

Brazil -

- largest country (land)
- largest population (people)
- Celebrate Carnival
- Producers of
 - Sugar cane
 - Coffee
 - gems (mining)
 - cattle
- Democratic Government
 - president
 - legislature
 - people vote
- Language: Portuguese
 - many other languages spoken
 - Spanish
 - Japanese
 - French
 - English
- Religion: Catholic (traditional)
Macumba (blended-new)

4 Regions of Brazil

Southeast -

- Richest of the 4 regions
- largest urban area
 - São Paulo
 - Rio de Janeiro
- major coffee grower
- a large population of poor found in favelas

Northeast -

- poorest region
 - droughts (farming difficult)
 - poor education
 - poor health care
- Beautiful churches and beaches

Interior-

- has the capital Brasilia
(only capital since 1960)
- mostly frontier land
with few people
- only the capital is
modern with highways
and buildings

Amazon-

- Amazon River
 - used for transportation
 - used for communication
- Manaus
 - major port
 - industrial city
- Amazon Rainforest
 - Indian village
 - wildlife
 - logging and mining
 - deforestation threatens
the ecosystems and
causes conflict in the
region

Argentina

- European Influence
- Pampas land used for hunting and cattle ranching by the gauchos.
- Famous Leader: Eva Perón
- Religion: Mostly Roman Catholic
- Capital: Buenos Aires
- Vocabulary - Quota, tariff, embargo

Uruguay

- claimed by Portugal
taken over by Spain
now independent (1825)
- Democracy
- Capital: Montevideo
- Religion: Roman Catholic
- Language: Spanish
- highly populated urban areas
- high literacy rate (educated)
- economy: rely on trade with Argentina and Brazil
Major export: cattle
- energy from hydroelectric power

Paraguay

- Independence 1811 not democratic until 1989
- Agriculture: raise cattle
- Landlocked
- Languages: Spanish and Guarani
- Religion: Catholic
- Capital: Asunción

Columbia

- Chibcha - native people of Columbia
- Conquered by Spain (part of Spanish empire)
 - developed Cartagena a naval base and port
- Most populous country
- Exports
 - coffee
 - sugar cane
 - bananas
 - flowers
 - oil
- Capital: Bogotá
- Religion: Catholic
- Language: Spanish
- Civil War - military groups take over parts of the country
- Guerrillas - irregular military group trying to overthrow government
- Groups take over farmer's land and grow coca plant used to make cocaine

Venezuela

- conquered by Spanish
 - Indian and African slaves
- independence in 1830
- Famous people: Simon Bolivar - fought for independence
 - Colombia
 - Bolivia
- Hugo Chavez - president who distributed wealth caused oil worker strike
- Capital: Caracas
- Geography: Lake Maracaibo (rich in oil)
Guiana Highlands (rich in iron ore and gold)
- Language: Spanish
- Religion: Roman Catholic
- People: Llaneros - Venezuelan cowboys
joropo - national dance
Sports - Soccer and baseball
- Economy: based on oil money - struggling due to oil prices always changing
Member of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries)
- Government: Democracy with a president

Guyana - (independence from United Kingdom)

- Economy: agriculture based
- Exports: rice and sugar
- Capital: Georgetown
- Religion: Christianity and Hinduism
- Language: English and Guyanese creole (English-Indian mix)
- Geography: Rainforests and farm land

Suriname - (independence from Netherlands)

- Capital: Paramaribo
- People: Diverse population
- Language: Dutch and Sranan (English-creole)
- Religion: Christian (Protestant and Catholic)
- Exports: fruit, oil and gold

French Guiana (territory of France)

- Capital: Cayenne
- Language: French
- Religion: Roman Catholic
- Economy: depends on imports and ecotourism
- Geography: mostly tropical rain forests