

Chapter 15

Federative Republic of Brazil (República Federativa do Brasil)

Chapter Preview

People

Pedro Álvares Cabral, Tupinambá Indians, John VI, Pedro I, Pedro II, Princess Isabel, Juscelino Kubitschek de Oliveira, Dilma Rousseff

Places


Amazonia Rain Forest, Amazon River, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Amazon Basin, Brazilian Highlands, Bandeira Peak, Brasília

Terms


Tropic of Capricorn, tributaries, contiguous, brazilwood, deforestation, Treaty of Tordesillas, coup, federal government, presidential democracy, National Congress, self-sufficient, voluntary trade, national debt, austerity, Bolsa Família, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), Brazilian real, bilateral

Top: The iconic 125-foot statue Cristo Redentor (Christ the Redeemer) was completed in 1931 and overlooks Rio de Janeiro and Guanabara Bay.

Background: Rio de Janeiro is Brazil's second-largest city and home to over six million people.



Think of Brazil and it is likely your mind will bring up images of tropical rain forests and expansive rivers. Brazil is home to the largest rain forest on Earth—the Amazon Jungle, or Amazonia Rain Forest. Over a billion acres of jungle cover Brazil. The Amazon River is the world’s second-longest river. It is home to over 3,000 species of fish, and extends more than 4,000 miles—most of which is in Brazil. But what about Rio de Janeiro and Carnival? The city and its famous festival are certainly world famous, but there is even more to Brazil than geography and exciting events.




The United States was the first nation to establish a consulate in Brazil in 1808. The United States was also the first country to recognize Brazil’s independence from Portugal in 1822. However, it was not until after World War II that the United States became Brazil’s number-one trading partner and foreign investor. The two countries have traditionally enjoyed friendly, active relations. The US-Brazil relationship is rooted in their common democratic values, geography, and shared social history. Brazil has grown into a stable and peaceful democratic country. It has worked to eliminate extreme poverty, and it has an abundance of natural resources to trade with other countries. The economy of Brazil has improved dramatically, and its manufactured goods are shipped around the world. In 2016, Brazil reached one of its high points. It became the first South American country to host the Olympic Games. The event was very successful and helped Brazilians showcase their modern South American homeland.

“

I had great admiration for the election of President Obama. I believe that the U.S. at that moment showed tremendous capacity to show that it is a great nation, and it surprised the world. It may be very difficult to be able to elect a black president in the U.S. - as it was very difficult to elect a woman president in Brazil.

- Dilma Rouseff,
first woman
president of
Brazil



Top: Brazil’s soccer fans cheered a win over Chile in 2014. The country’s soccer fans are known for their enthusiasm. **Above:** Toucans are native to several areas of Brazil. This one was seen in Foz de Iguacu near Brazil’s famous Iguacu Falls.

PASSPORT



Official Name: Federative Republic of Brazil

Capital: Brasília

Form of Government: federal presidential republic

Head of Government: President

Head of State: President

Suffrage: voluntary between 16 to 18 years of age and over 70; compulsory between 18 to 70 years of age; military conscripts by law cannot vote

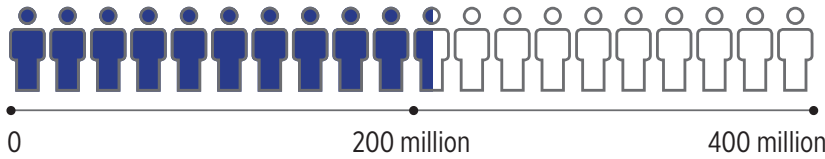
Currency: Brazilian real (R\$)



Top: Flag of Brazil. **Above Right:** Jair Bolsonaro became president of Brazil in 2019. **Above Left:** The National Congress building (Congresso Nacional) in the capital city of Brasília. **Right:** Brazilian real banknotes and coins.

CULTURE CONNECTION

POPULATION



Brazil
 207,000,000 (est. July 2017)
 Population Rank 5

United States
 324,386,000 (est. 2017)
 Population Rank 3

FUN FACTS

Brazil has won soccer's World Cup nine times. Its most famous player is Pele.

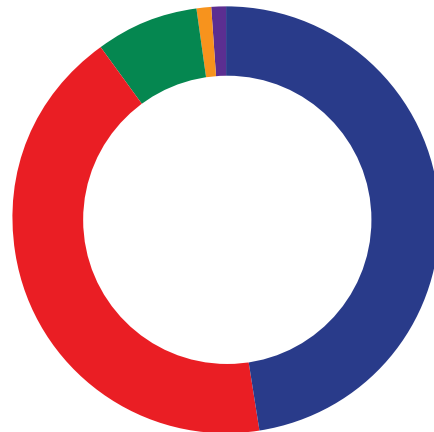
Official Language:
 Portuguese

Phrases in Portuguese

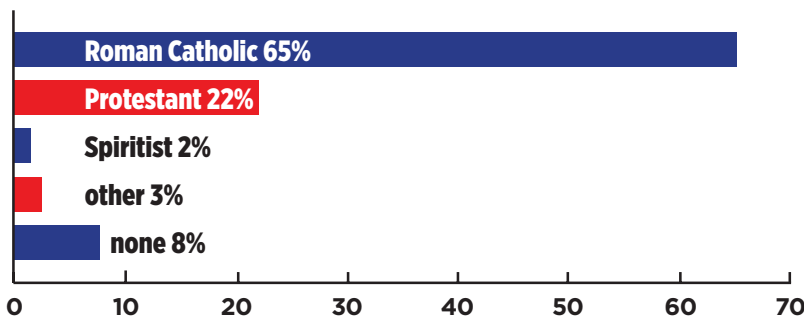
- Hello** – Olá
- Goodbye** – Adeus
- Good morning** – Bom dia
- Good afternoon** – Boa tarde
- Thank you** - Obrigado(a)
- You're welcome** – De nada
- Yes** – Sim
- No** – Não

ETHNIC GROUPS

- White 48%
- Mulatto (mixed white and black) 43%
- Black 8%
- Asian 1%
- Indigenous <1%



RELIGION



LIFE EXPECTANCY

Average 73.8 years
Male 70.2 years
Female 77.5 years

EDUCATION

Literacy 92.6%
Education Expenditures 5.8% of GDP
Rank 49

Right: The Treaty of Tordesillas. **Below:** In this oil painting, Pedro Álvares Cabral sees for the first time the land that would be known as Brazil. **Bottom:** Juscelino Kubitschek de Oliveira served as the 21st president of Brazil from 1956 to 1961. **Background:** An aerial view of Maracanã Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, home of the 2016 Summer Olympic Games.

