

Global Snapshots

Published by Metro International's GLOBAL CLASSROOM for globally minded kids.

BRAZIL

Country Facts

Official Name: República Federativa do Brasil
Capital: Brasília
Official Language: Portuguese
Currency: Real
Head of State: Luis Inacio Lula da Silva
Pop.: 176,029,560
Largest City: São Paulo
Area: 8,547,403 sq km
Geography: Eastern South America, bordering the Atlantic Ocean



Meet Your Global Classroom Tour Guide



Name: Paulo da Silva
Hometown: Bebedouro, State of São Paulo, Brazil. I moved to São Paulo 8 years ago.
Current Field of Study: TESOL (Teaching English to Students of Other Languages)

Paulo, the Global Classroom Tour Guide for Brazil, is in New York City on a Fulbright Scholarship working on an M.A. in TESOL at Teachers College, Columbia University. At a recent Global Classroom presentation, he taught 4th graders how to dance the Samba and explained the history behind the Samba schools in Rio's Carnival.

What was the first thing you learned about the U.S. when you came here?
Let's narrow it down to New York City. I kind of expected the city to have a very diverse environment, with people of various backgrounds contributing to shape its identity. This is absolutely true. You can't really tell where any person comes from!
Siblings: 1. His name is Marco.

Pets: 2 German Shepherds.
Favorite Childhood Games
Hide-and-seek. Living in the countryside when you're a child is great. It allows you to go to the quiet streets and play all the possible games.
Favorite National Food: *Feijoada*. This is the national dish of Brazil. It is traditionally served on a Saturday and it is a festive meal to share with family and friends. (cont.)

Meet Your Global Classroom Tour Guide (continued)



What advice would you give students from the U.S. who want to visit or study in Brazil? Please, go. Tourists usually find Brazilians to be the friendliest people because they delight visitors with their energy and joy. Those who go on exchange programs to study in Brazilian schools and universities also find this experience extremely enriching to their careers and especially their lives. Brazil has such enormous contrasts (socially and economically speaking) that only through a good “immersion” can someone start to understand this gigantic country of more than 178 million.

There are regional variations and as many recipes as there are cooks in Brazil. It is basically made with black beans, sausages, pork ribs, salted cured beef, etc. Brazilians always start with *caipirinhas*, our most famous drink.

Favorite Portuguese Saying: *Junta-te aos bons e seras um deles.* (Join those who are good, and soon you’ll turn into one of them)

Favorite thing about living in NY: The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Favorite Native Holiday/

Festival: Brazil’s most famous event is *Carnaval*, beginning on the Friday before Ash Wednesday and lasting for five days. It is celebrated all over Brazil and there are more authentic versions than the glitzy tourist festival held in Rio, which is undoubtedly a fantastic spectacle. That’s where 16 top samba schools parade after working all year long to

have their hour of glory in the *sambodromo*, the samba avenue. This year it starts on March 1st.

What would you like kids in NY to know about Brazil? From the breathtaking beaches along the vast Atlantic coast, and the immensity of the dark Amazon, to the passion of *Carnaval*, Brazil is a country of mythic proportions. But I guess that all this is what most people already know about Brazil. Something that not everyone is aware of is that the central-western area of Brazil, called *Pantanal*, with its extraordinary and diverse flora and fauna, is one of the world’s great natural wonders. The area is a wildlife sanctuary of spectacular beauty, an ecological paradise containing hundreds of species of birds, thousands of varieties of butterflies, brightly colored flowers, and

schools of fish. This is certainly one more reason to go visit Brazil.

What made you want to study in another country? The opportunity to a better career enhancement and the fact that the American universities, such as Teacher’s College, Columbia University, where I’m taking my Master’s degree, offers one of the best programs in my field, Teaching English as a Foreign Language.

What do you want to do when you finish your degree? I’ll have to go back to Brazil, since I’m on a Fulbright scholarship. The people in my school have always encouraged me to pursue a higher degree in education. Now it is my turn to use what I’ve been learning to help improve things down there.



RECIPE

Ana Cristina Sani's
Famous *Brigadeiros*



Ingredients:

- 2 cans condensed milk
- 2 tbs. butter
- 8 tbs. Nesquick
- 1 cup chocolate sprinkles

Cooking Instructions:

1. Mix the first three ingredients in sauce pan
 2. Cook mixture over medium heat for 10 minutes, constantly stirring until mixture has a loose consistency
 3. Pour mixture into tray and let cool
 4. Grease hands with butter and roll mixture into balls about the size of a quarter
 5. Roll balls in sprinkles
- Yield: 30 *brigadeiros*

Note:

Brigadeiros are named after Brigadeiro Eduardo Gomes, a commander of the Brazilian Air Force during the 40's.

You Can Learn More About Brazil by Visiting the Following Websites:

Geography: Brazil-Brief descriptions of history and culture.
<http://www.interknowledge.com/brazil/>

Brazil: A Country Study
Facts about Brazil's history, geography, resources, government, economy, and much more.
<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/brtoc.html>
<http://pantanal.org/Mainpant.htm>

Lonely Planet: Brazil
Facts and figures, culture, history, and tourist information.
http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/south_america/brazil/culture.htm

Brazilian Culture: Read up on Brazilian art, music, drama, and dance, from the Consulate General of Brazil in San Francisco.
<http://www.brazilsf.org>
<http://www.brazilsf.org/culture.htm>
<http://www.mre.gov.br/cdbrasil/itamaraty/web/ingles/index.htm>

Brazil in New York: Facts, NYC events and more, from the Consulate General of Brazil in New York.
<http://www.brazilny.org>
<http://www.brazilny.org/cultural/boletip.htm>
http://www.brazilny.org/index_English.html

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