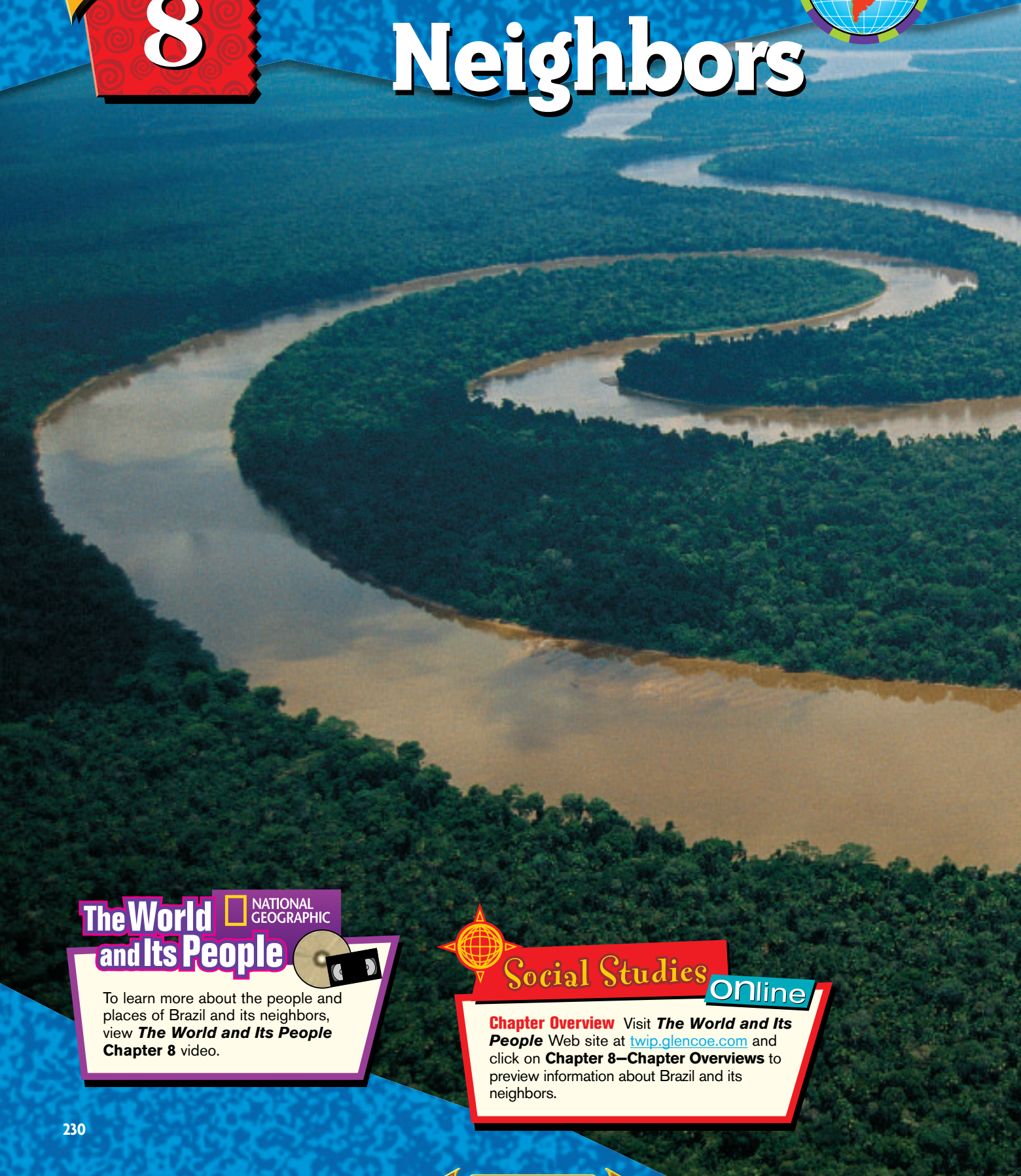




Chapter
8

Brazil and Its Neighbors



The World and Its People NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



To learn more about the people and places of Brazil and its neighbors, view ***The World and Its People Chapter 8*** video.