TIMELINE OF BRAZIL HISTORY



Figure 15.1



1400

1494 Treaty of Tordesillas

1500

1500 Pedro Álvares Cabral arrived in Brazil

1800

1808 Royal family of Portugal fled to Brazil

United States established a consulate in Brazil

1822 Brazil gained independence from Portugal; Pedro I established the Empire of Brazil

1831 Pedro II became emperor of Brazil

1888 Princess Isabel ended slavery

1889 First republican government established (Old Republic)

1900

1956 Juscelino Kubitschek de Oliveira became president

1960 Capital officially moved from Rio de Janeiro to Brasília

1964 Military took power of government

1985 Political power returned to civilian control

1988 New constitution written

1994 Brazilian real introduced as currency

2000

2011 Dilma Rousseff began term as first woman president

2014 Rousseff introduced austerity measures

2016 Rio de Janeiro hosted the Summer Olympic Games

Dilma Rousseff removed from office by impeachment



Area: 3,287,612 square miles

Area Rank: 5

Natural Resources: bauxite, gold, iron ore, manganese, nickel, phosphates, platinum, tin, rare earth elements, uranium, petroleum, hydropower, timber

Environmental Issues: deforestation in Amazon Basin destroys the habitat and endangers a multitude of plant and animal species; illegal wildlife trade; air and water pollution in Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, and several other large cities; land degradation and water pollution caused by improper mining activities; wetland degradation; severe oil spills

Map 15.1

Brazil

Map Skill: Name the countries that surround Brazil.

Section 1

The Geography of Brazil

DID YOU KNOW?

Ponta do Seixas, Brazil, is the easternmost point on the American continents.



As you read, look for

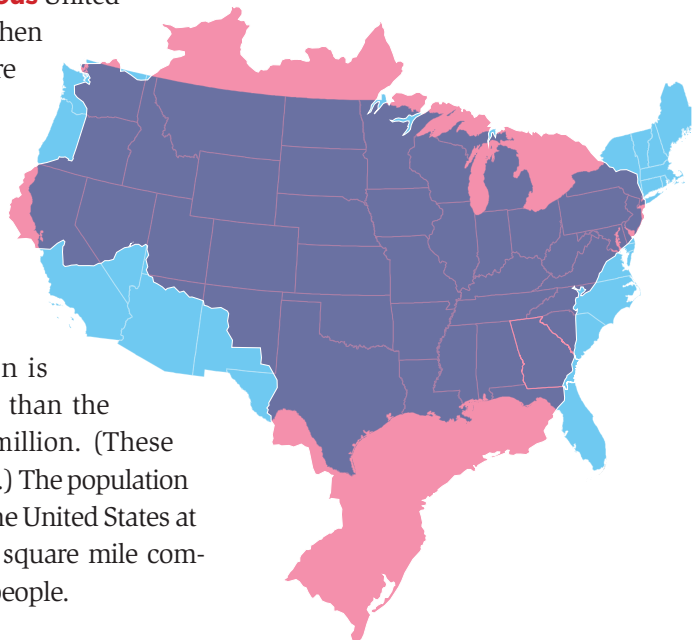
- ▶ the location and size of Brazil;
- ▶ how location and climate determine where people live in Brazil;
- ▶ terms: **Tropic of Capricorn, tributaries, contiguous, brazilwood, deforestation.**

Location and Size of Brazil

Brazil is located on the eastern side of South America along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. It is crossed by the Equator. That means it is located in both the northern and southern hemispheres. Its north-to-south length is so great that it is also crossed by the **Tropic of Capricorn** (the latitude that is 23.5° south of the Equator and is the southernmost latitude reached by the overhead sun). Brazil is also in the western hemisphere, and it shares a border with nearly every country in South America except Chile and Ecuador. The Amazon River and its **tributaries** (streams that flow into larger streams or rivers) extend across much of the northern part of the country.

Brazil is the largest country in Latin America in both land area and population. The country covers almost half of South America. Brazil's land area of 3.3 million square miles is slightly larger than the contiguous United States' 3.1 million square miles. (The 48 adjoining states, or "lower 48," are the **contiguous** United States.) However, when

Alaska and Hawaii are added, the area of the United States is greater than that of Brazil. The populations of the two countries are much different. Brazil's population of about 207 million is about one-third less than the United States' 327 million. (These are estimates for 2017.) The population density is greater in the United States at about 93 people per square mile compared to Brazil's 64 people.



Above: An airline passenger flying due south would recognize this as Ponta do Seixas, the easternmost point of the American continents.

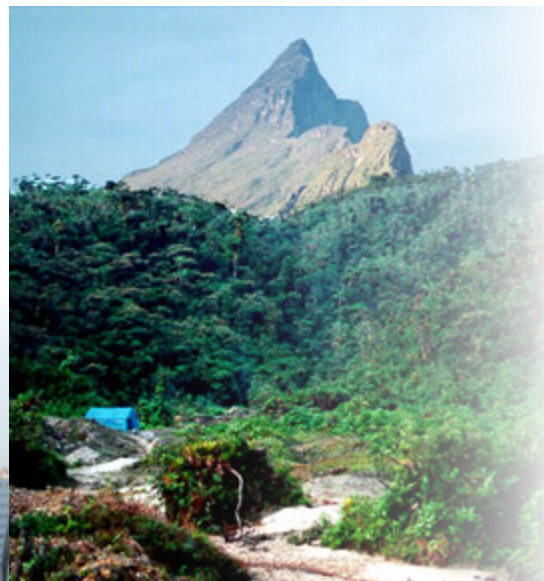
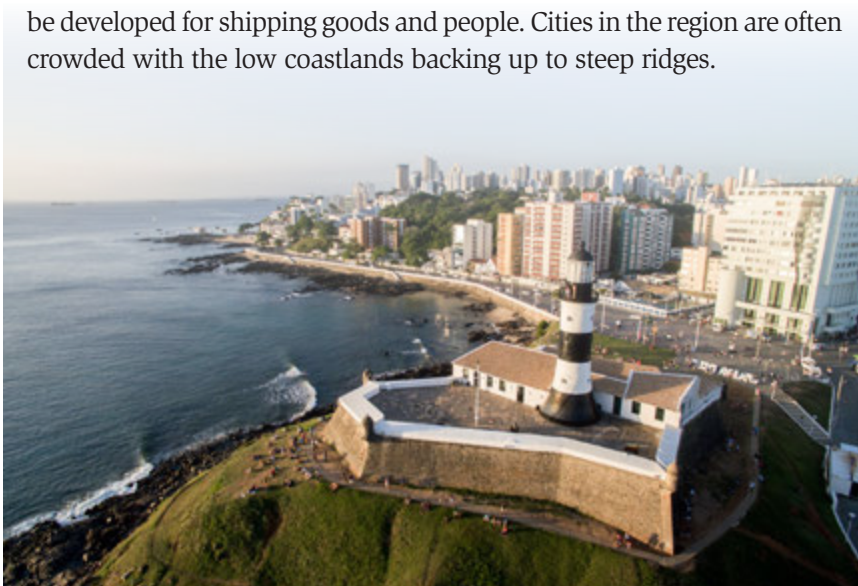
Brazil's location on the Atlantic Ocean and its closeness to the Panama Canal influence its trade with other countries. Brazil's exports can be shipped through any of its seven major seaports. The United States is among Brazil's most important trading partners. However, most of its exports go to Asian countries such as China on routes across the Atlantic and around the tip of Africa at the Cape of Good Hope. Atlantic ships also connect Brazil to important European customers such as the Netherlands and Germany. South American neighbors buy just under 20 percent of Brazil's exports. Tourism is a growing industry in Brazil. The Amazonia Rain Forest draws many visitors. Its animals, plants, and other natural wonders cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Brazil's sandy beaches and warm climate are another appeal. Cities such as Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo have attractions and festivals that bring visitors from around the world.

