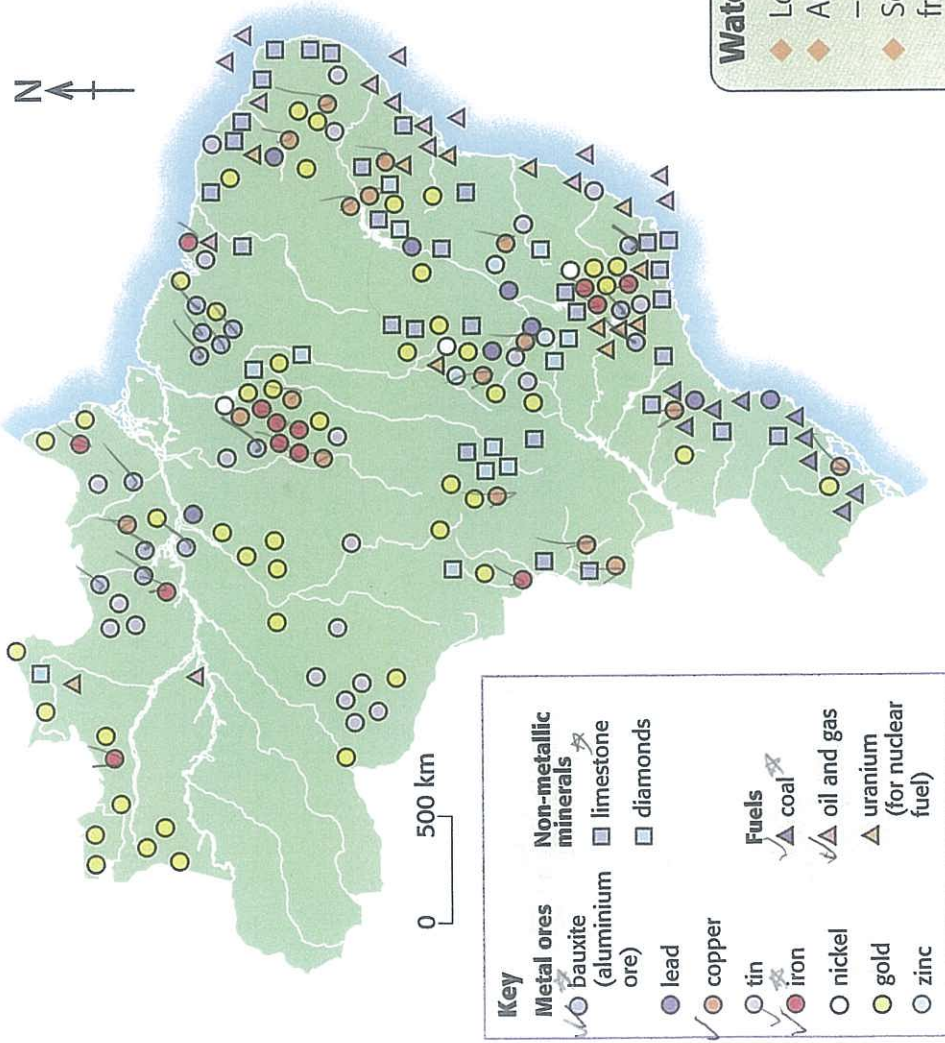


## Brazil's natural resources

For centuries the wood in Brazil's forests has been used as a resource. But Brazil is rich in other natural resources too.



### Fuels

- ◆ Brazil has some oil and gas. (But not nearly enough for its needs.)
- ◆ It also grows sugar cane to make **ethanol**, which is used as a fuel for cars and power stations.

### Minerals

- ◆ Brazil is one of the world's top producers of iron, aluminium, tin and several other metals ...
- ◆ ... and of diamonds and other precious stones ...

### Soil and climate

- ◆ Brazil has a wide range of soils – and climates.
- ◆ So it can grow a wide range of crops: coffee, sugar cane, soya beans, rice, bananas, oranges, cotton and more.

### Water

- ◆ Lots of rivers for supplying water.
- ◆ And many of them are fast and powerful – great for hydroelectricity (page 74).
- ◆ So Brazil gets 90% of its electricity from hydro. (It has some very large dams!)

Brazil is lucky. Its natural resources are helping to make it wealthy. For example it is the world's top exporter of coffee, sugar, soya beans, beef, oranges and orange juice, and the second largest exporter of iron ore.

But the map above does not tell the full story. So far, only about one-third of Brazil has been fully explored for minerals. There's much more to find!