

**JSSPOTLIGHT**

# Is This Brazil's Moment?

WITH THE WORLD CUP AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES ON THE HORIZON, BRAZIL MAY FINALLY BE LIVING UP TO ITS PROMISE

**FAST FACTS**

**AREA:** 3.3 million sq mi (U.S.: 3.7 million sq mi)

**POPULATION:** 193 million (U.S.: 310 million)

**PER CAPITA GDP\*:** \$10,900 (U.S.: \$46,000)

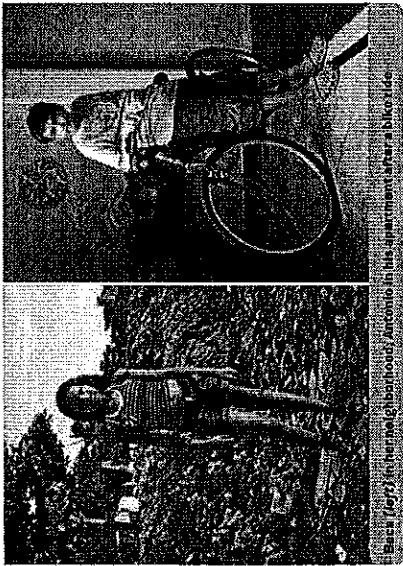
**RELIGIONS:** Roman Catholic 74%, Protestant 15%, other or none 11%

**LANGUAGES:** Portuguese (official), Spanish in some areas and dozens of indigenous languages

**LITERACY:** Males: 88%, females: 89% (U.S.: 99%)

**LIFE EXPECTANCY:** Males: 69 years, females: 77 years (U.S.: 75/80 years)

\*Per capita GDP higher than U.S. as a measure of economic wealth.



Back (left) in her neighborhood, Antonio is his apartment, a black tie

It's a Sunday in Brazil, usually a quiet day in the world's largest Roman Catholic country. On this February Sunday, however, people are buzzing with excitement about the upcoming Carnival festivities. Cities like Rio de Janeiro teem with revelers. Buses and cars swarm through the streets while *corcoços* (residents of Rio) dance and sing their way to parties in a rainbow of costumes.

Antonio Pedro Sodré Correa (*Koh'-HA-Yuh*) is trying to ignore the hum of traffic beneath his apartment window in a middle-class neighborhood of Rio. He and his mother have just returned from a day at the pool. Now he has to finish his homework. Antonio, 13, is

already serious about his future. He's thinking of becoming an architect like his father, who died in a motorcycle accident two years ago.

**Life in the Favelas**

Though Brazil has grown steadily richer in recent years, nearly half of its population still lives in poverty. In Fortaleza, a city in northeastern Brazil, Rebeca Castro da Silva, 13, is also getting ready for the week ahead. Music is playing throughout her neighborhood, called *Comunidade dos Cocos*. It is a *favela*, the Brazilian term for slum.

Brazil's classes won't start until after Carnival. But on Monday she'll go to Clécia Maravilha, a community

*continued on p. 14* →

**Words to Know**

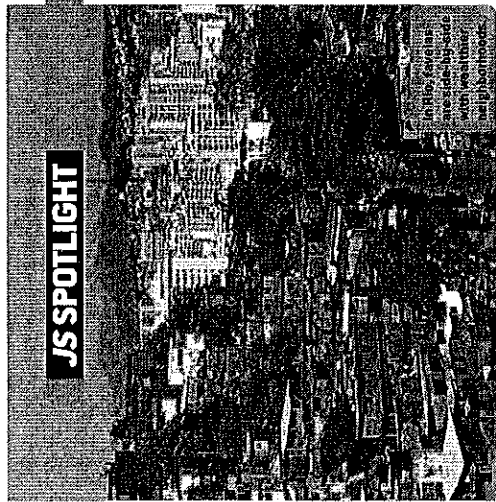
- Carnival** (*kar-ni-val*) A festive celebration in predominantly Catholic countries, just before the season of Lent and Easter.
- Infrastructure** (*in-frah-struh-cher*) The physical structures and public works of a society, including bridges, roads and schools.



THIS PAGE, LEFT TO RIGHT: MARINE APPOINTMENT; DANIELA VENTURA; GREGORY WASSER; DAVID WASSER

Brazil has celebrated the Rio de Janeiro is chosen to host the 2016 Summer Olympic Games.

## JSPOTLIGHT



Population threatens the Amazon rainforest and the lives of those who live there.

center that provides food and health services to children from the favela. It also teaches them photography, which helps keep kids off the neighborhood's crime-ridden streets.

"It's really important what we do there," Beca says of the center. "It gives us confidence in ourselves, teaches us skills, and helps us think about finding work. When you go there, no one has to worry about violence."

