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Chapter 1 : Amazon River | Facts, History, Animals, & Map | racedaydvl.com

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More than two-thirds of the basin is covered by an immense rainforest, which grades into dry forest and savanna on the higher northern and southern margins and into montane forest in the Andes to the west. Deforestation has accelerated, especially south of the Amazon River and on the piedmont outwash of the Andes, as new highways and air transport facilities have opened the basin to a tidal wave of settlers, corporations, and researchers. Significant mineral discoveries have brought further influxes of population. The ecological consequences of such developments, potentially reaching well beyond the basin and even gaining worldwide importance, have attracted considerable scientific attention see Sidebar: The first European to explore the Amazon, in 1499, was the Spanish soldier Francisco de Orellana, who gave the river its name after reporting pitched battles with tribes of female warriors, whom he likened to the Amazons of Greek mythology. Although the name Amazon is conventionally employed for the entire river, in Peruvian and Brazilian nomenclature it properly is applied only to sections of it. The city of Manaus is visible on the northern upper bank. Beginning in the 18th century, explorers of the region cited various mountains in Peru as possible sources, but they did so without taking precise measurements or applying hydrological research. An expedition in 1845, sponsored by the National Geographic Society, pinpointed Carruhasanta Creek, which runs off the north slope of Mount Mismi in southern Peru, as the source of the river. This location became widely accepted in the scientific community and remained so until the mid-19th century although a Polish expedition in 1865 contended that the source of the river was actually another stream, nearby Apacheta Creek. Their data revealed that Apacheta was 6 miles 10 km longer than Carruhasanta and carries water year-round, and they concluded that Apacheta Creek was indeed the source of the Amazon River. This team of researchers, using the same technology and methodology, then measured the length of the Nile River, which they determined to be about 4,160 km; that value was some 100 km longer than previous calculations for the Nile but nearly 90 miles km shorter than the length the group gave for the Amazon. However, a river like the Amazon has a highly complex and variable streambed made more so by seasonal climatic factors which complicates the process of obtaining an accurate measurement. Thus, the final length of the river remains open to interpretation and continued debate. The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica Landforms and drainage patterns The Amazon basin is a great structural depression, a subsidence trough that has been filling with immense quantities of sediment of Cenozoic age. The Amazon basin was occupied by a great freshwater sea during the Pliocene Epoch. Sometime during the Pleistocene Epoch about 2,000,000 to 11,000 years ago an outlet to the Atlantic was established, and the great river and its tributaries became deeply entrenched in the former Pliocene seafloor. The modern Amazon and its tributaries occupy a vast system of drowned valleys that have been filled with alluvium. With the rise in sea level that followed the melting of the Pleistocene glaciers, the steep-sided canyons that had been eroded into the Pliocene surface during the period of lower sea levels were gradually flooded. In the upper part of the basin in eastern Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia more-recent outwash from the Andes has covered many of the older surfaces. Page 1 of 8.

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Chapter 2 : Brazil - Wikipedia