Physical Geography of Brazil

The northern part of Brazil's geography is dominated by the Amazon Basin. In this region near the Equator, there are low areas surrounded by higher land that lead to the Amazon River and its tributaries. Rainfall of over 100 inches per year fills the waterways leading to the Amazon. The Amazon River itself is the second-longest river in the world. It is estimated to be at least 4,000 miles long. That is about the distance from Atlanta, Georgia, to Los Angeles, California—and back! The river drains an area of nearly 3 million square miles. About 20 percent of the fresh water on Earth's surface flows to the Amazon and empties into the Atlantic Ocean.

The Brazilian Highlands, or Central Plateau, cover most of the southern part of the country. This region is, on average, about 3,300 feet above sea level. The highest point in the region, Bandeira Peak, is 9,482 feet above sea level and is the second-highest point in Brazil. The region is known to be rich in mineral deposits and is famous for its volume and variety of coffee crops.

The coastal lowlands along the Atlantic Ocean form a thin strip on Brazil's coast. Lagoons, sand dunes, sandy beaches, barrier islands, and swamps are a part of this region. Deep harbors here allowed for ports to be developed for shipping goods and people. Cities in the region are often crowded with the low coastlands backing up to steep ridges.



Above: Pico da Neblina (Mist or Fog Peak) is the highest mountain in Brazil.

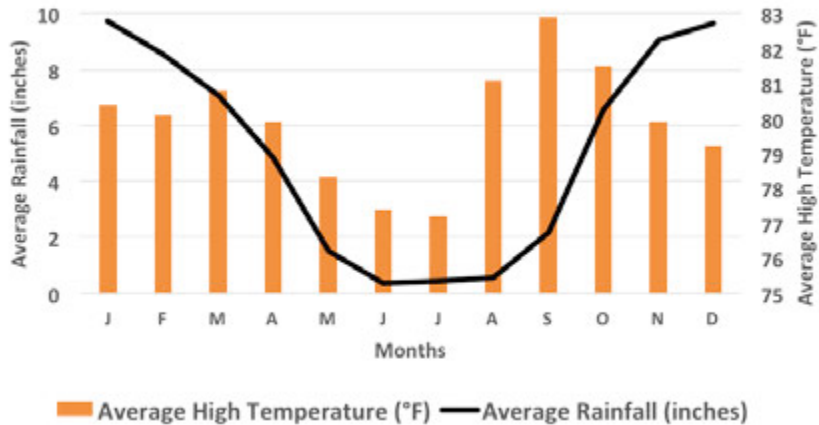
Left: High cliffs hug Brazil's coastline, and the city of Salvador fills a lowland area. The Barra Lighthouse is perched above All Saints Bay.

Figure 15.2

Climate of Brasilia

DID YOU KNOW?

Another name for brazilwood is the pernambuco tree. Pernambuco is the premier wood used in making bows for violins and other stringed instruments.



Climate of Brazil

With its location spanning both the Equator and Tropic of Capricorn, it is not surprising that most of Brazil has a humid tropical and subtropical climate. In the rain forest region, there is little difference in temperature from winter to summer. It remains humid and averages 80°F all year. During the summer (November to April), temperatures in the south toward Rio de Janeiro average a high of 86°F and low of 73°F. However, temperatures of 100°F in summer are not unusual. Temperatures are only slightly lower in winter, with average highs around 77°F and lows of 64°F.

Brazilians get about 55 inches of rain per year. Some drier zones in the north may get as little as 15 inches, while some areas of the Amazon get over 180 inches. The rainfall and the temperatures make for a humid climate in most of the country. Snowfall is occasionally seen in the southernmost states at high elevations in winter.

Natural Resources of Brazil

Only 7 percent of Brazil's land is arable, but Brazil makes the most of this resource. Twenty percent of the workers in Brazil are farmers. They produce one-third of the world's coffee, and they lead the world in the production of oranges, papayas, and sugarcane. Soybeans and soybean products are important items for trade with other countries. The tropical climate in Brazil means that the agriculture industry can have a longer growing season to harvest its crops. Only the United States exports more farm products than Brazil.

While agriculture is important to the economy, Brazil has other resources. Iron ore, for instance, is mined and exported to countries that specialize in manufacturing. The top two countries that buy Brazil's iron ore are China and the United States. Minerals such as bauxite, gold, nickel, and platinum are found in Brazil. Brazilians use the many rivers in the region to create hydroelectricity as an energy source. The timber industry has been important to Brazil since colonial times. In those days, **brazilwood**, also called paubrasilia, was harvested and used to make crimson and purple dyes. In modern Brazil, pine and eucalyptus are the two main types of trees produced, processed, and traded in the country.



Above: Brazilian farmers check their plants at a coffee plantation in Alfenas.

Environmental Issues of Brazil

The Amazonia Rain Forest is home to more than 40,000 different kinds of plants and thousands of types of animals. The region is so large and unexplored that new species are being discovered every year. Trees in the forest can soar up to 150 feet in the air. The rain forests of Brazil are valuable in many ways. Brazil nuts, cocoa, and rubber have been harvested from the region for hundreds of years. Plants have been discovered that can be used to produce drugs for treating diseases. The trees themselves can be sold for timber. Each of these uses by humans comes at a cost to the rain forest, however.

The rain forest is also valuable in creating oxygen, which is required for animal life on Earth. All plants “breathe” carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. The plant-rich Amazon region is an oxygen-making machine. It is estimated that 20 percent of the world’s oxygen is produced in the rain forests of the Amazon region.

The Amazonia Rain Forest is home to many indigenous populations that depend on the forest for their survival. Many of these rain forest people have had little or no contact with the outside world. They maintain their traditional way of life. They hunt and gather their own food, create clothing from materials and animals found in the forest, and build their homes and shelter in the rain forest. The rain forest also provides a spiritual life for the remote people. This beautiful and important environment is threatened by human activity.

