Welcome to Brazil! The fifth largest country in the world, with the fifth largest population. Where you’ll find...

1. ... the world’s largest rainforest, full of exotic plants and animals...
2. ... huge cities...
3. ... the world’s best carnivals...
4. ... glorious sandy beaches...
5. ... great poverty...
6. ... great wealth...
7. ... people of every race and colour...
8. ... and stunning scenery.
The big picture
This chapter is all about Brazil. These are the big ideas behind the chapter:
- Brazil is a large country, rich in natural resources.
- It is a country of big contrasts (in climate, wealth, and so on).
- It is developing quite quickly.
- But it still has a lot of poverty – and a very unequal society.
- Brazil’s rainforest has been disappearing fast.

Your goals for this chapter
By the end of this chapter you should be able to answer these questions:
- Where in the world is Brazil?
- What can I say about these, and where are they on the map?
  - Brazil’s main physical features
  - its climate zones
  - its ecosystems
- What kinds of natural resources does Brazil have?
- Why does Brazil have such a big mixture of races?
- Which parts of Brazil are most crowded? And most empty? Why?
- Which are Brazil’s top 10 cities, and where are they on the map?
- What are favelas? Where would I find them? What are they like?
- What clues can I look for, to see how developed a country is?
- What do these terms mean?
  - GDP
  - GDP per capita
  - life expectancy
  - infant mortality
  - adult literacy rate
  - undernourished
- How developed is Brazil, compared to countries like the UK, and India?
- Brazil has great inequality. What does that mean?
- Why is Brazil’s rainforest disappearing?
- The rainforest could be at greater risk, as Brazil develops. Why?

And then …
When you finish this chapter, come back to this page and see if you have met your goals!

Brazil at a glance
- Area: 8.5 million sq km
  (5th largest country in the world)
- Population: about 187 million
  (5th largest in the world)
- How developed is it?
  Ranks about 70th in the world

Did you know?
- Oi means Hi in Portuguese ...
  - which is the official language of Brazil.
- Brazil will host the World Cup in football in 2014.
- By 2006, out of 18 World Cup football finals:
  - Brazil had won 5 times ...
  - … and been runners-up twice.

What if …
- … school took you on a trip to Brazil?

Your chapter starter
The photos on page 110 were taken in Brazil.
- Where’s Brazil?
- From the photos, do you think it would be a good place to live?
- What else do you know about Brazil, that the photos don’t cover?
What’s Brazil like?

In this unit you’ll learn about Brazil’s main physical features, and its climate zones.

**Brazil’s physical features**
The basin of the River Amazon, and the Brazilian Highlands, are Brazil’s two main physical features. (Look at the map below.)

**The River Amazon**
- Rises in Peru and flows through Brazil to the Atlantic Ocean.
- The world’s second longest river – 6580 km. (The Nile is first.)
- Drains over a third of Brazil, including the rainforest (above).
- Has hundreds of tributaries.

**The Brazilian Highlands**
- A mix of ancient hills, plateaux (high flat areas) and mountains.
- They rise sharply from the coast, forming a steep slope called the Great Escarpment.
- There’s just a narrow strip of land between the escarpment and the Atlantic Ocean.

**Did you know?**
- There is not even one bridge over the Amazon, in its 6580 km journey to the ocean.

**Other rivers**
- Brazil has a great many rivers. The map above shows just the main ones. Note those names!
- The Paraná is the second longest river in South America (4200 km).

**Did you know?**
- Some native Indians believe the Amazon is the moon’s tears.
- She weeps because she loves the sun but can’t get closer to him.

The coast has many miles of beautiful sandy beaches.

The Sugar Loaf mountain above Rio de Janeiro is made of granite. You can go up it by cable car.
Brazil’s climate

Brazil is huge – over four-fifths the size of Europe. And because it is so large, it has a range of climates – just like Europe. Most of it lies in the tropics so it is hot all year, with an average temperature of around 25°C. But rainfall varies, due to factors such as:

- the height of the land
- the distance from the coast
- the prevailing wind direction.

