



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **6th Grade** | Unit 5

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 605

Six South American Countries

INTRODUCTION | **3**

1. BRAZIL 5

GEOGRAPHY | **6**

PEOPLE | **11**

HISTORY | **13**

CITIES | **16W**

FESTIVALS AND RECREATION | **17**

INDUSTRY | **18**

BRAZIL TODAY AND TOMORROW | **18**

SELF TEST 1 | **21**

2. COLOMBIA 24

GEOGRAPHY | **25**

PEOPLE | **28**

HISTORY | **30**

CITIES | **34**

COLOMBIA TODAY AND TOMORROW | **35**

SELF TEST 2 | **37**

3. VENEZUELA AND THE THREE GUIANAS 40

GEOGRAPHY OF VENEZUELA | **41**

PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA | **43**

HISTORY OF VENEZUELA | **45**

CITIES IN VENEZUELA | **46**

INDUSTRY AND RECREATION IN VENEZUELA | **47**

VENEZUELA TODAY AND TOMORROW | **47**

GEOGRAPHY AND PEOPLE OF THE THREE GUIANAS | **49**

GUYANA | **49**

SURINAME | **50**

FRENCH GUIANA | **50**

SELF TEST 3 | **52**

MAPS | **55**



LIFEPAC Test is located in the center of the booklet. Please remove before starting the unit.

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Six South American Countries

Introduction

South America is in the southern part of the Western Hemisphere between the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. South America is the fourth largest continent in the world. This continent is a rich and beautiful portion of God's earth.

In this LIFEPAK® you will learn about six countries of this great continent: Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and the three Guianas.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAK. When you have finished this LIFEPAK, you should be able to:

1. Discuss the geography of Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and the three Guianas.
2. Tell about the wildlife in Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela.
3. Discuss the people of Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and the three Guianas.
4. State the major events of history in Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and the three Guianas.
5. Name major cities of Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and the three Guianas.
6. Name major industries of Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and the three Guianas.
7. Describe present-day Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and the three Guianas.

1. BRAZIL

Brazil, located on the eastern coast of South America, covers almost half the continent. Its boundaries touch every other country of South America except those of Chile and Ecuador. Although people of the other countries have

Spanish as their major language, most of the people of Brazil speak Portuguese.

Brazil is an important country not only because of its size, but also because of its future as an economic and **political** power in the modern world.

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Discuss the geography of Brazil.
2. Tell about the wildlife in Brazil.
3. Discuss the people of Brazil.
4. State the major events of history in Brazil.
5. Name major cities of Brazil.
6. Name major industries of Brazil.
7. Describe present-day Brazil.

Vocabulary

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

ascend (ä send). To go up; to rise.

bisect (bī sekt). To cut in two.

conqueror (kong kur ur). One who subdues by force.

descendant (di sen dunt). Offspring; born into a family.

dictator (dik tā tur). One who exercises absolute authority.

exception (ek sep shun). Leaving out; not a part of the general rule.

hydroelectric (hī drō i lek trik). Generating electricity by water power.

industry (in du strē). A branch of business, manufacture, or trade.

interior (in tir ē ur). Inside; something inland.

llano (yā nō). A wide plain.

manioc (man ē ok). A staple South American food from the cassava plant.

mythology (mi thol u jē). Study of myths or legends.

political (pu lit u kul). Pertaining to government affairs.

savanna (su van a). A grass land.

torrid (tôr id). Very hot.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, ĩce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʃh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

GEOGRAPHY

The geography of Brazil can be studied by looking at the regions, the major rivers, and the resources.

Regions. The major regions of Brazil are the Amazon Lowlands, the Central Highlands, the Sertão Region, the Southern Region, and the Coastal Plain.

The Amazon Lowlands cover the northern and western half of Brazil. They lie in the **Torrid** Zone near the equator where the air is hot and humid. Dense rain forests where the trees grow tall to reach the sunlight are found here. The Amazon River flows through this region. Small Indian villages are built near its banks in many places. Rubber trees and other forest products grow here in abundance.

