

Additional Notes:

*Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world. By comparison America is the third largest and has about 3,700,000 + square miles.

*I wrote phonetic spellings of the Portuguese words to help you pronounce them. The boldfaced letters are the part of the word which is "stressed." That is the part of the word you say a little stronger than the rest. Can you hear the stress is at the beginning of the word "better" but at the end of the word "begin"?

*51% percent of Brazil's population is European. That means their ancestors came from European countries, and they have light skin. 51% (or fifty-five percent) are European means that if you took 100 random people from Brazil, 51 would be light skinned. (These percentages are approximate. Different places give different numbers. But about half the population has darker skin.)

*I'm told wearing white on New Year's Eve is similar to people wearing green on St. Patrick's Day, more tradition than meaning.

*In the Southern Hemisphere (south of the equator, or the bottom half of a globe or map) the seasons are reversed. Brazil is in the Southern Hemisphere so winter there is summer in America, and it is summer there during America's winter.

*Piranhas do live in the Amazon river, and they do bite! But, they only attack when they smell blood.

*The Amazon River travels through seven countries, but Brazil is home to the largest part. Here's an interesting fact: there isn't a single bridge over the river.

*Brazil's flag says order and progress.

Money Math

*In 2009 the Brazilian Real (BRL) has been worth about fifty cents. How many BRLs are about equal to \$1?

In Brazil a 2 liter bottle of Coca-Cola costs about 3 BRL. How much does that cost in dollars and cents?

Bible Connection

The people of Brazil are culturally Catholic. They are born into it and most don't really follow the teachings of the church. There are many superstitions that many people do follow though. For instance people might believe statues of certain saints can give you answers to your prayers. This is similar to what we see the Israelites do when they made a golden calf, Exodus 32.