

World Geography

Chapter 12

Brazil

World Geography

Chapter 12: Brazil

Section 1: The Land and Its Regions

Section 2: Brazil's Quest for Economic Growth



The Land and Its Regions



- **What environmental and economic challenges exist in the northeast?**
- **How has urbanization affected the southeast region?**
- **Why has the government encouraged urban growth and economic development in the Brazilian Highlands?**
- **What are the main characteristics of the Amazon River basin ecosystem?**



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Northeast Region



- **Sugar plantations on the coastal plain have made Brazil the world's largest exporter of sugar.**
- **The *sertão*, or interior plateau, has hard soils and bakes through year-long droughts.**
- **Life expectancy is short because of low incomes and poor nutrition.**



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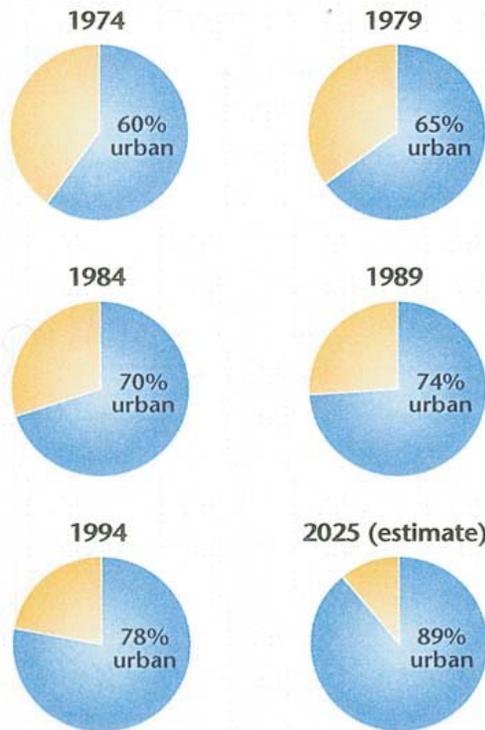
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Southeast Region



Urbanization of Brazil



Sources: UN Population Division; *Chicago Tribune*

- **Rural Brazilians migrate to cities looking for a better life.**
- **Many find no jobs or low-paying jobs, and most end up in slum communities called **favelas**.**
- **Some favelas are being torn down and replaced with affordable public housing.**



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Brazilian Highlands



- **The national government hoped to boost development of the interior region.**
- **The Brazilian government also hoped to draw people away from the crowded coastal cities.**
- **The new capital of Brasília, located 600 miles inland, was officially “inaugurated” in 1960.**



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Amazon River Region



The Amazon River basin is the largest and least explored region in Brazil.

The Amazon River basin spreads across more than half of Brazil.

The region receives heavy rainfall: more than 80 inches (200 cm) per year.

Temperatures are constant at 80° F (27° C) or higher.

The rain forest is home to a wide variety of plants and animals.



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Section 1 Review



The *sertão* is

- a) a river valley.
- b) a mineral-rich mountain range.
- c) an interior plateau with poor soil.
- d) a coastal area in the south.

What are *favelas*?

- a) villages in the *sertão*
- b) wealthy neighborhoods in the large cities
- c) large commercial farms
- d) slum communities in the large cities

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Section 1 Review



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Brazil's Quest for Economic Growth



- **What economic challenges are faced by the urban and rural poor?**
- **How have Brazilian government policies affected the economy?**
- **What effects has economic growth had on the labor force in Brazil?**
- **How has economic development contributed to environmental change?**



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Economic Challenges



Most of Brazil's poorest live in urban *favelas* or the rural northeast.

- Many parents in *favelas* cannot afford to feed or house their children.
- Homeless children work in menial jobs or beg for coins.
- Many people in rural areas work on **plantations** or become subsistence farmers.
- The harsh conditions of the *sertão* contribute to the poverty of farmers living there.



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Government Policies



Economic Activities

- During the the 1940s and 1950s, the Brazilian government began building steel mills, oil refineries, and hydroelectric dams.
- Brazil's economy grew tremendously in 1950s as manufacturing increased and Brazilians began to move from rural to urban areas.

Patterns of Settlement

- The government began a program to develop the interior, “planting” Brasília in the Brazilian Highlands.
- A massive road-building project, with Brasília at its center, connected many areas of the country.
- New roads and land grants drew many settlers to the Brazilian Highlands and Amazon regions.



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Economic Growth



- **Brazil ranks among the world's leading industrial nations.**
- **The development of **gasohol**, a mixture of gasoline and alcohol made from sugar cane that is used as fuel, meant Brazil no longer needed to import expensive foreign oil.**
- **The majority of the work force has moved from agriculture to manufacturing and service industries.**
- **Brazil now has a growing skilled, educated middle class.**



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Environmental Changes



Challenges and Opportunities

- Settlers moving to the Amazon region found that only the thick vegetation kept the soil from washing away.
- In order to continue farming, farmers needed to clear more land.

New Efforts

- **Deforestation** threatens the biological diversity of the Amazon region.
- The Brazilian government is working to combat deforestation and to promote **ecotourism**, tourism that encourages environmental awareness.



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Section 2 Review



How did land grants and new roads affect Brazil?

- a) Settlers moved into the Highlands and Amazon regions.
- b) Industry stagnated and declined.
- c) More people migrated into the cities in the southeast.
- d) The *sertão* became depopulated.

Brazil is combating deforestation by

- a) removing woodlands.
- b) promoting ecotourism and encouraging maintenance of the forest.
- c) expanding industry and building hydroelectric dams.
- d) encouraging people to migrate to the cities.

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Section 2 Review



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