

What's Brazil like?

this unit you'll learn about Brazil's main physical features, and its climate zones.

Brazil's physical features
The Amazon basin and the Brazilian Highlands are Brazil's two main physical features. (Look at the map below.)



The River Amazon

- ◆ Rises in Peru and flows through Brazil to the Atlantic Ocean.
- ◆ The world's second longest river – 6580 km. (The Nile is first).
- ◆ Drains over a third of Brazil, including the rainforest (above).
- ◆ Has hundreds of tributaries.
- ◆ Is over 80 km wide at its mouth!

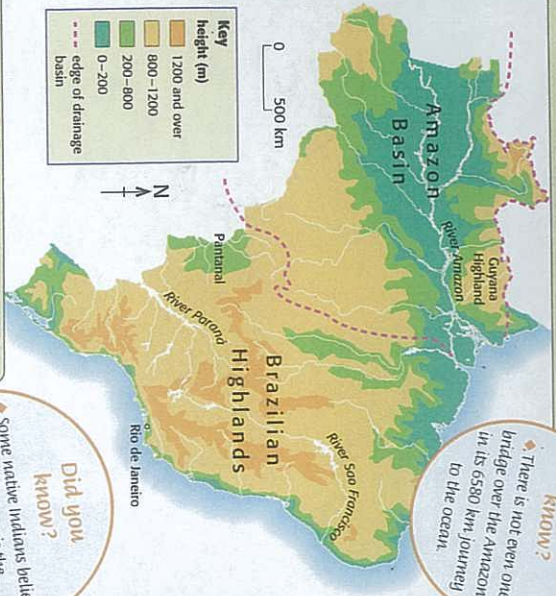
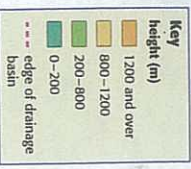


The Brazilian Highlands

- ◆ A mix of ancient hills, plateaux (high flat areas) and mountains.
- ◆ They rise sharply from the coast, forming a steep slope called the Great Escarpment.
- ◆ There's just a narrow strip of land between the escarpment and the Atlantic Ocean.

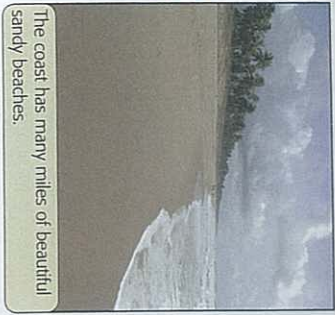
Did you know?
There is not even one bridge over the Amazon in its 6580 km journey to the ocean.

Did you know?
Some native Indians believe the Amazon is the moon's tears. She weeps because she loves the sun but can't get closer to him.

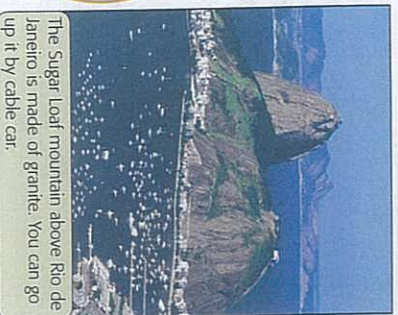


Other rivers

- ◆ Brazil has a great many rivers. The map above shows just the main ones. Note those names!
- ◆ The Parana is the second longest river in South America (4200 km).



The coast has many miles of beautiful sandy beaches.



The Sugar Loaf mountain above Rio de Janeiro is made of granite. You can go up it by cable car.

Brazil's climate

Brazil is huge – over four-fifths the size of Europe. So it is not surprising that it has a range of climates. Most of Brazil lies in the tropics so is hot all year, with an average temperature of around 25°C. But rainfall varies, due to factors such as:
◆ the height of the land
◆ the distance from the coast
◆ the prevailing wind direction.
Now look at its climate zones.



Your turn

- Which are the two main physical features of Brazil?
- Write down three facts about the Amazon.
- This is about the climate map above. (Unit 2.7 and the map on page 106 will help you answer it.)
a It is always cooler at D than at A. Why?
b It is always cooler at E than at F. Why?
c Give a reason why it's wetter at F than at B.
d C is very close to the equator, and to the Amazon. Try to explain why it's always hot and wet there.
- On the right are four climate graphs. Match them to the four places A–D on the map above.
- Copy and complete, using words from the list below.
The _____ of Brazil is _____ and _____.
The large central area is _____ with a _____.
The _____ is _____ with four seasons like the UK.
The driest part of all is in the _____.
south hot north east wet milder dry season north west
- A challenge! When it's winter in London it is summer at D. Explain why. Draw diagrams if that helps.