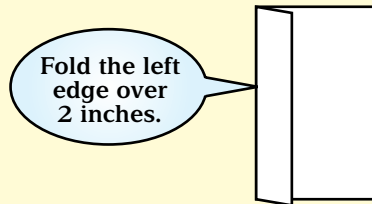


Social Studies Online

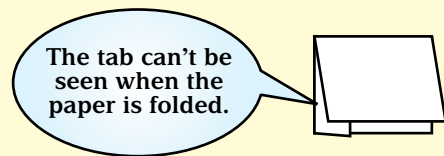
Chapter Overview Visit ***The World and Its People*** Web site at twip.glencoe.com and click on **Chapter 8—Chapter Overviews** to preview information about Brazil and its neighbors.

Summarizing Information Make this foldable and use it to organize note cards with information about the people and places of Brazil and its neighbors.

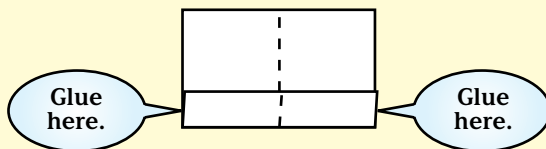
Step 1 Fold a 2-inch tab along the long edge of a sheet of paper.



Step 2 Fold the paper in half so the tab is on the inside.



Step 3 Open the paper pocket foldable, turn it, and glue the edges of the pockets together.



Step 4 Label the pockets as shown.



Reading and Writing As you read the chapter, summarize key facts about Brazil and its neighbors on note cards or on quarter sheets of notebook paper. Organize your notes by placing them in your pocket foldable inside the appropriate pockets. (Keep your pocket foldable to use with Chapter 9.)

Why It Matters

Preserving the Environment

The Amazon rain forest—sometimes called the “lungs of the planet” because of the huge amounts of oxygen given off by its trees—is home to up to 30 percent of the animal and plant life on Earth. Destroying these trees may cause the extinction of many wildlife species and damage to the earth’s environment—on which we depend for our survival. This is just one of many issues facing the people and government of Brazil.



Section

1

Brazil—Emerging Giant

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

Brazil is a large country with many resources, a lively culture, and serious economic challenges.

Terms to Know

- basin
- *selva*
- escarpment
- favela
- deforestation

Reading Strategy

Create a chart like the one below and fill in at least one key fact about Brazil in each category.

Brazil	
Land	
History	
Economy	
Government	
People	



Exploring our World

Some of the world's largest fresh-water fish swim in the mighty Amazon River in Brazil. Called pirarucu (pih•RAHR•uh•KEW), these fish can grow up to 15 feet (4.6 m) long. What a catch! The people who catch these huge fish often make the fish scales into souvenir key chains for tourists.



Like the pirarucu, Brazil is large. It is the fifth-largest country in the world and the largest in South America. In fact, Brazil makes up almost half of South America.

Brazil's Rain Forests and Highlands

Brazil has many different types of landforms and climates. The map on page 233 shows you that Brazil has narrow coastal plains, highland areas, and lowland river valleys. The **Amazon River** is the world's second-longest river, winding almost 4,000 miles (6,437 km) from the **Andes** mountain ranges to the Atlantic Ocean. Its powerful current carries soil 60 miles (97 km) out to sea! On its journey to the Atlantic, the Amazon drains water from a wide, flat **basin**, or low area surrounded by higher land. In the **Amazon Basin**, rainfall can reach as much as 120 inches (305 cm) per year. These rains support the growth of thick rain forests, which Brazilians call *selvas*.



Brazil has lowlands along the Paraná and the São Francisco Rivers. The **Brazilian Highlands** cover about half of the country, then drop sharply to the Atlantic Ocean. This drop is called the Great Escarpment. An **escarpment** is a steep cliff between higher and lower land.

✓ Reading Check What is significant about the Amazon River?

Brazil's Economy

How do Brazilians earn a living? Agriculture, mining, and forestry have been important for centuries. The Amazon Basin has been a mysterious region with secrets that were guarded by the Native Americans living there. This began to change in the mid-1800s. World demand skyrocketed for the rubber harvested from the basin's trees, and new



Brazil and Its Neighbors: Physical/Political



Applying Map Skills

1. Which area of Brazil—the north or the south—has the highest elevation?
2. Name two rivers that flow into the Amazon River.

