

# Brazil



- **Name:** Republica Federativa do Brasil, Federative Republic of Brazil
- **Government:** Democracy, Republic
- **Population:** 213 million people
- **Language:** Portuguese
- **National symbols:** Jaguar (national animal), macaw (national bird) and cattleya orchid (national flower), national colours: green, yellow and blue, the constellation of the Southern Cross
- **National Anthem:** "*Hino Nacional Brasileiro*"



Early origins of **Carnival** began in the 1700s, when those who immigrated to Brazil from Portugal celebrated a festival called *Entrudo*. A little over 100 years later, masquerades were held, where people would dance and cover their faces with fancy decorated masks.

Brazilian carnival in essence is a synthesis of European, indigenous, and Afro-Brazilian cultural influences. Each group has played an important role in the development of the structure and aesthetic of the Brazilian carnival of today. For instance, the main rhythms used in carnival celebrations were developed by Afro-Brazilians and make use of European instruments like the cavaquinho and pandeiro to create melodies and arrangements, also the fantasies and costumes in the Brazilian carnival borrow concepts from the clothing of the natives, like the use of feathers and the tendency to use lighter pieces of clothing.



*Now it's your turn!*

*Cut out a mask from the template and decorate it by gluing feathers, gems and a popsicle stick to hold the mask up to your face. You can also use any coloring tool you have to make the mask colorful and vibrant in order to celebrate!*