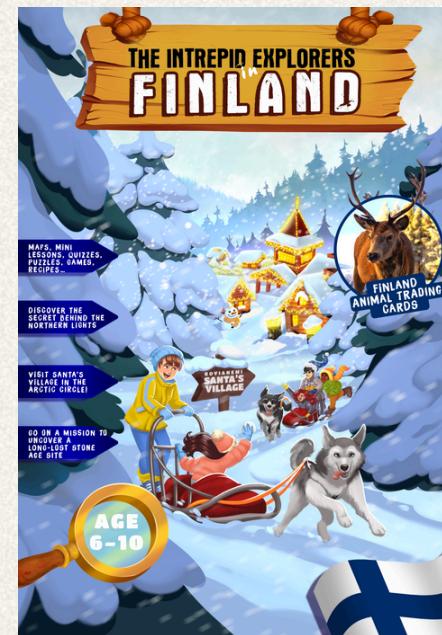


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# Thank You

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