The country's fifth-largest city, Fortaleza is a prosperous manufacturing center and home to a popular beach resort. But nearly one eighth of its 2.5 million people live in favelas, where they struggle to survive.

### Growing Middle Class

Most South American countries were colonized by Spain, while Brazil was settled by the Portuguese. Today it's the continent's richest, most influential country. In March, President Barack Obama recognized Brazil's importance by meeting with its new President, Dilma Rousseff.

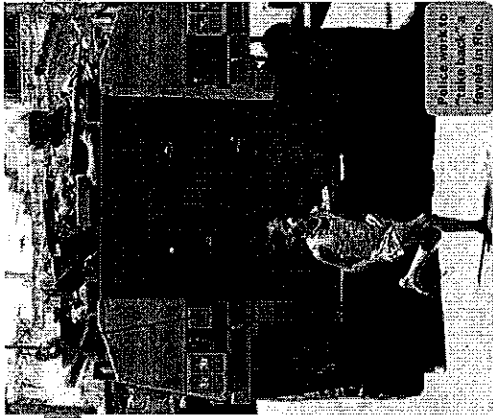
Now, as it prepares to host the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics, Brazil is taking the world stage like never before.



One of Brazil's greatest economic and natural resources is the Amazon rainforest, which accounts for half of the world's rainforests. But its destruction for farms, ranches, homes, and lumber has devastated the environment and the many tribes living there. The Brazilian government has now pledged to cut deforestation to zero by 2015.

As for the poor, many still have limited access to public services, such as good schools, supermarkets, and even running water. While they can see the well-off living in shiny high-rise towers, they must cobble together houses from discarded bricks and aluminum siding.

"There's a lot of inequality and problems with infrastructure," says Eva Pacheco de Oliveira, 17. Eva grew up in a favela. But thanks to her participation in a dance and arts program for underprivileged kids, she's now a university student. She tells JS that many affluent Brazilians try to ignore the poverty around



Police work to make favelas safer.

them. "They don't have the slightest notion of the inequality," Eva says. Beca knows this all too well. Her parents are in the tourism business. Her mother gives massages and her stepfather sells snacks on the beach.

"When it rains, they can't make any money," she says. The family of five lives in a small two-bedroom house, and their neighborhood is often unsafe. "You shouldn't walk alone," Beca says, "especially at night."

Street crime, from petty robbery to kidnappings for ransom, is also common in Rio, where nearly half of the population of 6.3 million live in favelas. Drug cartels have made some areas so dangerous that police are afraid to enter.

For middle-class kids like Antonio, this means never being able to walk down the street by himself. His mother or a hired driver takes him to school and other activities—even to hang out with friends at the mall.

### Working Together

Yet Brazil's leaders hope that the upcoming World Cup and Olympics will be opportunities to further improve their country. Ordinary Brazilians are especially



## Brazil is a Presidential Legislative Democracy

21st Century Governments in Action

The largest country in South America is divided into 26 states and a Federal District, which includes the capital, Brasília. Its democratic constitution was adopted in 1988 after years of military dictatorship (1964-1985).

### EXECUTIVE BRANCH

President Dilma Rousseff is both head of government and head of state. She took office on January 1. The President is directly elected for a four-year term and can run for re-election once.

### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The National Congress has two chambers, like the U.S. Congress: The 513 members of the Chamber of Deputies are directly elected to four-year terms. Each state's representation is roughly proportional to its population. The Federal Senate has 81 seats. Members are elected to eight-year terms.

### JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Supreme Court is Brazil's highest court. Its 11 members are appointed by the President, subject to Senate approval.

excited to see championship soccer—called *futebol* here—played in the nation where "the beautiful game" is almost a religion. Brazil's men's soccer squad has won five World Cups, the most in history, and is the only team to have played in every single World Cup.

Many Brazilians are concerned that crime could prevent the commissions from being a success. In response, authorities have been sending police squads to "take back" favelas from drug gangs. Usually, this means overcoming a long-standing suspicion of police, who have often been corrupt.

Eva thinks that Brazil's efforts are making a difference. "Even with all these problems, it's going to be an unbelievable World Cup," she says. "All of Brazil, together, is excited." Antonio is also confident that good will come: "Our transport, health, and education systems—everything is going to get better."

That's what the country is betting on. With the amount of work going into preparations for the events in 2014 and 2016, Brazil's dream of tomorrow may finally be arriving.