Find NGS online map resources @ www.nationalgeographic.com/maps



Leading Coffee-Producing Countries



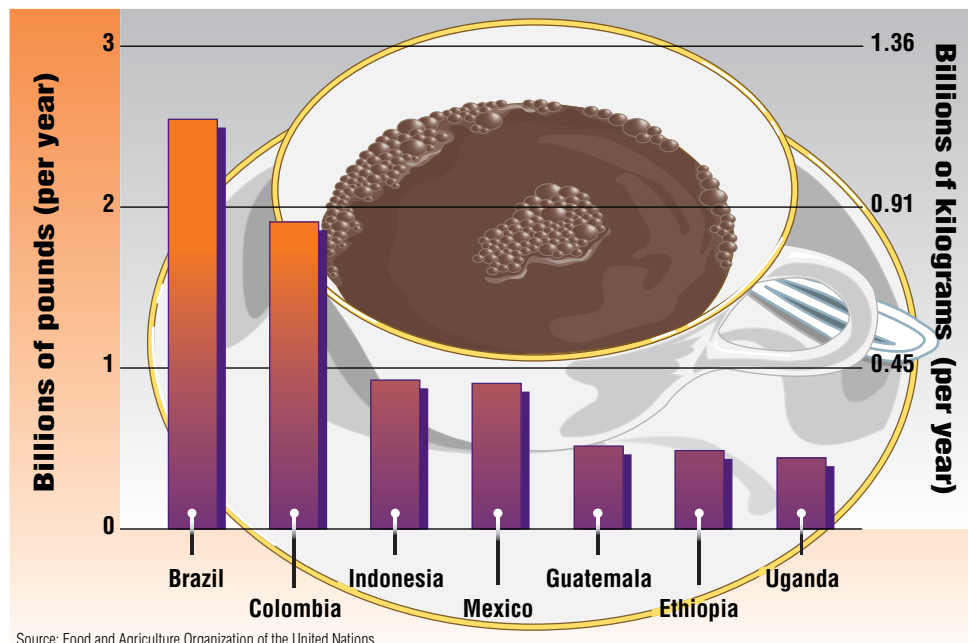
Analyzing the Graph

Brazil's highlands have the right soil and climate to grow coffee.

Economics Which leading coffee-producing countries are in South America?

Textbook Update

Visit twip.glencoe.com and click on **Chapter 8—Textbook Updates**.



settlers streamed to Brazil's interior. Today mining companies dig for minerals such as bauxite, tin, and iron ore. Logging companies harvest mahogany and other woods from the rain forest. Farmers use the cleared land to grow soybeans and tobacco and to graze cattle.

South of the Amazon Basin are rich mineral resources and fertile farmland. The southern region of Brazil boasts one of the world's largest iron ore deposits. The highlands are perfect for growing coffee. As the graph above shows, Brazil produces far more coffee than other countries. It also has huge cattle ranches and exports beef all over the world.

Brazil's major cities are located in the south. Tourists flock to coastal **Rio de Janeiro**, which has more than 11.2 million people. **São Paulo**, home to more than 18.5 million people, is one of the fastest-growing urban areas in the world. It is also Brazil's leading trade and industrial center.

Brazil's Economic Challenges Today Brazil's economy is diverse and productive, yet the country still faces serious economic challenges. Brazil's economy has brought wealth to many Brazilians and created a large and strong middle class. Yet as many as one-fifth of Brazil's people live in extreme poverty. Many Brazilian cities are surrounded by **favelas**, or slum areas. Thousands of poor people move to cities looking for work in the factories. They live in crude shacks with neither running water nor sewage systems. City governments have tried to clean up these areas, but people continue to settle here because they have no money to pay for housing. Many children as young as 10 years old go to work to help earn money for their families.



Although Brazil has the largest area of remaining rain forest in the world, it also has the highest rate of deforestation. **Deforestation** is the destroying of large areas of forest. To increase jobs and products for export, the government has encouraged mining, logging, and farming in the rain forest. However, as you learned in Chapter 2, deforestation leads to soil erosion. It also harms the rain forest ecosystem and biodiversity. As deforestation takes place, roads are built, bringing companies, farmers, and change. Native Americans who live in the Amazon Basin find it difficult to follow their traditional cultures as this occurs. In addition, tropical forests give off huge amounts of oxygen and play a role in regulating the earth's climate. Thus, although the Amazon rain forest belongs to Brazil, the effects of deforestation are felt worldwide. Turn to page 250 to learn more about the vanishing rain forests.