The rain forests, the **savannas**, the rivers, and the plains (or **llanos**) of the Amazon River Basin abound in wildlife. In the forests live South America's largest wild animal, the tapir, and its enemy, the jaguar.

One-fourth of all the known kinds of animals in the world live in South America. Among some of the most unusual are the giant anteaters, the armadillos, and the sloths.

Among the many birds found here are parrots, macaws, and flamingos. Insects, such as butterflies, fire bees, and fire ants, also abound.



| A Mountain Tapir



Do this activity.

- 1.1** Select one of the animals, birds, or insects mentioned. Look up additional information about it and write a paragraph, using complete sentences. Show your writing to a classmate.

TEACHER CHECK

initials

date

The Central Highlands spread across Brazil from east to west except for the coastal mountains and the Coastal Plain. They make up most of the central part of the country. The climate of the Central Highlands is humid but cool. This cool climate is good for growing coffee.

The Sertão Region is a smaller area in the far northeast of Brazil. It extends out into the Atlantic “hump.” The climate is semi-arid which means it has little yearly rainfall, scrubby vegetation, and short grasses. Severe droughts strike the region every 12 to 15 years and moderate drought conditions are nearly always a

problem. Many people, however, live there and are loyal to their territory.

The Southern Region is **bisected** by the Tropic of Capricorn, and has the most favorable climate in Brazil. This region has many rich mines and large **industries**.

The Coastal Plain is a narrow strip of land along the east coast. Mountains **ascend** sharply and divide the coast from the rest of Brazil. Along this coast are located most of Brazil’s large cities. Atlantic breezes help to make the weather tolerable, even near the equator.



Write the correct letter and answer on the blank.

- 1.2** The Amazon Lowlands are located in _____ Brazil.
 a. northern b. southern c. eastern
- 1.3** The Amazon Lowlands are hot because they lie on or near the _____.
 a. Arctic Circle b. Tropic of Capricorn c. equator
- 1.4** The people who build villages along the Amazon are called _____.
 a. Amazonians b. Brazilians c. Indians
- 1.5** A rain forest has _____.
 a. no trees b. grasses and bushes c. tall trees
- 1.6** A product of the rain forest is _____.
 a. coffee b. rubber c. peaches

Complete the map activity.

- 1.7** Find the outline map of South America in the back of this LIFE PAC. Mark (or shade in with crayon or colored pencil) the Amazon Lowlands, the Central Highlands, the Sertão Region, the Southern Region, and Coastal Plain.

Complete the following activities.

- 1.8** Choose from the following list five adjectives or phrases which describe the Central Highlands, and write them in the blanks.

central	southern	dry	humid
cool	hot	apple growing	coffee growing
east to west	north to south		

- a. _____ b. _____
 c. _____ d. _____
 e. _____

- 1.9** Circle the words that describe the Sertão Region.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| a. little rainfall | b. northeastern Brazil |
| c. humid | d. short grasses |
| e. loyal citizen | f. drought |
| g. southwest Brazil | |

- 1.10** A synonym is a word that has the same meaning as another word. For example, *ascend* is a synonym for *rise*. Write a synonym for each word. Use a dictionary if necessary.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| a. coast _____ | b. sharply _____ |
| c. large _____ | d. tolerable _____ |
| e. near _____ | |

Major rivers. Brazil has many rivers. The mighty Amazon, named after women in **mythology**, is the largest river in the world. The Amazon River flows from the Andes Mountains through the Amazon Lowlands to the Atlantic Ocean. One of its branches is the Negro River. Another branch is the Madeira River. If the Amazon and all its tributaries could be placed over a map of the United States, it would cover about three-fourths of our nation. The Paraná River is in the south of Brazil. At the point on this river where Brazil and Paraguay meet, a **hydroelectric** plant has been built to provide power for several countries.