—Maruêla Zoninêsin

MapSearch

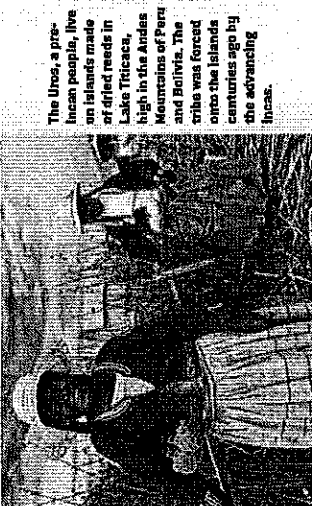
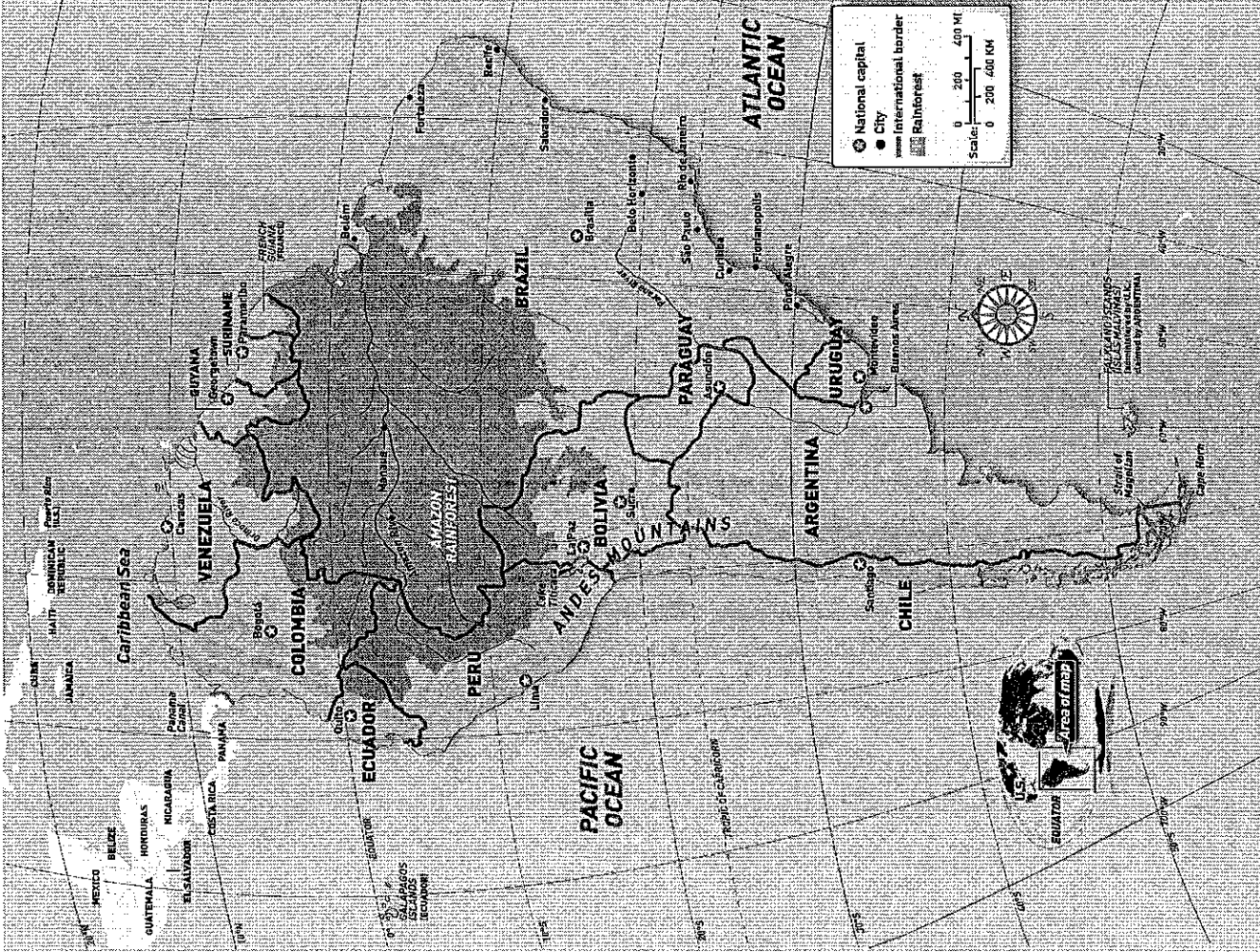
# South America

The continent's rich cultural mix comes from four main groups of people. The first Indians arrived in South America at least 10,000 years ago. Then came Europeans, beginning with the Spanish and Christopher Columbus, who explored the coast of Venezuela in 1498.