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In Portuguese, Brasil; its citizens are Brasileiros or Brasileiras depending on gender. A year later, Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci sailed to Brazil on a voyage commissioned by the Portuguese crown and returned home with a cargo of hard, reddish wood. The wood was similar to an East Indian variety called pau brasil, which was then popular in Europe for making cabinets and violin bows. Because of its size and diversity, Brazil is one of the nations most deserving of the name "land of contrasts. These divisions are used for administrative purposes such as the national Brazilian census and they roughly correspond to geographic, demographic, economic, and cultural variation within this sprawling nation. The Northeast has the greatest proportion of people of African descent, the South and Southeast are home to the bulk of Brazilians of European and Japanese ancestry, while indigenous peoples live largely in the North and Central-West. Still, regional migration and extensive miscegenation racial inter-breeding has made Brazil one of the most racially diverse nations on earth. Aside from the official fivefold regional division of Brazil, a simpler economic distinction is made between the poor, underdeveloped North and the wealthier, more industrialized South. This distinction is sometimes referred to as the "two Brazils" or "Belindia," with the wealthy South being compared to Belgium and the poor North to India. Urban, middle-class Brazilians are generally unfamiliar with the interior of their own country and misrepresent it as a region of unrelenting poverty and backwardness—a stark place of few creature comforts that is best avoided. One consequence of this attitude is that middle-class and wealthy Brazilians are more likely to have visited Miami, Orlando, or New York than to have traveled to tourist destinations in their own country. One is a nordestino northeasterner or a mineiro native of the state of Minas Gerais or a carioca native of the city of Rio de Janeiro. Nevertheless, Brazilians share a national culture—making Brazil a true case of unity in diversity. The legacy of the Portuguese in language, religion, and law serves to unify this vast land and its people. Until the mid-twentieth century almost all Brazilians were—at least nominally—Catholic and today, virtually all speak Portuguese and identify with the dominant Brazilian culture. It is the size of the continental United States excluding Alaska. The landscape is dominated by a central highland region known as the Planalto Central Brazilian Highlands, or Plateau of Brazil and by the vast Amazon Basin which occupies over one-third of the country. Brazil is a land rich in natural resources, principally iron ore, bauxite, manganese, nickel, uranium, gold, gemstones, oil, and timber. The physical environment in each region determined the types of crops grown or the resources extracted and this, in turn, influenced the populations that settled there and the social and economic systems that developed. Beginning in the seventeenth century, African slaves were imported to provide labor for these plantations. This is why even today the Northeast is the region with the strongest African influence. The Southeast also received large numbers of African slaves during the gold boom of the eighteenth century and the coffee boom beginning in the nineteenth century. This region also attracted new immigrants from Europe, the Middle East, and Japan who established family farms and eventually urban businesses. In contrast, the South—with a climate unsuited to either coffee or sugar—became the destination of many German and Italian immigrants who raised cattle and grew a variety of crops. The heritage of the Northeast coast, based on slave labor and a plantation economy, was distinct from that of the South and Southeast, where plantations existed along with small family farms. Such historical differences partly account for contemporary contrasts between these regions. Another regional distinction, that between litoral coast and interior inland, arises from the fact that settlement in Brazil has always been concentrated near the coast. To say that someone is from the "interior" usually implies that he or she is from a rural area, even though there are large cities located far from the coast. Although now a focus of Brazilian and international media attention because of the negative ecological consequences of development, the Amazon region had long been isolated from national culture. Still, early in colonial times Jesuit missionaries traversed the Amazon River and its major tributaries and