Now look at its climate zones.

**hot and wet**

- hot all year – the temperature does not vary much
- very wet, with most rain falling in the first half of the year.

**hot and wet, with dry season**

- quite hot all year (like a hot summer’s day in the UK)
- has a wet and dry season
- most rain falls in December to March, when the sun is more directly overhead.

**hot with very dry season**

- hot all year, and gets a bit hotter in the dry season
- not very much rain in the wet season – and if it fails there is drought.

**a bit cooler, and wet**

- a bit cooler since it’s further from the equator
- wet all year, but a bit drier towards the middle of the year.

**milder and wet**

- has different seasons, like us
- some rain all year round
- you may even get snow in winter (around July).

---

**Your turn**

1. Which are the two main physical features of Brazil?
2. Write down three facts about the Amazon.
3. This is about the climate map above. (Unit 3.9 and the map on page 112 will help you answer it.)
   a. It is always cooler at D than at A. Why?
   b. It is always cooler at E than at F. Why?
   c. Give a reason why it’s wetter at F than at E.
   d. C is very close to the equator, and to the Amazon. Try to explain why it’s always hot and wet there.
4. On the right are four climate graphs. Match them to the four places A, B, C and D on the map above.
5. Copy and complete, using words from the list below:
   The ________ of Brazil is ________ .
   The large central area is ________ with a ________
   The ________ is ________ with four seasons like the UK.
   The driest part of all is in the ________ ________
   south, hot, north east, wet, milder, dry season, north west
6. A challenge! When it’s winter in London it is summer at D. Explain why. Draw diagrams if that helps.
Brazil's natural riches

In this unit you'll learn about Brazil's ecosystems and natural resources.

Brazil's ecosystems

As you saw, Brazil has different climate zones. Which means it has different ecosystems too. Have you heard of any of these?

The caatinga
- Semi-arid (like a desert).
- The plants are mainly shrubs and cacti, with very few trees.
- Lots of scorpions, spiders, snakes, and colourful birds live here.

Did you know?
- Brazil has over 1600 species of birds.

The tropical rainforest
- The largest area of rainforest in the world. It covers about 40% of Brazil!
- It grows thick and lush.
- It teems with plants, animals and insects. (Parrots, monkeys, sloths and orchids just for a start.)

The Mata Atlantica
- 500 years ago there was thick forest along the coast. (Mata means forest.)
- Some was rainforest, with a huge range of trees. Including the Brazil trees that gave Brazil its name.
- But most of it has been cut down. Only about one tenth is left.

The cerrado
- This has a wet and dry season.
- In the dry season the grass gets so dry that lightning sets it on fire.
- There are not many trees – and they have thick bark to protect them against fire.
- The animals here include deer, rhea (like ostriches) and wolves.

The Pantanal
- The world's largest swampland.
- It's full of water-loving plants and animals, including giant anaconda (snakes that can swim).

The pampas
- These are grassy plains.
- Now they are heavily farmed, with many cattle ranches.
Brazil’s natural resources

Brazil is rich in natural resources. Just look at these:

**Sources of energy**
- Brazil has lots of oil and gas. Huge new oil and gas wells were found in 2007 – around 6 km below the Atlantic Ocean!
- It has many big fast-flowing rivers. It has built dams on some, giving 80% of its electricity.

**Minerals**
- Brazil is one of the world’s top producers of iron, aluminium, tin, and several other metals …
- … and of diamonds and other precious stones …

**Soil, and climate**
- Brazil has a wide range of soils, and climates.
- So it can grow a wide range of crops: coffee, soya beans, rice, bananas, oranges, cotton …
- It grows huge amounts of sugar cane. Much of it goes to make ethanol, for use as a fuel in cars.
- Animal farming is important too, especially cattle and chickens.