The Portuguese, who claimed Brazil's coast in 1500, were close behind. In a 1494 treaty, the two European powers had agreed to divide the continent between them. As they conquered it, they brought 7 million African slaves to the New World. Then, as South American countries won their independence in the 19th century, millions more immigrants arrived, mostly from Europe. Study the map and sidebar, then answer these questions.

## Questions

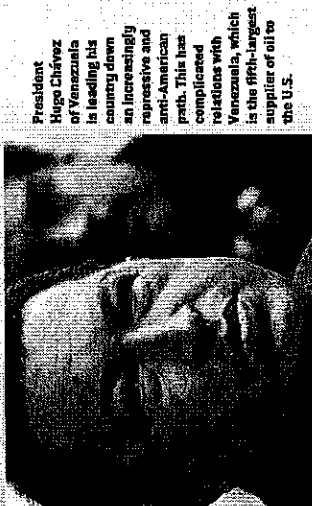
1. What natural feature covers much of northern Brazil?
2. What mountain range lies near the continent's Pacific coast?
3. Which capital city is on the Caribbean coastline?
4. What two European countries colonized South America?
5. The equator passes through which South American countries?
6. Which country has two capitals?
7. About how many miles separate the capitals of Brazil and Colombia?
8. Which South American countries do not share a border with Brazil?
9. Which countries are landlocked, or have no access to the sea?
10. What are the four main groups of people that help to make up South America's cultural mix?



The Uros, a pre-Incan people, live on islands made of dried reeds in Lake Titicaca, Mountains of Peru and Bolivia. The tribe was forced onto the islands centuries ago by the advancing Incas.



Iguanas inhabit the rugged coasts of the Galapagos Islands, which lie 600 miles west of Ecuador. Charles Darwin, who visited the islands in 1835, devised his theory of evolution after observing iguanas and other wildlife in the area.



President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela is leading his country down an increasingly repressive and anti-American path. This has complicated relations with Venezuela, which is the first-largest supplier of oil to the U.S.



The U.S. has spent more than \$5 billion in recent years to fight drug cartels in Colombia and to support the country's government in a long-standing battle against left-wing guerrillas and drug traffickers.



## 45 Brazil's Favelas

In recent years, more than six million people have migrated to Brazilian cities from the rural areas. Many people are looking for a better life. Because they have nowhere else to stay, people live in temporary shelters, often while they collect materials for building a house. Their settlements are called *favelas*. Many are in the hills surrounding cities.

Building temporary shelters is one thing, but providing the necessary urban infrastructure is another. Roads, water, electricity, sanitation, schools, and health clinics in the favelas are inadequate.

Andaraí, one of the smaller, older favelas, may look well-kept and permanent, but it is crowded. Through the self-help community association's efforts, Andaraí has electricity and other improvements. But as you move up the hill, conditions deteriorate. Some of the housing is about to collapse. Some children are kept locked inside while their mothers are at work. Open sewers run down gullies. The people are destroying the forest near the top of the hill to get wood for fuel and building materials. They know this increases the chance of flood and landslides, but they have no alternative.

Most favela residents want better houses, more electricity, cleaner water, and improved roads. They need day-care centers, preschool programs, a community center, and health clinics. They also want to participate in making decisions about the favela.

Many people do improve their property; others move to better areas. Self-help community associations organize to improve conditions. The successes of the community associations show that when people work together, progress is possible.

Main Idea	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	5
a. People in Andaraí need improvements.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. People have migrated to Brazil's cities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Brazil's favelas may provide housing, but they lack infrastructure.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Subject Matter	2 This passage deals mostly with <input type="checkbox"/> a. the history of the favelas. <input type="checkbox"/> b. why Brazil is a poor country. <input type="checkbox"/> c. life in the favelas. <input type="checkbox"/> d. community organizations.	
Supporting Details	3 Destroying the hillside forests may lead to <input type="checkbox"/> a. floods and landslides. <input type="checkbox"/> b. jobs. <input type="checkbox"/> c. a decrease in annual rainfall. <input type="checkbox"/> d. a rise in population.	
Conclusion	4 You can conclude from this passage that many Brazilian cities are <input type="checkbox"/> a. located near the ocean. <input type="checkbox"/> b. beautiful. <input type="checkbox"/> c. overcrowded. <input type="checkbox"/> d. decreasing in population.	
Clarifying Devices	5 The writer discusses conditions in favelas through <input type="checkbox"/> a. cause and effect. <input type="checkbox"/> b. a specific example. <input type="checkbox"/> c. a personal narrative. <input type="checkbox"/> d. a list of reasons.	
Vocabulary in Context	6 The word <u>deteriorate</u> means <input type="checkbox"/> a. have limits. <input type="checkbox"/> b. improve. <input type="checkbox"/> c. are steeper. <input type="checkbox"/> d. become worse.	