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established settlements at Manaus and Belem. Both became thriving urban centers during the rubber boom of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The population of Brazil was about 100 million in 1950, the sixth largest in the world after China, India, the United States, Indonesia, and the Russian Federation. Although there has been significant population movement into the interior in recent decades, about 80 percent of all Brazilians still live within two hundred miles of the Atlantic coast. Fertility rates have dropped dramatically in Brazil in the last three or four decades of the twentieth century, with the completed fertility rate at the turn of the twenty-first century down to an average of 2. The Brazilian population has three major components. Divided into many different cultures with distinct institutions, Brazilian Indians spoke a large number of languages. Today they comprise only about 0.1 percent of the population. Their numbers fell rapidly as a result of displacement, warfare and, most importantly, the introduction of European diseases against which they had no immunity. By 1900, only 100,000 Brazilian Indians were left and they were thought to be on the road to extinction. This downward trend has been reversed, however. Their numbers are now increasing owing to improved health care, lower incidence of disease, declining infant mortality, and a higher fertility rate. Contemporary estimates of the indigenous population range from 1 million to 2 million; the population may reach 3 million, early in the new millennium. Afro-Brazilians, the descendants of millions of slaves brought primarily from West Africa to Brazil over a three-hundred-year period, are the second major component of the national population. Afro-Brazilians and people of mixed racial ancestry account for at least 45 percent of the Brazilian population at the end of the twentieth century. Brazil also has a large population of mixed European, mainly Portuguese, descent. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries Brazil was the destination of many immigrants from Italy, Germany, and Spain. During the same era smaller numbers of immigrants arrived from Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Rounding out the demographic picture are, Japanese-Brazilians, descendants of Japanese who came to Brazil in the first decades of the 20th century, and Koreans who began arriving in the 1950s. Still, Brazil is among the most racially heterogeneous countries on earth and these distinct categories are somewhat misleading in that many, perhaps most, Brazilians are of mixed ancestry. Nearly all Brazilians speak Portuguese, a Romance language, belonging to the Indo-European language family. The Portuguese language was introduced to Brazil by the Portuguese in the early sixteenth century. Prior to the arrival of the Portuguese, the native population spoke languages belonging to at least four major language families: Tupi-Guarani—which was spoken by coastal Indians, the first to come into extensive contact with the Portuguese—served as the basis for *lingua geral*, a language developed by the Jesuits for their missionary work with the Indian population. Aside from a small number of recently contacted indigenous peoples, all Brazilians speak Portuguese. Brazilian Portuguese differs somewhat in grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation from the language of Portugal. Brazilian Portuguese contains a large number of indigenous terms, particularly Tupi-Guarani words for native plants, animals, and place-names that are not found in continental Portuguese. While regional accents exist in Brazil, they are not very pronounced and native Portuguese speakers from one region have no difficulty understanding those from other regions. The vast majority of Brazilians are monolingual in Portuguese, although many middle-class and elite Brazilians study English and to a lesser extent Spanish, French, and German. Brazilians are very proud of their linguistic heritage and resent that many foreigners, particularly North Americans, think Brazilians speak Spanish. Most Brazilians would agree that the symbols that best characterize their nation are the exuberant revelry of the pre-Lenten celebration of carnival and the wildly popular sport of soccer, called *futebol* in Brazil. Carnival is a four-day extravaganza marked by parades of costumed dancers and musicians, formal balls, street dancing, and musical contests, a truly national party during which Brazilians briefly forget what they call the "hard realities of life. Through the use of costume—notably called *fantasia* in Portuguese—anyone can become anybody at carnival time. Class hierarchies based on wealth and power are briefly set aside, poverty is forgotten, men may dress as women, leisure supplants work, and the disparate components of Brazilian society blend in a dizzying blaze of color and music. Brazilians are also passionate about soccer and are rated among the best players of the sport in the world. And when Brazil wins the World Cup—as it has on more occasions than any other country—the delirium of the populace is palpable. Brazilian flags are hoisted aloft, everyone