So Brazil is lucky. Its natural resources are helping to make it wealthy. It is the world’s top exporter of coffee, sugar, soya beans, beef, chicken, oranges and orange juice. It is the second largest exporter of iron ore. Soon it will be in the top 10 oil-exporting countries too.

**But not all good news**

Brazil’s rainforest contains many natural resources – and most of it has not even been explored yet. But it is already disappearing very fast: through logging, and clearing land for farming, mining, and building roads. You can find out more about this later in the chapter.

**Your turn**

1. **a** What is an ecosystem? (Unit 4.1 will help.)
   **b** Name six ecosystems in Brazil, and write two sentences about each.

2. **a** Look at the map on page 114.
   - Plants grow really well at X on the map. Why?
   - A cactus can store water in its stem. Explain why you will find cacti at Y, but not at Z. Page 113 may help.

3. Why has most of the Mata Atlantica been cut down? (Clues on pages 116 and 118.)

4. **Soil and climate are natural resources.**
   Do you agree with that statement? Give reasons.

5. **a** Now make a grid like the one started on the right, for Brazil’s rainforest. Extend it and add mining, dams, oil exploration, and new roads.

6. **b** Look at our grid. It has an X to show that logging is in conflict with the rainforest ecosystem. It harms it. On your grid, mark X where you think two things are in conflict, ✓ where they benefit each other, and ◯ if you think they don’t affect each other.

   **c** From your grid, do you agree that Brazil’s rainforest is under threat? Explain.

6. **You are the President of Brazil. Write a speech for TV, explaining why Brazil has a great future, free of poverty.**
The peopling of Brazil

In this unit you will learn why Brazil has such a great mix of races.

The first people: the Indios

50,000 years ago, the plants and animals had Brazil to themselves. But then at some point – we don’t know when – the first humans arrived. They had spread out slowly from East Africa:

By 1500 there were perhaps 5 million people in Brazil. They were called Indians or Indios – by mistake. Because when Christopher Columbus first reached South America, he thought it was India.

Brazil becomes a colony

On 22 April 1500, a fleet of Portuguese sailing ships arrived at the coast of Brazil. They were led by a nobleman named Pedro Álvarez Cabral. He claimed the land for Portugal. It would remain a colony until 1822.

At first, the Portuguese exported brazilwood from the coastal forests in their new colony. Then they switched to sugar cane, which grew well in the warm damp climate along the coast. (Europe was mad about sugar.)

The slave trade begins

Cutting sugar cane is hard work. At first, Indios were forced to work on the sugar plantations. But they rebelled. Then the Portuguese had another idea. They would ‘buy’ people in Africa, in exchange for cheap goods, and ship them to Brazil to work. It was the start of Europe’s slave trade.

In 1538 the first slaves arrived. Over the next 300 years, at least 4 million African slaves were taken to Brazil. They were forced to work without pay, and treated like animals. Many more died at sea, in the filthy crowded ships. But at last, in 1888, slavery was abolished in Brazil.

The fortune hunters

By 1700, Brazil’s sugar cane industry had begun to decline. And then – gold and diamonds were found. Half a million more Portuguese arrived, hoping to make their fortune. The slaves were put to work in the mines.

Did you know?

- Brazil trees grow in the rainforest – and give us brazil nuts.
- They can grow up to 45 m tall, and live for over 500 years.

From Asia to North America is only 90 km! And the sea here was once ice, so humans just walked across.

Did you know?

- Most Western European countries were involved in the slave trade – including Britain.

△ The sugar cane harvest.
Workers from Europe

When slavery ended, Brazil took in workers from Europe. This table shows just the largest groups who came. Most worked on the land. But as towns and cities grew and spread, more workers of all kinds were needed. Like builders, doctors, teachers, engineers, cooks ... Today you’ll find people of every race, in Brazil.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immigrants to Brazil, 1876–1976</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Italians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did you know?
- After independence, Brazil had an emperor.
- Now it’s a republic. (No royal family.)