✓ Reading Check Why has the Brazilian government encouraged mining, logging, and farming in the rain forest?

Brazil's History and Culture

With 176.5 million people, Brazil has the largest population of all Latin American nations. Brazil's culture is largely Portuguese. The Portuguese were the first and largest European group to colonize

Literature

BOTOQUE

Kayapo Indian Myth

In this myth of central Brazil, the hero brings fire to his people.

“Botoque and the animals safely returned to their village with Jaguar’s possessions. Everyone was delighted to eat grilled meat. They loved being able to warm themselves by the fire when the nights became cool. And they liked having the village fires provide protection from wild animals.

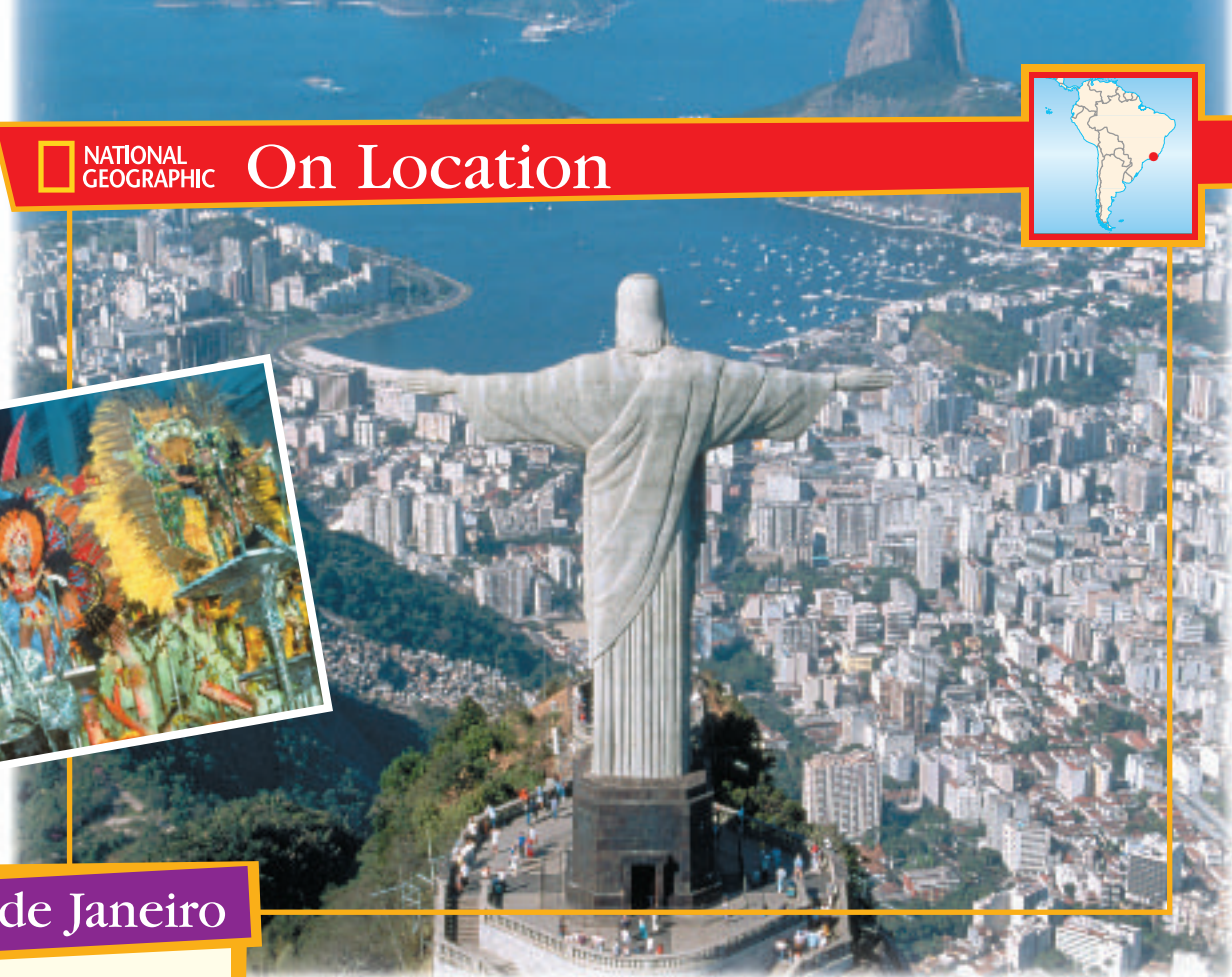
As for Jaguar, when he returned home and found that he had been robbed of his special possessions, his heart flooded with fury. ‘So this is how Botoque has repaid me for adopting him as my son and teaching him the secret of the bow and arrow!’ he exclaimed. ‘Why, he did not even leave me fire. Well, no matter. In memory of this theft, from this time forth and evermore, I will eat my catch raw! This will keep the memory of my adopted son before my eyes and hatred for him—and all who walk the earth as he does—alive in my heart!’”

