

# Let's Go to Rio



photo by Artyominc

In August, the world will look toward Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as more than 10,000 athletes from 206 countries compete in the Games of the XXXI\* Olympiad. To get ready, The Mini Page finds out more about the vibrant city that will be the first in South America to host the Olympic Games.

## Brazil

Brazil is South America's largest nation — and the fifth-largest country in the world by area. It also ranks fifth in population, with more than 200 million people. Its capital is Brasilia.



In 1500, Brazil was claimed as a colony by Portugal, a relatively small European nation famous for its explorers and sailors. As a result, Brazilians primarily speak Portuguese — not Spanish, as do most other South Americans.

## Where is Rio?

Rio de Janeiro (REE-oh deh jheh-NAIR-oh) lies along the southeastern coast of South America. It is the second-largest city in Brazil, after São Paulo, with about 6.5 million people. Before Brasilia became the capital of Brazil in 1960, Rio de Janeiro (which means “January River”) was the capital.

\* Do you know what the Roman numeral XXXI means? X=10 and I=1. So XXXI is 31.

## Rio's people

Native Americans lived in Brazil for thousands of years before Europeans came in the 1500s. The Europeans brought enslaved African people with them. These three groups blended together, and today most Brazilians have ancestors from all three.

Today in Brazil, people work in agriculture, manufacturing, mining and service businesses. In rural areas, Brazilians grow sugarcane, soybeans and coffee. In cities, factories build aircraft, cars and car parts.



photo by Leandro Neumann Clurfo

People dress in colorful, showy costumes and dance the samba (SAHM-bah), a dance that originated in Brazil, during Carnival. A parade shows off floats made by different groups of people called “samba schools.”

## A Carnival of color

Rio de Janeiro's biggest party is Carnival (car-neh-VAHL). Much like Mardi Gras in the U.S., Carnival is a big celebration leading up to Lent. (Lent is the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter for followers of Christianity.)

## School in Rio

A student in Rio de Janeiro might start his school day around 7 a.m. His mid-morning “lunch” could include rice, beans, meat with vegetables, a banana or other fruit and a salad. Because Brazilian schools are crowded and the climate is hot, school for some kids ends before noon. Others might attend an afternoon or evening session.

School begins in February and ends in early December. Kids get a two-week break in July. In elementary school, students study Portuguese, history, geography, science, math and physical education.

## Soccer

Most kids in Rio like to play soccer, or futebol. They play after school on school teams or with neighbors.



photo by Marcello Casal Jr/Agência Brasil

Brazil's national team has won the FIFA World Cup five times, more than any other team.

Other favorite sports in Brazil are volleyball, rugby, basketball and auto racing.

Resources

### On the Web:

- [rio2016.com/en/olympic-games](http://rio2016.com/en/olympic-games)
- [bit.ly/1N8Owkf](http://bit.ly/1N8Owkf)
- [bit.ly/1oCanKy](http://bit.ly/1oCanKy)

### At the library:

- “Brazil: Enchantment of the World” by Ann Heinrichs
- “Brazil” by Sarah Tieck

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Rio de Janeiro are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



BRAZIL, CAPITAL, CARNIVAL, CARS, CITY, COFFEE, COUNTRY, FUTEBOL, GAMES, HOST, OLYMPICS, PORTUGUESE, RIO, SAMBA, SCHOOL, SOCCER, SOYBEANS, SUGARCANE.

S C F E L T O C A P I T A L Q  
N A Y E O S I Q I E A N R L M  
A R R F O O R J O N G E I F I  
E N T F H H D L N A C Z Q U W  
B I N O C R Y R M C A S N T O  
Y V U C S M P E O R J X B E O  
O A O V P T S S B A Y U M B R  
S L C I T E S E U G U T R O P  
G N C P A B M A S U V Q I L Y  
S S R A C O U K N S Q K C C Y

## Cook's Corner

### Orange and Red Salad

#### You'll need:

- 2 cups cantaloupe, cut in small chunks
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, quartered
- 1/2 cup red bell pepper, chopped
- 2 tablespoons orange juice

- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1/4 teaspoon salt



#### What to do:

1. Combine cantaloupe, tomatoes and chopped red pepper in a medium bowl.
2. Mix the two juices and honey in a smaller bowl.
3. Pour juice mixture over fruit and vegetables. Sprinkle with salt and stir well to mix flavors.
4. Refrigerate or serve immediately. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. country north of the U.S. (6) \_\_\_\_\_
2. cute rabbits (7) \_\_\_\_\_
3. dad's brother (5) \_\_\_\_\_
4. duplicate (4) \_\_\_\_\_
5. ice cream treat (6) \_\_\_\_\_
6. cutting the grass (6) \_\_\_\_\_
7. chocolate or vanilla (6) \_\_\_\_\_

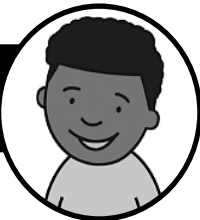
DA	FLA	LE	NA
NN	ING	VOR	UNC
MOW	BU	CO	DAE
SUN	PY	IES	CA

Answers: Canada, bunnies, uncle, copy, sundae, mowing, flavor.



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## Mini Jokes



**Mary:** What was the champion sneezer awarded at the Olympics?  
**Mike:** The cold medal!

**Melinda:** Where do swimmers eat lunch?  
**Morris:** At pool tables!

## Eco Note



In the summer, Americans use about one-third more water than we do the rest of the year because we're watering our lawns. What can you do? Water in the early morning or evening, when the water won't evaporate as quickly. And make sure your sprinklers are watering the lawn, not the sidewalk or driveway.

adapted with permission from "The New 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth" by The Earthworks Group, Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com)

## For later:

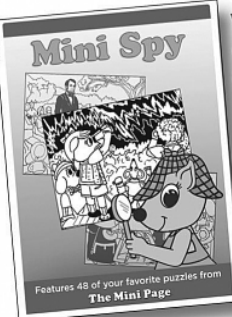
Watch your newspaper for articles about the upcoming Summer Olympics.

## Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit:  
[bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching\\_guides.html](http://bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching_guides.html)

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