At a football match in multiracial Brazil.

Your turn

1. Explain each of these facts.
   a. About 40% of Brazilians are of African descent.
   b. Brazil is a multicultural society. (Glossary?)

2. Look how Brazil’s population has grown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Brazil’s population (millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   a. Show this data as a line graph. Use a full page, and continue the Year axis up to 2020.
   b. From your graph:
      i. What was the population in 1960?
      ii. By about which year had this figure doubled?
      iii. How many years did it take to double?
   c. Using your graph, see if you can predict Brazil’s population by 2020. Then explain how you did it.

3. Brazil’s population rise means it needs more schools. What else does it need more of?
   Give your answer as a spider map, like the one started here.

4. A population pyramid is a special bar chart that shows ages. Look at this population pyramid for Brazil, for the year 2000. It shows that males aged 10–14 formed nearly 5% of the population.

   a. About: what % of the population consisted of:
      i. girls aged 10–14?
      ii. men aged 35–39?
      iii. women aged 50–54?
      iv. children up to age 4?
   b. Overall, which was the largest age group?

5. ‘Brazil is a country of young people.’ Do you agree? Give evidence to back up your answer.

Brazil’s population rise means it needs ...
more schools, more teachers, more homes
8.4 So where is everyone?

Here you’ll see how Brazil’s population is spread around the country.

**Population distribution**

About 187 million people live in Brazil. This map shows how they are spread around.

Some areas are highly populated. Some are almost empty.

Look at the main cities. Rio de Janeiro is the most famous. But São Paulo is Brazil’s largest city. Brasilia is the capital. It was built as a new city and ‘opened’ in 1960.

The table shows the populations of the ten largest cities.

In fact, most of these cities have spread out to join other towns and cities, giving huge agglomerations.

The São Paulo agglomeration has over 19 million people!

### The top 10 cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Population (millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>São Paulo</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio de Janeiro</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvador</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belo Horizonte</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brasilia</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fortaleza</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curitiba</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manaus</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recife</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belém</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The cities are growing fast**

Brazil’s cities are growing fast. Because people are living longer. And many Brazilians have large families. But most of all, because lots of people from rural areas are moving to them. For reasons like these …
Why is the South East so crowded?

People are always on the move, in Brazil. Usually to find work, and improve their lives.

This map shows Brazil's five regions. Over the years, the biggest flow of people has been to the South East region. Check the boxes to see why.

**North**
- It is mainly rainforest.
- It has 15 million people. That's 4 people per sq km, on average.
- They earn £3000 a year on average.
- Most work in mining, timber, cattle ranching, and farming.
- 26 out of every 1000 babies here die before their first birthday.

**Centre West**
- 13 million people – or 9 people per sq km, on average.
- Average earnings: £6000 a year.
- Big on soya bean farming, and cattle.
- Brasilia, the capital city, is here.
- 20 out of every 1000 babies here die before their first birthday.

**South**
- 27 million people – or 50 people per sq km, on average.
- Average earnings: £5500 a year.
- Quite a lot of factories.
- Big on cattle, and growing fruit.
- 17 out of every 1000 babies here die before their first birthday.

**South East**
- 80 million people – or 87 people per sq km, on average.
- Average earnings: £6300 a year.
- Lots of factories.
- Good farmland; it's the main region for sugar cane and coffee.
- 18 out of every 1000 babies here die before their first birthday.

**North East**
- 52 million people – or 34 people per sq km, on average.
- Average earnings: £2250 a year.
- Some factories.
- Some good farmland, but drought is a big problem.
- 37 out of every 1000 babies here die before their first birthday.

---

**Your turn**

1. Copy and complete these sentences using words or phrases from the box below. (Check the map!)
   a. The _______ of Brazil is the most crowded part.
   b. Most Brazilians live on or near the ______.
   c. Overall, the rainforest area has ______ people.
   d. The centre of Brazil is quite ______ populated.
   e. The area around São Paulo is ______ populated.
   f. São Paulo is Brazil's ______ city and Rio de Janeiro is ______.