Even though Brazil is large in size and population, many Brazilians live in poverty. One way the people acquire money for their families is to clear the forest and sell the timber. Humans use chain saws and bulldozers to clear large areas of the forest and haul away the trees. This process is known as **deforestation**. The cleared land can then be used to start cattle ranches or farms to grow crops. Illegal clearing of the forests increases when the value of crops and cattle go up. In the past 10 years, nearly 200,000 square miles of rain forest have been lost due to deforestation. What will happen if this act is not stopped?



Above: Amazon lands are clear-cut for timber and burned to make way for pastures for livestock. **Bottom:** A rubber tree plantation in Brazil harvests latex sap dripping from cuts made in the tree trunks. In the late 1800s, rubber was Brazil’s most important export.



DID YOU KNOW?

The average Friday evening traffic jam in São Paulo is over 100 miles long.

Deforestation threatens the people, animals, and plants that live in this environment. Soil erosion can be another result of the loss of forest. The government has created laws to control the amount of forest that is cut down; however, little money is spent on enforcing those laws. Environmental groups and governments from around the world are working with Brazil's government to find ways to save this valuable environment. They hope to help Brazil's people find ways to use the forests' resources without destroying the rain forest itself.

People in Brazil

Most Brazilians live along the eastern coastal areas of their country. The southeastern coast is more heavily populated than the northeastern coast, which is closer to the Equator. Few roads extend into the vast Amazonia Rain Forest region of the interior of the country. As a result, 80 percent of the people live within 200 miles of the ocean. Brazil's cities are clustered in this area, too.

The majority of the population lives in the urban areas of São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and the capital of Brasília. City life can be very crowded for the people of Brazil. The area surrounding Rio de Janeiro, for example, is a cultural and historic hub with more than 12 million people crowded between the Atlantic shore and the nearby mountains. In the city of São Paulo, the population density is about 19,000 people per square mile. For comparison, inside the city limits of Atlanta, the density is about 3,500 people per square mile.

About 30 percent of Brazil's people work in health care, education, or government jobs. Another 30 percent work in businesses such as transportation, communications, and trade. Nearly 12 percent of workers find jobs in manufacturing. Because these jobs tend to be located in urban areas, nearly 85 percent of Brazilians live in urban environments.

Brazilians are mostly from European, African, Asian, or indigenous ancestry. Most people speak Brazilian Portuguese and practice the Roman Catholic religion. Over the centuries, the influence of indigenous people and Africans has added to the language and culture of the country.

Overall, the level of poverty has decreased in Brazil in recent years, from about one in four people in poverty in 2003 to less than one in ten in poverty in 2016. However, there are great differences between the income and opportunity found in rural and urban areas. While rural areas still struggle to supply their people's education and medical needs, urban areas have grown wealthier. São Paulo, in fact, has one of the highest concentrations of billionaires in the world.



Reviewing the Section

1. Where is population density greatest in Brazil? Why do you think this is so?
2. What are the major crops grown in Brazil?
3. Give three reasons the rain forest is important to Brazil.
4. What is causing deforestation in Brazil? What are the effects?
5. Why do you think many Brazilians are willing to allow destruction of the rain forest?
6. Deeper Thinking: Why are people and governments from other countries working with Brazil to protect its rain forest?



São Paulo has the largest group of Japanese living together in the world outside of Japan.

Above: Colorful favelas, or shanty towns, climb the hills on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro. Poverty is high in these areas. **Bottom:** São Paulo is the largest city in Brazil and one of the largest in the world with more than 20 million people in its metropolitan area.

special Feature

The Amazing Importance of Amazonia

The Amazon River basin and the surrounding rain forest form one of the unique ecosystems of the world. There are millions of different species of plants and animals, and the trees and other vegetation are thought to produce about 20 percent of Earth's oxygen.

One role the rain forest plays is cleaning the air. Humans' burning of fossil fuels such as gasoline, natural gas, and coal produces carbon dioxide (CO₂). This gas is naturally occurring when animals exhale, but the volume of CO₂ in the atmosphere has increased. The rain forest is able to filter the excess CO₂ through its natural processes. When trees are cut, other plants are often put in their place. However, these plants cannot process the amount of CO₂ of the native forest.

Researchers have learned that the rain forest also has an effect on climate. Water released by the forest into the atmosphere and into the rivers affects ocean currents and precipitation levels. Some areas of rain forest that have been cleared of trees become almost desert-like because the sun dries the ground that was once sheltered by the tree canopy.

The indigenous people of Amazonia learned that there were treatments in the forest for medical problems. Scientists have studied some of these, and many have found their way into modern medical treatments. For instance, the bark of the cinchona tree is a source of quinine used to treat and cure malaria. The curare lianas are vines that can grow nearly 100 feet tall and be four inches thick. The vine's bark is dead, but from it a chemical has been found that can act as an anesthetic and muscle relaxer.

Researchers continue to learn more about the importance of the Amazonia Rain Forest. How might the people of Brazil work to preserve this natural wonder?

Below: Amazonia is home to his colorful but dangerous poison dart frog. **Bottom:** The bark of the cinchona tree yields quinine that is used to treat and cure malaria. **Background:** The Amazon River meanders through the rain forest in Brazil. The river provided a natural highway for explorers to travel inland.



Section 2

A Brief History of Brazil



As you read, look for

- ▶ Portugal's colonization of Brazil;
- ▶ how Brazil gained independence from Portugal;
- ▶ the expansion of African slavery in Brazil;
- ▶ terms: **Treaty of Tordesillas**, **coup**.

Exploration and Colonization

In 1500, a fleet of Portuguese ships led by Pedro Álvares Cabral arrived in present-day Brazil. When the first colonists arrived, they encountered the Tupinambá Indians, one of many groups of native people living in South America. Portugal's early goal for the colony was to harvest brazilwood, or paubrasilia. The tree, which was a source of wood useful for making red dye, gave the colony its name. The Portuguese also wanted to establish permanent settlements and claim the land for Portugal. At first, the natives and the Portuguese worked together to harvest the trees. Later, the need to move inland to find forested areas made the paubrasilia trade less attractive. Plantations were developed on the land that had been cleared. Tobacco and later sugarcane were grown. This increased the need for workers. The Portuguese tried to enslave the native people, but many natives died because of the hard work and the diseases brought by Europeans. Other natives fled to escape the harsh conditions in the fields. To obtain laborers, the Portuguese turned to the African slave trade.

DID YOU KNOW ?

When Cabral arrived in 1500, the indigenous population of Brazil was estimated to have been more than 3 million; today the number is about 200,000.