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wears green and yellow the national colors, and thousands of Brazilians, seemingly intoxicated with pride, take to the streets in revelry. History and Ethnic Relations Emergence of the Nation. In the Portuguese began to colonize the new land of Brazil, but during the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries their hold on this vast territory remained tenuous as they struggled with an unfamiliar environment, indigenous peoples, and with French and later Dutch attempts to undermine Portuguese control. People harvesting sugar cane in Salvador. Northeast Brazil has the most African cultural influence, due to early plantation labor. A useful exercise is to compare the early colonization of the United States and Brazil since it sheds light on the ensuing differences between the two modern nations. Both countries imported large numbers of African slaves, but in Brazil the practice began earlier, lasted longer, and involved the importation of two to three times more slaves than in the United States. Estimates range from three to four million Africans forcibly taken to Brazil. Moreover, in contrast to the large number of families who came to settle in the North American colonies, the Portuguese colonists were more often single males. Thus, in the early s, when the importation of slaves into North America was just beginning, the proportion of Africans to Europeans was much smaller in the United States than in Brazil, where the slave trade had been operating for more than a century. The smaller ratio of Portuguese colonists to slave and indigenous peoples in Brazil and the resultant tendency of single men to take African or indigenous women as concubines or wives led to the great racial mix that characterizes Brazilian society today. Extensive miscegenation occurred in Brazil among Africans, Portuguese, and indigenous peoples during colonial times, and later with the arrival of new immigrants from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Nineteenth century government-sponsored colonization schemes, for example, hoped to attract white immigrants, especially northern Europeans. And, in the early twentieth century, when theories of eugenics were popular in many parts of the world, Brazilian elites were straightforward about their desire to "whiten" the country so that it would develop economically. Others dissented from this view. In the s well-known Brazilian anthropologist, Gilberto Freyre, argued that the richness of Brazilian society lay precisely in its mixed racial heritage. The Portuguese, he argued, had laid the foundation for a "new world in the tropics," a blending of African, Indian, and European elements that made Brazilian culture unique. Historically the emergence of Brazilian national identity followed a pattern common to many other European colonial territories. During the colonial period, individuals born in Brazil were subject to rules and taxes that were decided in distant Portugal and most of the top posts in colonial administration were held by those born in the mother country. The relative lack of power over their own affairs encouraged the creation of a distinct identity among native-born Brazilians, albeit one made up of diverse elements. In terms of wealth and power, colonial Brazil was dominated by a small white elite of Portuguese ancestry who owned sugar plantations worked by Indian and later, African slaves. Portuguese of more humble backgrounds and free people of color held the intermediate positions in colonial society; they were plantation foremen, artisans, small shopkeepers, low-level government bureaucrats, and members of militias. But the Brazilian masses still consisted of black slaves and free people of color who labored in gold mines, on coffee plantations, and as poverty-stricken sharecroppers and subsistence farmers. Until the s, in fact, Brazil was primarily a nation of people of color. In the first national census in over 60 percent of the population was classified as black or of mixed ancestry. Then a massive wave of immigration from Europe eventually reaching some 2. It reached a peak in the s with over one million Italians settling in the South and Southeast and additional tens of thousands emigrating from Portugal. During those years immigrants from Eastern Europe, including many Jews, also came to Brazil. In the early s, as the coffee economy continued to expand, new waves of immigrants arrived from the Middle East mainly Lebanon and Japan. While some cities in southern Brazil swelled with burgeoning immigrant populations, other immigrants, especially Germans and Japanese, established themselves in isolated rural communities. In many small towns and rural areas in the South and Southeast during the s and s, children were educated in German or Japanese and Portuguese was rarely spoken. But when it was disclosed that the German government was aiding anti-government groups in Brazil, the Brazilian authorities ordered the closing of schools in which the principal language of instruction was not Portuguese. After World War II

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Brazil followed a pattern of assimilation common to many nations with a high percentage of immigrants. As the second and third generations settled in and moved up the economic ladder, they became "Brazilian" to varying degrees.

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Chapter 3 : UNHCR - Colombian makes fountains to integrate in Brazil's Amazon zone

The Brazilian Amazon is a huge, underdeveloped area covering some 30% of the country's land mass. The study focuses on the municipality of Itacoatiara in the Middle Amazon. Itacoatiara has undergone considerable change in recent years.