   **Options:**
   - sparsely
   - lots of
   - smallest
   - very few
   - second
   - north west
   - south east
   - densely
   - coast
   - largest

2. Suggest reasons why most Brazilians live on or near the coast. (Think about Brazil's history? And relief?)

3. a. Look at the table on the right.
   Compared with the UK:
   i. about many times larger is Brazil, in area?
   ii. about how many times larger is its population?
   b. Work out the population density for each country.

4. Today the city of São Paulo has twice as many people as 40 years ago. Give some reasons for this.

5. a. Use the glossary to find out what these are:
   i. push factors
   ii. pull factors
   b. From the speech bubbles on page 118, write a list of:
   i. push factors
   ii. pull factors
   that make people move from rural areas to cities.
   c. See if you can think of any other push and pull factors to add to your lists.

6. Look at the boxes above. Which of Brazil's regions:
   a. is the most crowded?
   b. has most factories?
   c. is best for earnings?
   d. is worst for earnings?

7. a. In the UK, 5 out of every 1000 babies die before age one. In Brazil, the numbers are higher. See if you can think up reasons. (Could not enough doctors be one?)
   b. Which is the worst region in Brazil, for baby deaths?

8. Now write a paragraph to explain why lots of people have moved from the North East to the South East region, over the years. The boxes above will help you.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Brazil</th>
<th>UK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area (sq km)</td>
<td>8.5 million</td>
<td>0.24 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>187 million</td>
<td>61 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population density (number of people per sq km)</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Life in the favela

Here you’ll learn what favelas are, and what it’s like to live in one.

Luiz moves south

Luiz got off the bus, tired and hungry. It was nearly 30 hours since he had waved goodbye to his mum in his village in Bahia (North East region).

He looked around. His cousin Felipe had promised to wait under a big sign with a hamburger on, outside the bus station. And there he was, all smiles.

Luiz could hardly keep up with him. They hurried along narrow alleys that twisted and turned. It was getting dark. There was music everywhere, and talking, and laughter. Dogs barked, babies cried, TVs blared. Bare-footed children played on the street. Women sat on doorsteps, cooking on charcoal stoves. ‘Be careful’, said Felipe, as they crossed a gutter filled with sewage.

And then they were home. A shack of brick, and corrugated iron, and wood, and plastic. They went in the open door. And there was Maria and the baby, and hugs and kisses, and a big pot of his favourite stew.

Luiz did not sleep much. The floor was hard, and he was too excited. At dawn, he crept out to look around. Over there were the tall buildings, where Felipe said the rich people lived. Maybe he’d find work there. Gardening, or painting, or building, or even cleaning. And then he could build a house of his own.

And so started Luiz’s first day, in the Morumbi favela in São Paulo.
What is a favela?

A favela is a collection of shacks built on waste ground, without permission. It’s where the poorest people live.

- Most of the people came from rural areas, looking for work.
- The shacks are built from anything – including cardboard. When you want a bigger house, you just add a bit more on.
- Most do not have legal water or electricity. But most are hooked up illegally, to cables and water mains. (So at busy times the lights go out, and the taps run dry.)
- There is no sewage system, and rubbish is not collected. So sewage and rubbish go into open drains.
- But you might find little shops, and cafes, and places to get a hair-cut.
- People get work wherever they can in the city – in factories, or on building sites, or as servants in the rich people’s homes.
- Not many favela children finish school. They work, or beg, instead.
- There’s a high level of violence, drug use, and murder, in the favelas. Some favelas are ruled by gangs.

All of Brazil’s cities have favelas. Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo have most. About 1 in 5 people in those two cities live in favelas.

What is being done about them?

The government has tried different approaches to favelas.

- Some shacks in São Paulo were knocked down, and low-cost, high-rise flats were built in their place. Look at the photo on the right.

