

BRAZIL Question: What do you already know about Brazil?

Read the article below and then answer the questions.

Brazil is big. It is the largest country in South America, and the fifth largest country in the world. The Atlantic Ocean lies to the east of the country, and it borders all of the other countries of South America except Ecuador and Chile. More than 190 million people now live in Brazil, and most of those who arrived during the last 500 years were originally from Europe and Africa. Most people in the other countries of South America speak Spanish, but the language of Brazil is Portuguese.

Brazil became independent from Portugal in 1822 and consists of twenty-six areas called states. The capital of Brazil was Rio de Janeiro from 1763 to 1960, but then changed to the city of Brasilia. The country is a popular tourist destination (with 5 million visitors in 2010), and of course many of them visit the Amazon rain forest and the Amazon River. Another place very popular with tourists, however, is the Iguazu Falls. They are located in the southern part of the country, near Argentina. In fact, there are two international airports located not far from the falls, one in Brazil and one in Argentina.

In addition to enjoying the amazing, natural beauty of the country, visitors should also try to watch a football match, an extremely popular South American sport. Brazil has, in fact, won five World Cup Championships since 1958, more than any other country in the world. While in Brazil, you might also consider taking some samba dance classes to prepare for a week-long party, or festival, called 'Carnival' which happens every year in March or February.

BRAZIL READING COMPREHENSION

1. The article says Brazil is the largest country in the world.
(a) TRUE (b) FALSE (c) It doesn't say.
2. When did people start to arrive in Brazil from other parts of the world?
(a) about 100 years ago (b) about 500 years ago (c) about 200 years ago
3. In the first paragraph, what does the word 'it' refer to?
(a) the Atlantic Ocean (b) South America (c) Brazil
4. What language do most people speak in Brazil?
(a) Brazilian (b) Spanish (c) Portuguese
5. How many countries are there in South America?
(a) 26 (b) 12 (c) It doesn't say.
6. What is the capital of Brazil?
(a) Brasilia (b) Rio de Janeiro (c) Portugal
7. Where are the Iguazu Falls located?
(a) in Argentina (b) on the Amazon River (c) in the south of the country

8. In the second paragraph, what does the word 'they' mean?

- (a) airports (b) the waterfalls (c) tourists

9. What is 'samba'?

- (a) a kind of dance style (b) a kind of party (c) Carnival

10. When can you dance in Carnival?

- (a) in March or February (b) for one week before Carnival begins (c) every year since 1958

ANSWER KEY

Reading Comprehension

- 1. C 2.B 3.C 4.C 5.C 6.A 7.C 8.B 9.A 10.A