Resources. Brazil is a very large country with many mineral resources. Among the important mineral resources are iron ore, manganese, gold, diamonds, and bauxite. Manganese is a metal similar to iron. Bauxite is the ore from which aluminum is made.

Brazil also raises many important farm products. More coffee is raised in Brazil than in any

other country. This industry supplies many workers with jobs. Brazil also raises sugar cane, cacao, (from which comes cocoa and chocolate), cotton, rice, corn, potatoes, and wheat.

Animals of commercial value raised in Brazil include hogs, cattle, and sheep. Cattle are raised in the south and south-central states. Sheep are raised in the Sertão Region.

Brazil's numerous rivers and streams provide a home for fish and furnish water power to make electricity. They also form an important network of water transportation to carry goods from the **interior** to the coastal ports.

In recent years, persons and industries moved into South America's interior. They cut down trees and leveled some of the rain forests, especially near the Amazon. Brazil is now working with other countries and organizations in an effort to find ways to stop the destruction of the Amazon rainforest.



Complete the map-study activity.

- 1.11** Draw on the map of Brazil, the Amazon, Negro, Madeira, and Paraná rivers. Also label the Atlantic Ocean. Consult the maps available to you.

Complete the outline.

1.12 Read the section on Brazil's resources once again. Complete the outline with information from this section.

Resources of Brazil

- I. _____
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
 - E. _____

- II. _____
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
 - E. _____
 - F. _____
 - G. _____
 - H. _____

- III. _____
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____

- IV. _____
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____

PEOPLE

Nearly all the heavily populated areas of Brazil are within a hundred miles or less of the coastline. The remainder of the country is less densely populated. In studying the population of Brazil, you will be learning about the races of people in Brazil and about the social classes.

Race. Over one-half of the population of Brazil are people of European descent. The greatest number of these are Portuguese. Because so many people are of Portuguese descent, Portuguese is Brazil's official language.

Black slaves were brought from Africa in the eighteenth century. Their **descendants** make up the second largest portion of Brazil's population today. The Japanese began to come to Brazil in 1908. Indian natives retreated to the interior when they did not work out as slaves of the **conquerors**.

Social class. People are conscious of class not only in Brazil, but also in much of South America. The landowners, the overlords, and the overseers of *fazendas* (plantations) or factories are the wealthy class. The poor often work for the overlords and the landowners. Many of these poor have migrated to the cities and live in *favelas*, or slums, that surround the cities. The Indians of Brazil's jungles may seem very poor to us. For the most part, however, they live well in the jungles or the rain forests.

Most people in Brazil are either very rich or very poor. Some changes are beginning to happen, however. In recent years, large businesses have bought more and more of the plantations and the industries. They hire men and women



| Brazilian Feijoada

to work and pay them wages just as employers do in other parts of the world. Some people are beginning to earn wages and are moving to better homes with better living conditions. These wage earners are joined by small farm owners who have managed to buy their own farms. Together, they form a new class, the middle class. Very, very slowly this middle class is beginning to grow in Brazil and may someday change the way that both the rich and the poor now live.

Food. The main foods of the average Brazilian are rice, beans, and meat. **Manioc**, the root of the cassava plant, is similar to a potato. It is used in many ways including ground into flour. *Feijoada*, the national dish, is a beef stew. It is made with beans, beef, sausage, tomatoes, and sprinkled with manioc.

Fish dishes are enjoyed by those who live in the coastal towns. Sugar cakes (*doces*) are often served as dessert.