But it was not a success. People felt cut off from life in the favela. They could not extend their homes when they wanted. They could not keep goats or hens in the flats. (Some tried!)

- Today the approach is to upgrade the favelas. Like this:
  - The residents say what they need. They take part in all decisions.
  - The government pays for improving the infrastructure: electricity and water supplies, a sewage system, paths, and roads.
  - The residents can get money for materials (like bricks and cement) to improve their homes.

Upgrading has been a big success. But progress is very very slow.

Your turn

1. What is a favela? How do you think favelas started?
2. Why do you think Luiz came to São Paulo?
3. What do you think could be good, about life in a favela? Anything?
4. What are the bad things about favelas? List them in order, with what you think is the worst thing first.
5. On day two, Luiz phones his mum. Make up a conversation between them about his new place.
6. This person lives in the wealthy flats looking over the Morumbi favela. What will you say to him in reply?
How developed is Brazil?

Here you will learn what ‘developed’ means, and how we measure development. Then you will explore some data, to see how developed Brazil is.

What does ‘developed’ mean?

Some countries are **highly developed**. That means their people have a good standard of living.

Look at this list. It shows things you are likely to find in a highly developed country.

A **less developed** country won’t have all those things. For example it may have some good roads – but a lot of dirt tracks. And very few good hospitals.

Every country in the world is at a different stage of development. Some are **more developed** than others. Some have a long way to go.

So what about Brazil?

If you travel around Brazil, you’ll find some really posh places and people – and some very very poor ones.

To get an idea of how developed it is, overall, you need ways to measure development. Then you can compare Brazil with other countries.

One way is to add up the value of all the goods and services a country produces in a year. Then divide that by the population.

Look at this:

The total value of the goods and services for the year is called the **gross domestic product**, or GDP. Think of it as the wealth the country produced that year.

When you divide the GDP by the population, you get the **GDP per capita**. It gives you an idea how well off people are, on average. For Brazil in 2007, it was $9700.

Usually, the **higher the GDP per capita, the more developed a country is**. So look at the list above. Which seems more developed, Brazil or the UK?

But GDP per capita does not tell the full story. It does not say what the country produces. Does it produce lots of guns – but not enough food? And it does not say if the wealth is divided fairly.

So we need other ways to measure development too, that look at people’s well-being. You will meet some of them in ‘Your turn’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GDP per capita for 2007 (PPP US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA 46 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK 35 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal 21 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil 9700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India 2700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya 1600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now compare the GDP per capita for Brazil and other countries. (They are all given in PPP US dollars, to make it easy to compare them.)

What does PPP mean?

A US dollar will buy you more in Brazil than in the USA – because things cost less in Brazil. PPP means that the GDP per capita figure takes account of this. (PPP stands for purchasing power parity.)
Brazil is developing quite fast

People in Brazil are not as well off as people in the UK, or many other countries. Out of 180 countries, Brazil ranks about 70th for GDP per capita. But it is developing quite fast.

The table on the right shows that its GDP per capita keeps on growing. These are the main reasons:

- It is earning more and more from crops it sells to other countries.
- Once it had to import things like cars, planes, and machinery. These cost a lot. Now it has factories to make them – and it sells them to other countries. It even makes and sells submarines.
- Brazil still buys lots of things from other countries. But it sells more than it buys. So, overall, it makes money from its trading.

Soon it will do even better. It will earn a fortune by selling oil from that huge new oil well off the coast, discovered in 2007.

But it still has problems

In spite of all the money it earns, Brazil has about 38 million very poor people – or 1 in 5 of the population. That’s because its wealth is very unequally shared. You can find out more about this in the next unit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>GDP per capita (PPP US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>6400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>6900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>7200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>8600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>9700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another jet nearly ready, in Brazil.

Your turn

1. a What does GDP mean?
   b What does GDP per capita mean?

2. a GDP per capita is called a development indicator. What do you think this term means? See if you can explain in your own words. Then check the glossary.
   b But GDP per capita does not give a full picture of development. Explain why.