Bottom: This romanticized painting depicts Cabral's first landing in Brazil. Thinking he had discovered an island, he called it the Island of the True Cross.

Most of the European settlers preferred living in coastal areas, but a few ventured into the Amazon interior. Two of these groups were Roman Catholic missionaries, who were determined to find natives to convert to Christianity, and *bandeirantes*, tough men who marched inland in search of natives to enslave.

For hundreds of years, the Portuguese had to defend themselves from foreign powers wanting to take Brazil's natural resources. A 1493 papal bull (official decree from the pope) and the 1494 **Treaty of Tordesillas** settled the dispute between Portugal and Spain over control of land in the New World.

The Portuguese were unable to establish a strong government in the New World. By the end of the 17th century, emeralds, diamonds, and gold were found in Brazil. The region began to export 30,000 pounds of gold a year to Portugal. Fortune hunters rushed to Brazil aboard ships filled with carpenters, stonemasons, sculptors, and painters to build cities in the Brazilian wilderness.

By the 18th century, Brazil had successfully fought off invasions by other European nations, and it had roughly established the borders it has today. As the interior of the county opened, so did the opportunities for cattle ranching. Portugal's policies, however, favored shipping Brazil's resources to Portugal rather than developing a Brazilian economy. In 1808, major changes began when the royal family was chased out of Portugal by the French army of Napoleon.



Above: A 1502 map shows the line set by the Treaty of Tordesillas dividing Spanish and Portuguese territory in the New World. **Right:** The ruins of a Roman Catholic mission in São Miguel das Missões are from the 17th century.



Independence, Empire, and Dictators

When Napoleon Bonaparte conquered much of Europe, the royal family of Portugal fled to Brazil. The prince regent, who later became King John VI, began transforming the region by building universities, a bank, and a mint. The ports were opened to trade with other nations, particularly England, and morale improved throughout Brazil. With the fall of Napoleon, the king returned to Portugal. He left his son, Pedro I, in Brazil to govern. But Pedro had his own ideas and plans for governing. He proclaimed Brazil's independence on September 7, 1822, and established the Empire of Brazil. Nine years later, following a period of unrest in Brazil and costly foreign wars, the emperor stepped down. His five-year-old son, Pedro II, became the new emperor and ruled for many years.

The next ruler, Pedro II's daughter Princess Isabel, officially ended slavery in Brazil in 1888. Unhappy with this decision, landowners and the military decided the monarchy should be abolished. This act forced the royal family out of power and sent them back to Portugal.

Brazil's first republican government was established on November 15, 1889. A long series of weak presidents served during what is now called the Old Republic. The true power and decision making came from owners of the coffee and rubber companies in Brazil. From the 1930s until the 1950s, Brazil experienced a period of political instability including a military coup and a dictatorship. A **coup** is a sudden overthrow of a government by a country's military leaders or another small, powerful group.

Juscelino Kubitschek de Oliveira served as president of Brazil from 1956 to 1961. His term was marked by economic prosperity and political stability. He is best remembered for the construction of a new capital, Brasília. This planned city was built 600 miles inland to encourage growth and development away from the traditional coastal cities.

Below: Prince Pedro became Emperor Dom Pedro I of Brazil from 1822 to 1831. **Bottom:** The Portuguese royal family was forced to escape to Brazil in 1808 due to the invasion of France's Napoleon in 1807.



A leader who favored long-term planning and who set high goals for Brazil's future, Kubitschek is viewed inside the country as the father of modern Brazil. Unfortunately, when he left office, his successor ushered in another period of coups, dictatorships, and military rule. Five generals led Brazil through 20 years of military rule. Although the

military did bring about the “economic miracle” of the 1970s, the prosperity did not last. Political power returned to civilian control in 1985, but the president died before taking office. His successor had been an ally of the military rulers, but he did oversee the writing of a new constitution for Brazil that went into effect in 1988.

The first president elected under the new constitution in 1990 was impeached. The second president resigned because of his unpopularity from high unemployment, new taxes, budget cuts, and recession.

In the 21st century, the peaceful transitions of power in 1998, 2006, and 2010 indicate that Brazil has finally succeeded in achieving its long-sought political stability.

In recent years Brazil has elected Dilma

Rousseff, the country's first woman president and as such one of the most powerful women in the world. She was removed from office by the Brazilian Senate through impeachment in 2016, however, on charges she illegally moved government funds to pay for popular social programs.



Above: These protesters demonstrated in favor of impeaching President Dilma Rousseff during voting in the Brazilian Parliament.

Reviewing the Section

1. Which European country was the first to settle modern-day Brazil?
2. Name two goals the Portuguese had for the new colony.
3. Describe the relationship between the new colonists and the indigenous people. What event happened to change that relationship?
4. Why were African slaves brought to Brazil?
5. **Deeper Thinking:** Describe the major changes that took place in Brazil in the early 1800s. Do you think the transition from empire rule to republic rule was beneficial for Brazil? Explain your answer.

special Feature

The 2016 Summer Olympics

In August 2016, the world's attention focused on Brazil for the gathering of nations at the Summer Olympic Games. The city of Rio de Janeiro hosted over 11,000 athletes from more than 200 countries in over 300 events at "Rio 2016." This was the first time a South American country has hosted the games. The world watched and waited to see if Rio could be ready in time for the athletes and whether the games could be successful.

The honor of hosting the 31st Summer Olympics was given to the city of Rio de Janeiro in 2009. The city beat out Chicago, Tokyo, and Madrid, among others, for the opportunity. With only seven years to complete the tasks, Brazilians set about quickly to build new stadiums, dormitories, and other facilities to host not only athletes but also news media and spectators. Sixteen new event sites were built for the games, and eight were updated. The largest site was the Maracanã Stadium, which seated over 74,000 people. Numerous events were held there as well as the opening and closing ceremonies.

Brazilians had some setbacks during preparation for the games. Construction delays and accidents pushed the deadlines of the workers. Some facilities were completed only just in time for the athletes' arrival. Another concern was the Zika virus. This disease is transmitted by mosquitoes, which are common in the tropics. Efforts were put into place immediately to reduce stagnant water and eliminate mosquitoes in areas where athletes were present. Crime was another concern. Additional police were added to Rio's police force, and the federal government stepped in to increase military security.

The games were a huge success for the country. Thousands of visitors from around the world attended the games, and millions watched by television and video streamed over the Internet. Not only were people entertained and excited by the competitions, but Rio de Janeiro and the country of Brazil received international praise for their efforts. The country proved that a South American nation could successfully host a modern Olympics. Which Olympic event do you most enjoy watching?



Top: The Olympic Torch was brought into Maracanã Stadium as part of the opening ceremonies of the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Above: The Olympic Flame burned in Maracanã Stadium during the Olympic Games. **Background:** The Olympic Flag with a view of the city of Rio de Janeiro.