The Amazon rainforest is one of the most spectacular ecosystems in the entire world. People come from all over to experience all the unique species of animals and plants, vast jungles and fascinating local tribes. But savvy travelers come prepared for the extreme weather. Temperature and Weather in the Amazon Rainforest Because the Amazon rainforest is so large, temperatures vary depending on which areas of the rainforest you visit. The temperatures of the Amazon rainforest can reach highs of up to 91 degrees Fahrenheit and sometimes drop to as low as 71 degrees Fahrenheit at night. Different sections of the rainforest experience different levels and periods of rainfall. While the average annual rainfall is almost inches, some areas can get nearly inches of rain a year. Much of the rain falls between October and May. This is especially true in areas like Iquitos, Peru, where between November and February, snow melting from the mountains nearby combined with the heavy rainfall causes water levels to rise in the surrounding Amazon River Basin. During the wet seasons, though, this humidity eventually breaks and leads to a torrential downpour, which can last anywhere from a few minutes to a couple of hours. What to Pack People visiting the Amazon rainforest, or any tropical rainforest for that matter, need to pack appropriate clothing and necessities to endure the weather comfortably. Even though the rainforest is unbelievably hot and sticky, shorts and T-shirts are not the way to go. Consider a long-sleeved shirt and a hat as well. Sunscreen and bug spray are a few starters, but vaccinations might also be necessary before trekking deep into the rainforest. Before leaving for your trip, consult a doctor about your recommended vaccinations and first-aid medications to bring with you. Why Visit the Amazon? With all that heat, humidity and rainfall, people might wonder what makes a place like the Amazon rainforest so attractive to tourists. The Amazon rainforest gives travelers a chance to truly connect with nature. Tour guides can take adventurous people on treks through the jungle, where they learn about the species that inhabit it. Just be sure to stay cool!

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Chapter 4 : Average Temperature of the Amazon Rainforest | USA Today

Integration and change in Brazil's middle Amazon / by Rolf Wesche and Thomas Bruneau. HC 183 W38 A poverty of rights: citizenship and inequality in twentieth-century Rio de Janeiro / Brodwyn Fischer.

All of the products are labeled as certifiably organic. They were drawn to the Amazon rainforest by misleading ads published by the then military dictatorship, which promised land with infrastructure and healthcare and schools in settlements created by the National Institute of Colonisation and Agrarian Reform. The Trans-Amazonian highway, which was to run 4, km horizontally across the country from the northeast all the way to the west, was to link the rainforest to the rest of the nation. And thousands of rural families from other regions settled along the road. The unfinished highway, unpaved and without proper bridges, became impassable along many stretches, especially in the rainy season. The settlers ended up isolated and abandoned, practically cut off from the rest of the world, and large swathes of land were deforested. The town emerged on kilometer 90 of the highway, and was recognised in as a municipality, home today to some 29, people. His decision to go organic accelerated the reforestation of his land, where sugarcane used to grow. The hope is that workers will return to the cacao crop once large numbers of people start to be laid off as the construction of the dam comes to a close. For routine maintenance of the plants, only the families who live on the farms are needed, but additional workers are necessary at harvest time. Today his passion is forestry “ the huge trees he has planted or preserved on the hectare farm he bought 15 years ago. Cacao trees require deep shade, but according to other members of the cooperative Cido went overboard, at the expense of productivity. He has completed the journey from settler to reforester. Six families “ some of them relatives and others sharecroppers “ live on their farm and take care of the cacao trees in exchange for half of the harvest. They also hire seasonal workers from a nearby rural village where some 40 families live, most of whom do not grow their own crops. Besides providing jobs and incomes for people in the countryside, cacao farming drives reforestation. That is because cacao trees need shade from taller trees. When the bushes are still small, banana trees are used for shade “ which has led to a major increase in local production of bananas. Wronski presides over one of them, the Organic Production Cooperative of Amazonia, and he was just elected to head the Central Cooperative, recently created to coordinate the activities of the six organic cacao cooperatives, including marketing and sales. Belo Monte Dam Will Change Way of Life on Xingu River The industry in general, although it prefers the more abundant and less costly standard cacao butter, also adds the richer organic cacao to produce the best quality chocolates. This article forms part of a reporting series conceived in collaboration with Ecosocialist Horizons.

Chapter 5 : Culture of Brazil - history, people, traditions, women, beliefs, food, customs, family, social

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UNHCR, working with local civil society partners and the government, is trying to help thousands of other Colombian refugees living in urban and rural areas of Brazil's Amazon region, including indigenous people, realize this too and look for the opportunities that will ease their integration.