3. Some other development indicators are given below. They tell you about the well-being of people in a country.
   a What does life expectancy mean?
   b As a country develops, life expectancy rises – people live longer. See if you can explain why.
   (Some ideas: more money for food? more hospitals? better housing?)

4. Now look at the other three indicators below. For each, say whether it will rise or fall as the country develops, and give one reason.

5. So, is Brazil growing more developed, less developed, or staying the same? Give evidence from the table below, to support your answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes in Brazil</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP per capita (PPP $US)</td>
<td>6800</td>
<td>9700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy (years)</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality (number per 1000 babies)</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult literacy rate, %</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% undernourished</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Life expectancy
How many years a person in that country can expect to live for.

Infant mortality
How many babies per thousand born alive who die before they’re 1 year old.

Adult literacy rate
% of people aged 15 and over who can read and write a simple sentence.

Undernourished people
% of the population who don’t get enough to eat, and live in hunger.
In this unit you will learn about one big challenge Brazil must tackle: the inequality in its society.

**Barbra’s day**

My mum woke me as usual at 6 am – groan. Coconut pancakes and orange juice for breakfast. Then dad’s driver drove me to school for 7. We had Miss Cardoso today – boring! When school finished at 12 we had dance class for an hour. We do all kinds of modern dance.

Magaretta’s mother drove us home, and we got my mum and my two brothers and went to the beach. We do that two or three times a week. We joined in a game of volleyball for a while, and swam. Magaretta and I read magazines.

After the beach, homework for an hour. Then dad came home from the office and we had dinner. Lucia is our cook and she cooked feijoada today. It’s a bean and pork stew.

Now I’m going to watch TV. Then I’ll have a bath and go to bed. But first I want mum to promise to take me shopping for clothes tomorrow. It’s Saturday, and I need something special for Anita’s party.

**Pedro’s day**

I always wake at 5 am. You can’t sleep late in our house – not with all seven of us in one room and the baby crying! I grabbed my bucket and sponge and ran. It’s about 3 km to our junction.

Francesco was already there and traffic was busy. So I filled my bucket at the petrol station tap and got started. You have to be fast washing windscreens at the traffic lights – they don’t stay on red that long.

Most of the drivers are okay. But some are really nasty – they wait till you finish and then grin and drive off without giving you any money.

At 11 we took a break. We went to the market and bought bread and soup. We ate on the corner as usual. Francesco went on as usual about getting a proper job. He says there are classes to teach poor people like us about computers, and we should try to get into one. But we can’t even read!

We’ll stay at the junction until it’s dark and most people have gone home from work. Then I’ll run home really fast. I’m always afraid a favela gang will attack me and take my money. Or else I’ll fall into a drain and ruin my jeans.

I make about 8 reals a day. (About £1.60.) When I get home I’ll give most of it to mum – she has to pay the rent on Friday. Then we’ll have been stew, as usual. Then I’ll crash out on my mat on the floor. Tomorrow is another busy day.
An unequal society

Brazil is rich in natural resources. It is developing quite fast. But it has a big problem: **inequality.** Some people are very wealthy. Millions are very poor.

Each person here represents 10% of Brazil’s population. So 20% of the people own 61% (or nearly two-thirds) of its wealth.

1% of the population owns almost half of Brazil’s land. And millions of rural families have no land, and are forced to work for big landowners.

On top of that, Brazil’s poorest people don’t have much education. So they have even less chance of improving their lives.

The roots of this inequality lie deep in the past. Portuguese kings gave out huge tracts of land in Brazil as gifts and rewards to people. The new landowners got slaves to work on the land at first, for no pay. When slavery was abolished they hired workers, but paid them very little.

Today the landowners’ families still own the land, and have got richer and richer. Their workers have not.

Making things fairer

Brazil’s government is trying to make life fairer. It is buying land from big landowners and sharing it out to poor people, with money to help them start farming. But the process is slow, and there’s a long way to go.