Section 3

The Government of Brazil



As you read, look for

- ▶ the type of government in Brazil today;
- ▶ the role of the citizen in choosing Brazil's leaders;
- ▶ terms: **federal government, presidential democracy, National Congress.**

Below: Brazil's Chamber of Deputies has 513 elected representatives.

Bottom: In the National Congress building in Brasília, the Senate meets under the shallow dome on the left and the Chamber of Deputies meets under the bowl-shaped dome on the right.

Structure of Government

Brazil has a **federal government** in which power is divided between the central government and the state and local governments. This is similar to the government of the United States. Brazil is a **presidential democracy**. The citizens directly elect the president. Much like the presidency of the United States, the Brazilian president and vice president are elected on the same ballot for a four-year term and are eligible for a second term for a possible eight years in office.

The president is the leader of the executive branch of government and is both the chief of state and the head of government. The president is responsible for the decisions the government makes and the day-to-day running of government business. The president represents the country to foreign governments and is the commander-in-chief of the Brazilian military. The president appoints a cabinet of leaders to be responsible for certain areas of the government. Cabinet leaders are called ministers. From agriculture to education, transportation, and defense, many departments have ministers to advise the president on the daily operations.



The legislative branch of government is directed by the **National Congress**. Citizens directly elect all the members of the legislature, which is divided into two houses, the Federal Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. The Congress meets in the National Congress building in Brasília. Members of the National Congress are elected by the people of Brazil every four years. The Federal Senate has 81 members who serve eight-year terms. The Chamber of Deputies has 513 members who serve four-year terms.



Citizen Participation

Citizens of Brazil have many freedoms, and they also have the right to vote. Men and women who are 16 to 17 years old may choose to vote. Citizens who are 18 to 70 years old are required by law to vote—and can be fined if they fail to do so. Those over 70 may choose to vote. There are many political parties. Most parties have particular beliefs that attract followers based on their principles and how they can make Brazil better. Others parties organize around the popularity of particular people.

Reviewing the Section

1. What type of government does Brazil have? How is power divided?
2. Copy and complete the chart. Compare the governments of Brazil and the United States. What similarities do you notice?

| | BRAZIL | UNITED STATES |
|---|--------|---------------|
| Type of Government | | |
| Head of State | | |
| Head of Government | | |
| Term Length for Leader of Executive Branch | | |
| Second Term Allowed for Leader of Executive Branch? | | |

3. What role does the Brazilian citizen play in electing a president?
4. What are Brazil's political parties based on?
5. Deeper Thinking: Why do you think most citizens of Brazil are required to vote in elections? Do you agree with the consequence if they do not?

Top: A session of Brazil's Federal Senate.

Section 4

The Economy of Brazil

Setting a Purpose

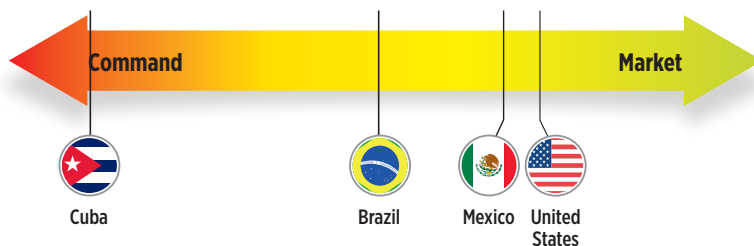
As you read, look for

- ▶ the type of economy in Brazil;
- ▶ how Brazilians trade to meet their needs and wants;
- ▶ the standard of living in Brazil;
- ▶ terms: **self-sufficient, voluntary trade, national debt, austerity, Bolsa Família, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), Brazilian real.**



Figure 15.3

Economic Systems in Latin America



Economic System Today

There are no pure command or market economies in the world, but economies fall on a continuum somewhere between the two. In Brazil, a market system is in place for most businesses and farms. However, the government owns and controls some large industries such as steel production. Private business owners and corporations are in charge of deciding what products should be manufactured and how those products are manufactured. They also decide what price should be placed on those products and how these products are distributed throughout the country or internationally.

Above: This sugar-processing plant in Campo Florido produces ethanol, which can be used to fuel automobiles.

Right: Brazil has increased its production of manufactured goods such as these tractors being made in São Paulo.



Being an entrepreneur, or one who is willing to start a business or service, is also an option for citizens in Brazil. This process may take some time, but it can be worth it for citizens who want to produce a new or better good or service. They can make the decisions of what to produce, how to produce it, and who their target market will be. Brazil has many economic freedoms. This is why Brazil is among the strongest of the Latin American countries when it comes to a market economic system.

Trade

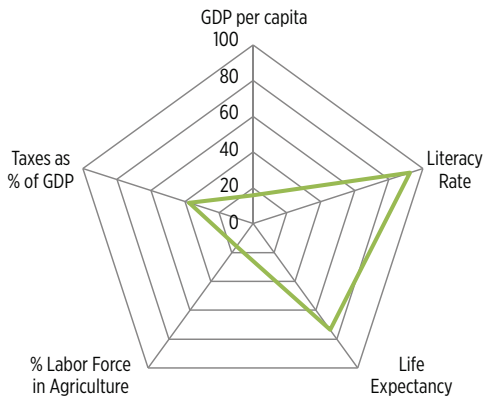
Trade is good business. Both parties involved in a trade are better off after the trade than they were before the trade, or the exchange would not have happened. In today's world where people and businesses specialize, people must trade in order to satisfy their needs and wants. Most countries do not have the resources they need to be **self-sufficient** (able to exist without outside help). They trade through importing and exporting natural resources that can be transformed into other products.

Brazil's many industries include textiles, shoes, steel, motor vehicle parts, and other machinery and equipment. Not all of the materials that are needed in these industries are found in Brazil. The Brazilian government must import some products like smaller automotive parts, oil, and electrical parts in order to produce the larger machinery and equipment. They are then able to export the finished products to countries that need larger equipment for farming and agriculture work, and automotive parts to countries that manufacture automobiles. Since each country is getting what it needs, it is called **voluntary trade**.



Top: Brazil's top export is iron ore. The Carajás Mine in Parauapebas is the largest iron ore mine in the world. **Above:** Soybeans are the third-largest export of Brazil. At this farm in Campo Verde, soybeans are harvested by modern machines. **Left:** Cargo ships can navigate portions of the Amazon River. This makes the river an important highway for trading goods in Brazil.

Figure 15.4
Brazil Spider Graph



Brazil's trading partners are all over the world. China, the United States, Argentina, and the Netherlands receive the largest part of Brazil's exports. Its main exports include iron ore, soybeans, crude petroleum, sugar, and coffee. In 2014, Brazil exported over \$228 billion in products to other countries. Because the growing season is so long in Brazil, its farmers are able to export more agriculture products to countries that do not have such a long growing season.