SELF TEST 1

Circle the correct answer (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.01** The Coastal Plain of Brazil has _____.
 a. no cities b. only rocks c. many cities d. small villages
- 1.02** The Amazon Lowlands are hot because they are mostly at sea level right near the _____.
 a. Arctic Circle b. Tropic of Capricorn
 c. river d. equator
- 1.03** The Coastal Plain is divided from the rest of the country by _____.
 a. steep mountains b. a snow cap c. large rivers d. an isthmus
- 1.04** A word that means the same as another word is _____.
 a. a synonym b. an antonym c. a homonym d. a verb
- 1.05** The basic meaning of the word amazon is _____.
 a. great mountain b. large woman c. big river d. wide plain
- 1.06** A place that generates electricity from a river or other flowing water is a _____.
 a. growing industry b. waterfall
 c. power company d. hydroelectric plant
- 1.07** The largest animal in Brazil is the _____.
 a. elephant b. tapir c. giraffe d. dog
- 1.08** A national dish made of rice, beans, and meat is called _____.
 a. manioc b. doces c. *feijoada* d. turtle
- 1.09** Brazil is the largest producer in the world of _____.
 a. rosewood b. coffee c. oranges d. vegetables
- 1.010** Over one-half of Brazil's population is descended from _____.
 a. Europe, mostly Portugal b. Asia, mostly Japan
 c. Mexico and Central America d. North America, mostly Canada
- 1.011** Blacks are in Brazil because _____.
 a. they were natives b. they were brought as slaves
 c. they like the climate d. they came to seek gold
- 1.012** The hired wage earner and the small farm owner are part of the new _____.
 a. slums b. revolution c. rich elite d. middle class
- 1.013** The first division of settlements in Brazil was called _____.
 a. colonies b. states c. captaincies d. federalcies

1.014 The name of the dentist who led the early fight for Brazil's freedom from Portugal was _____ .

- a. Cabral b. São Francisco c. Tiradentes d. São Vincente

1.015 Cabral claimed Brazil for _____ .

- a. Japan b. Spain c. Canada d. Portugal

Match these words by putting the letter in the blank (each answer, 2 points).

1.016 _____ Sertão Region

a. Lowlands

1.017 _____ gold discovery

b. Highlands

1.018 _____ manioc

c. frequent drought

1.019 _____ southern states

d. Tropic of Capricorn

1.020 _____ Portuguese

e. cities

1.021 _____ king of Portugal

f. cattle

1.022 _____ brazilwood

g. language

1.023 _____ Vargas

h. ground into flour

1.024 _____ Southern Region

i. red dye

1.025 _____ Coastal Plain

j. new capital city

1.026 _____ Rio de Janeiro

k. capital for 200 years

1.027 _____ Central

l. flag bearers

1.028 _____ Dom Pedro II

m. King John

1.029 _____ Amazon

n. emperor of Brazil

o. dictator

Write the correct words in the blanks of these sentences (each numbered item, 6 points).

1.030 The dentist who worked for Brazil's independence from a. _____ was nick-named b. _____ .

1.031 King John ruled Portugal from a. _____ . He was the father of b. _____ who declared c. _____ from Portugal.

1.032 Dom Pedro II ruled Brazil for nearly a. _____ years, during which time he visited the b. _____. He had to leave office because of trouble over the c. _____ of slaves.

Write the correct word or words in the blanks (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.033** The largest city in Brazil is _____.
- 1.034** Sugar Loaf Mountain can be seen from the harbor of _____.
- 1.035** Brasília is now Brazil's _____ city.
- 1.036** The chief festival holiday in Brazil is _____.
- 1.037** The most popular sport of Brazil is _____.
- 1.038** Most industries of Brazil are in or near the city of _____.
- 1.039** The city that was once a rubber "boom-town" is _____.
- 1.040** An important job that Christian missionaries do in Brazil is _____
_____.

Answer true or false (each answer, 1 point).

- 1.041** _____ Savannas are grasslands.
- 1.042** _____ Rio de Janeiro was Brazil's capital until 1960.
- 1.043** _____ A dictator is elected.
- 1.044** _____ *Ascend* means *to come out of a cave*.
- 1.045** _____ *Emerge* means *to make able*.
- 1.046** _____ *Christ the Redeemer* is a statue near Rio de Janeiro.
- 1.047** _____ Brasilia is the oldest city in Brazil.
- 1.048** _____ The Butana Snake Institute is in São Paulo.

	SCORE _____	TEACHER _____	initials _____	date _____
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