**Your turn**

1 Make a large table to compare Barbra and Pedro’s day. You could do it like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Barbra</th>
<th>Pedro</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>morning</td>
<td>breakfast of ...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Why has Barbra ended up with a more comfortable life than Pedro? Try to suggest some reasons.

3 Compare these pie charts for Brazil and the UK.

**How wealth is distributed**

- Brazil
- UK

| Goes to: | the richest 20% | the poorest 20% | the other 60% of the population |

- a Is there inequality in the UK? Explain.
- b Which has a more unequal society, Brazil or the UK?

4 The Brazilian government is giving land, and help, to poor people, for farming. Arrange these boxes as a flow chart, to show how that will help to make Brazil a more equal society.

- They can also grow extra food, to sell.
- Poor people get land, and help to start farming.
- Now they can grow food to feed their families.
- So they can get good jobs when they grow up.
- So their children won’t have to go out to work.
- So they will earn money.
- So they can go to school instead.

5 The government is also setting up better schools, in poor areas. Make up your own flow chart, with at least four boxes, to show how this will help reduce inequality.
Brazil’s rainforest

Here you’ll learn more about Brazil’s rainforest, and the threats to it.

The rainforest

Brazil has the largest area of rainforest in the world. It is part of the Amazon rainforest, that crosses 9 countries in South America. Brazil’s share is about 14 times the size of the UK.

Who lives there?

Over 200,000 indigenous people, the Indios, live in Brazil’s rainforest. They are the descendants of the Indios that lived in Brazil long long before the Portuguese arrived.

There are many different tribes. They live in scattered groups. Some hide deep in the forest, and live by hunting and fishing, without any contact with the modern world.

Lots of poor farmers also live there. By law, if they clear land and live on it for 5 years, they ‘own’ it. Over 150,000 poor families have gained land this way. There are also some very large farms and cattle ranches. Ranchers gain rights to use land just by clearing it, and moving cattle in.

There are many towns, and some cities, in and around the rainforest. Some started as Portuguese forts. Many grew thanks to trade in timber and rubber. The map on page 129 shows where the cities are.

What is happening to it?

Rainforest is being destroyed all over the world. Some reports say that an area the size of 5000 football fields is lost in Brazil every day. These photos show the causes – and some consequences.

- Poor farmers clear rainforest to grow food for their families. It’s called **slash and burn**.
- Big farmers have cleared large areas for cattle ranches. Brazil is the world’s top beef exporter.
- Soya bean plantations are the latest threat. Brazil is the world’s top soya bean exporter.
A place of conflict

Even though most of it is empty, there is a great deal of conflict in the rainforest. Violence and murder are common.

- The government has set aside land for the indigenous people. But ranchers, and illegal loggers and miners, invade it.
- The government has forbidden logging in most areas. But there is plenty of illegal logging – and the loggers often carry guns.
- Poor farmers have been chased off their land by soya farmers.
- Crooked lawyers help rich farmers to claim land that's not theirs.
- Some big farmers and cattle ranchers promise poor people jobs. They bring them to isolated farms. Then they treat them as slaves, and don't pay them.
- Meanwhile, other countries protest at the loss of the rainforest. (But still buy rainforest meat, timber, and soya!)

The government sometimes sends in the army and police, to stop illegal activities. But, in such a huge forest, they can't be everywhere.

Your turn

1. Look at the satellite image at the top of this page.
   a. What do you think the dark green shows?
   b. What do you think the brown lines are?
   c. Why are so many of the brown lines straight?
   d. What is the white stuff in the top right corner?
2. Many different groups are in conflict, in Brazil's rainforest. See how many you can list.
3. It's hard to keep law and order in the rainforest. Why?
4. Now look at this pie chart.
   a. What is it about?
   b. Write at least four statements saying what you have learned from it. Use terms like most, least, more than, not much.
   As an extra challenge, see if you can give rough %.