Brazil must also import products from other countries. Petroleum products form the largest part of Brazil's imports followed by automobiles, automobile parts, electrical equipment, chemical products, and electronics that are not manufactured in Brazil. Brazil mainly imports products from China, the United States, Argentina, and Germany.

Standard of Living

Brazil has large and well-developed agricultural, mining, manufacturing, and service sectors, and a rapidly expanding middle class. Brazil's economy is the largest in South America. Since 2003, Brazil has steadily improved its economic stability and reduced its **national debt** (the total outstanding borrowings of the country's government).

The global financial crisis hit Brazil in 2008. However, Brazil was one of the first markets to begin a recovery. In 2010, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in Brazil reached 7.5 percent, the highest growth rate in the past 25 years. Brazil's traditionally high level of income inequality has declined in the 21st century.

Brazil's government has tried to increase economic growth through tax cuts for industry and incentives to increase household consumption. After winning reelection in October 2014, President Dilma Rousseff appointed a new economic team that introduced an **austerity** (extreme economy) package to help the country reduce the amount of money it needed to operate.



Above: Educating students in rural and poor areas of the country, like these indigenous students in Porto Seguro, continues to be a problem for Brazilians. **Bottom:** High-poverty neighborhoods in Salvador contrast with expensive high-rise buildings.

Investment in Human Capital

Brazil is working to strengthen its workforce and its economy over the long run by investing in education through social programs such as Bolsa Família and the Brazil Science Mobility Program, and by investing in research in the areas of space, nanotechnology, health care, and energy.

Bolsa Família reaches 11 million of the country's low-income families. Poor families with children receive additional money from the government. In return, they agree to keep their children in school and take them for regular health checks. As a result, Bolsa Família has helped reduce poverty, and has encouraged families to invest in their children with a goal of breaking the cycle of poverty.

The Brazil Scientific Mobility Program (BSMP) provides scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students from Brazil for study at colleges and universities in the United States. Scholarships are awarded to students in the **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)** fields. After completion of an academic year in the United States, students return to Brazil to complete their degrees. The Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Georgia are among the public universities in Georgia hosting BSMP students.

Currency

The currency of Brazil, the **Brazilian real**, was introduced in 1994 to help the declining value of the Brazilian currency. It was changed in hopes of being of equal value to the US dollar. The Central Bank of Brazil was in charge of monitoring the rates with international exchange rates, especially the US dollar. After several international influences, including the breakup of the Soviet Union, the new currency suffered a major loss, but the real has since settled out and exchanges at a rate similar to the US dollar.

In Other Words

Nanotechnology is the science of working with atoms and molecules to build devices (such as robots) that are extremely small.



Reviewing the Section

1. What type of economy does Brazil have?
2. What decisions are entrepreneurs allowed to make?
3. How does the climate affect Brazil's agriculture production?
4. Deeper Thinking: Why does Brazil need programs such as Bolsa Família? How could such a program help to eliminate poverty?

Above: Brazilian coins. **Bottom:** Brazilian real banknotes.

Section 5

US-Brazil Relations



As you read, look for

- ▶ Brazil's relationship with the United States;
- ▶ ways in which Brazil and the United States work together;
- ▶ term: **bilateral**.

Bilateral Political and Economic Relations

The United States and Brazil have enjoyed a long history of positive political and economic relations. As the two largest democracies and economies in the western hemisphere, the United States and Brazil have a commitment to expand economic growth, promote peace and security, show respect for human rights, and strengthen defense and security. Since 2011, the United States and Brazil have signed more than 25 **bilateral** (involving two sides) agreements.

Economic relations between the United States and Brazil are important and continue to grow. The two countries have created many ways to continue to expand prosperity in both countries. Some of the ways the two countries work together include these: The Economic and Financial Dialogue (promotes common positions on global issues); The Joint Commission on Economic and Trade Relations (explores cooperation on economic and trade issues); The Commercial Dialogue (develops ways to eliminate barriers to trade and investment); The CEO Forum (US and Brazilian business executives advise government policymakers on economic issues); The Consultative Committee on Agriculture (seeks to boost agricultural trade and cooperation); The Strategic Energy Dialogue (aims to strengthen energy security, create new jobs and industries, and reduce carbon emissions).



Above: Brazilian Defense Minister Nelson Jobim (left) and US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates (right) sign a US-Brazil Cooperation Agreement at the Pentagon in 2010. **Right:** Brazil's modern embassy building in Washington, DC.



Trade and Tourism

Brazil is the world's seventh-largest economy and one of the United States' largest trading partners. US exports to Brazil totaled over \$27 billion in 2016, and imports totaled over \$23 billion. Brazil's main imports from the United States are petroleum products, machinery, aircraft, electronics, and optical and medical instruments. The United States is Brazil's second-largest export market. The primary products imported from Brazil to the United States are crude oil, vehicles, electronics, and machinery.

Brazilian tourism is at an all-time high, making up the fifth-largest group of foreign visitors to the United States. The United States welcomed a record 2.3 million visitors from Brazil in 2014, or six times the number of visitors from just ten years earlier.

