

Brazil**



COUNTRY OVERVIEW

CAPITAL: Brasilia

POPULATION: 198,739,269

ETHNIC GROUPS: Caucasian (53.7%), Mulatto (16%), African American (11%)

LOCATION: Eastern South America, bordering the Atlantic Ocean

CLIMATE: Mostly tropical, but temperate in the south

RELIGIONS: Roman Catholic (73.6%), Protestant (15.4%), Spiritualist (1.3%), other (1.8%), none (7.4%)

LANGUAGES: Portuguese (official, most widely spoken language); less common languages include Spanish, German, Italian, Japanese, English, and a large number of Amerindian languages

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

TEACHING STYLES - In public schools, teacher-fronted teaching style is common. Many teachers teach from first grade through fourth grade even though they have little or no knowledge of the subjects. On the other hand, in private school, learner centered style, and one teacher for every three subjects through fourth or fifth grade. After that, one teacher teaches one subject. Using visual aids or reading materials for explanation by teachers are common. Therefore, students work in pairs or as a group, as well as homework.

LEARNING STYLES - Students raise their hands for questioning. Pairs or group work is common. Games are used for learning methods.

INSTRUCTIONAL SETTING - Female teachers are common, especially in preschool and lower grades.



DISCIPLINE AND CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT- A common problem is noise which results from not paying attention and talking. At the university level, students may leave the class. Students with unacceptable behavior will be sent to the school director. After two warnings, or immediately, the students may be suspended or expelled.

EDUCATOR-STUDENT RELATIONSHIP - Teachers are like counselors and disciplinarians. Teachers are respected and obeyed by student. On the other hand, teachers can also be student's friend. However, the relationship should be kept in private.

STUDENT-STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS - Students work well with others. Meanwhile, they do not think it is wrong to ask peers for help, even with exams. Because students are congenial and afraid of appearing boorish, they often have difficulty saying "no". They might say, "I'll see", or "Maybe", when they never intend to oblige a particular request or invitation.

POLITE/IMPOLITE TOPICS/BEHAVIORS - Direct personal confrontation is avoided. It is expected to be late to an appointment or dinner party. It is impolite not to ask an individual about their family when greeting each other.

**All information from the "CIA World Factbook" and "Understanding Your International Students: An Educational, Cultural, and Linguistic Guide" (October, 2010)