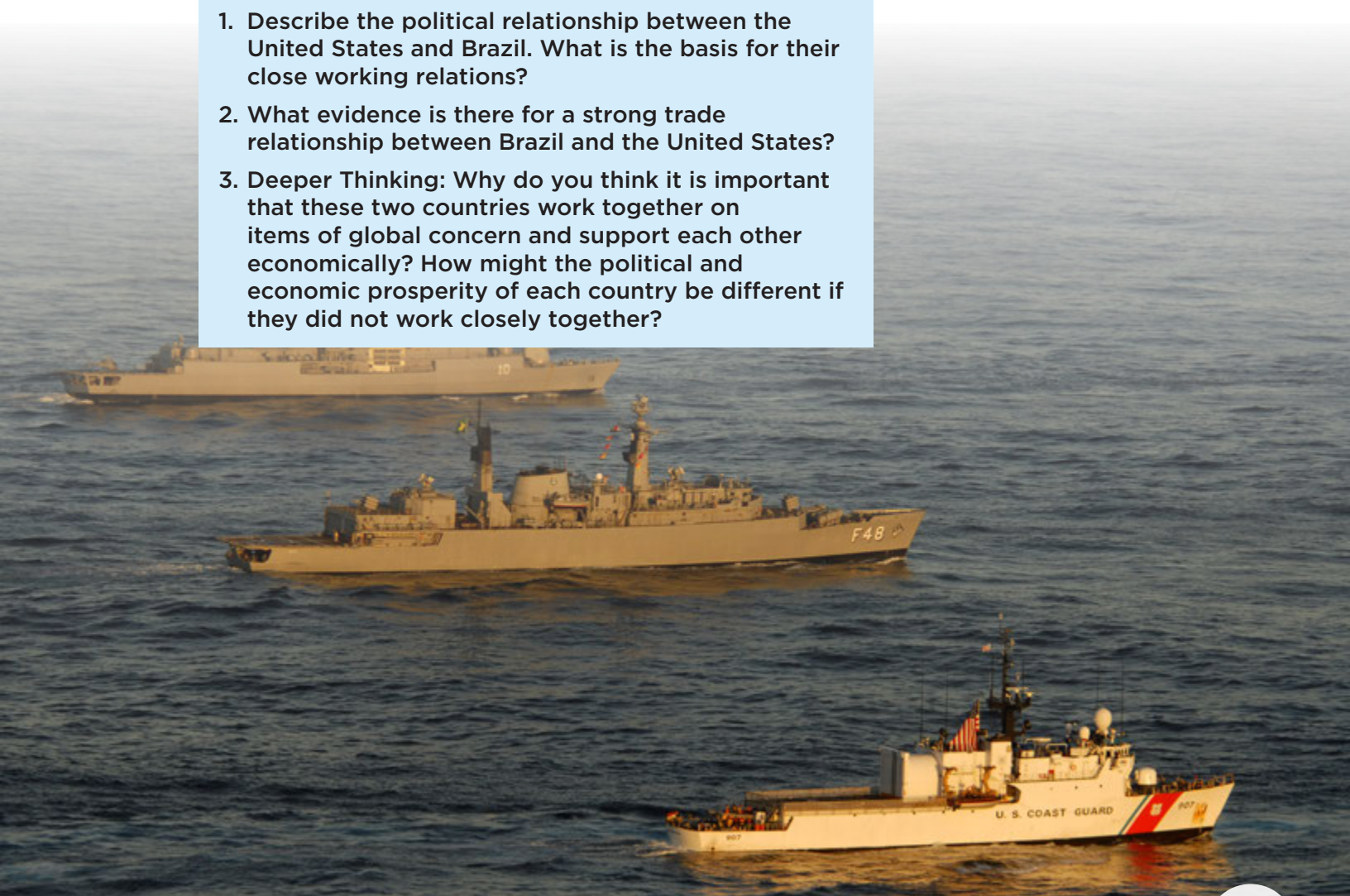
Georgia and Brazil have important trade relationships. In 2014, Atlanta's Mayor Kasim Reed led a trade mission to Brazil. In 2015, Governor Nathan Deal led a group to promote investment, trade, and tourism opportunities. Brazil was Georgia's sixth-largest export market in 2014. Exports totaling nearly \$1.4 billion were sent to Brazil including insecticides, aircraft parts, wood pulp, and medical instruments.

Below: The Brazilian Navy conducted exercises with the US Navy to improve security before the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil. **Bottom:** The US Coast Guard Cutter *Escanaba* joined Brazilian and Argentinean navy ships in 2011 as part of a training exercise among the countries.



Reviewing the Section

1. Describe the political relationship between the United States and Brazil. What is the basis for their close working relations?
2. What evidence is there for a strong trade relationship between Brazil and the United States?
3. Deeper Thinking: Why do you think it is important that these two countries work together on items of global concern and support each other economically? How might the political and economic prosperity of each country be different if they did not work closely together?



Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

Section 1: The Geography of Brazil

- Brazil is the largest country in Latin America. It contains the Amazon River and many ports.
- The Equator and Tropic of Capricorn run through Brazil. This gives the country a tropical climate with warm temperatures year round and plentiful rain.
- Brazil has little arable land, but Brazilians grow and export many products including coffee.
- The Amazonia Rain Forest is important for the planet and natural species, but many poor Brazilians are paid to cut it down for timber. This leads to deforestation.

Section 2: A Brief History of Brazil

- Brazil was colonized by the Portuguese in the 1500s. It was named after the important crop brazilwood (paubrasilia).
- For hundreds of years, the Portuguese took natural resources from Brazil to enrich themselves without creating a proper country or economy there.
- When Portugal was threatened by Napoleon, the royal family fled to Brazil and began investing in the area. Later, Pedro I declared Brazil an independent country.
- The monarchy ruled until 1889. Since then, Brazil has had some strong leaders but mainly dictators and military rule until recently.

Section 3: The Government of Brazil

- The government of Brazil is very similar to that of the United States with a federal government and presidential democracy.
- Citizens elect legislators to the bicameral National Congress, which is made up of the Federal Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.
- Brazilians age 18 to 70 are required to vote, but anyone older than 16 can vote if they wish to.

Section 4: The Economy of Brazil

- Due to a long growing season, Brazil exports mostly agricultural goods. It imports petroleum and equipment to produce other products.
- Brazil has a strong economy but has historically had high levels of income inequality, which is why many citizens require social programs like Bolsa Família.
- The currency of Brazil is the Brazilian real.

Section 5: US–Brazil Relations

- The United States and Brazil have many bilateral trade agreements and many programs to encourage further trade.
- The United States imports oil, electronics, and machinery from Brazil.
- Many of Georgia's exports head to Brazil, and the state has worked to foster good relations with the country.

Activities for Learning

Reviewing People, Places, and Things



Imagine you are a journalist. Using your knowledge of Brazil, write a realistic headline for each of the words and names below.

deforestation

Amazon Basin

Juscelino Kubitschek de Oliveira

austerity

Bolsa Família

national debt

National Congress

Brazilian real

Understanding the Facts



1. Why is the Amazonia Rain Forest important to everyone on the planet?
2. Where do most Brazilians live in the country?
3. Why was the Treaty of Tordesillas unable to solve problems between European powers?
4. When and why was the royal family forced out of Brazil?
5. How is the government of Brazil similar to that of the United States?
6. What is income inequality?
7. Name two ways Brazil is investing in human capital.

Developing Critical Thinking



1. All Brazilians between the ages of 18 and 70 are required to vote in elections. How do you think this responsibility affects how Brazilians think about their civic duties and engagement with political news?
2. Portugal did not create any proper society or economy in Brazil until the monarchy was exiled there. What do you think this implies about how Europeans viewed their colonies?

Writing across the Curriculum



Imagine you are on vacation in Brazil to see the Amazonia Rain Forest. Write a detailed letter to a friend describing what you have seen and interesting facts your tour guide shared with you.

Applying Your Skills



Create a timeline of Brazil's history including at least six points you believe are the most important events in the country's history.

Exploring Technology



The World Factbook on the CIA's website has information on many countries. Look through at least two tabs on the Brazil page here: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos/br.html>. List at least two interesting facts you learned from the website that were not discussed in this chapter.