Source: “Botoque, Bringer of Fire” excerpted from *Folklore, Myths, and Legends: A World Perspective*. Edited by Donna Rosenberg. NTC Publishing, 1997.



Analyzing Literature

Do you think the Kayapo Indians feared jaguars? Why or why not?



Rio de Janeiro

A huge statue of Christ overlooks Rio de Janeiro (above right). Crowds of people in Rio de Janeiro celebrate Carnival wearing brightly colored costumes (above).

Culture What groups make up Brazil's population?

Brazil. Today Brazilians are of European, African, Native American, Asian, or mixed ancestry. Almost all of them speak a Brazilian form of Portuguese, which includes many words from Native American and African languages. Most of the population follow the Roman Catholic religion. Many Brazilians, however, combine Catholicism with beliefs and practices from African and Native American religions.

Influence of History Native Americans were the first people to live in Brazil. In the 1500s, the Portuguese forced Native Americans to work on large plantations that grew tobacco and, later, sugarcane. Many Native Americans died from disease or overwork. To replace them, early Portuguese settlers brought people from Africa and enslaved them. Slavery finally was banned in 1888, but Africans remained in Brazil, most of them living in the northeastern part of the country. Over the years, African traditions have influenced Brazilian religion, music, dance, and food.

Moving to the Cities Much of Brazil is sparsely populated. Millions of people have moved from rural areas to coastal cities to find better jobs. Now the government is encouraging people to move back to less populated inland areas to reduce city crowding. Highways now criss-cross the country and reach many formerly remote regions. In 1960 Brazil moved its capital from coastal Rio de Janeiro 600 miles (966 km) inland to the newly built city of **Brasília**. With more than 2 million people, Brasília is a modern and rapidly growing city.



The Government Brazil declared independence from Portugal in 1822. At first the new nation was an empire, with emperors ruling until 1889. Then, like some other countries in Central and South America, Brazil was ruled by military dictators. Today Brazil is a democratic republic, where people elect a president and other leaders. In Brazil, though, citizens cannot choose whether to vote or not vote. People from ages 18 to 70 are required by law to vote. Brazil has more than a dozen political parties—not just two main ones, as in the United States.

The national government of Brazil is much stronger than its 26 state governments. Brazil’s president has more power over the country than an American president does in the United States.

Leisure Time Brazilians enjoy soccer, which they call *fútbol*. Every village has a soccer field, and the larger cities have stadiums. Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro seats 220,000 fans. Basketball is another popular sport.

Brazil is also famous for Carnival. This festival is celebrated just before the beginning of Lent, the Christian holy season that comes before Easter. The most spectacular Carnival is held each year in Rio de Janeiro. The celebration includes Brazilian music and showy parades.

Brazil has one of the largest television networks in the world. This network produces prime-time soap operas called *telenovelas*. These programs are wildly popular in Brazil—and viewers in more than 60 other nations enjoy them too.

Reading Check Why do most Brazilians speak a form of Portuguese?



Assessment

Defining Terms

1. **Define** basin, *selva*, escarpment, favela, deforestation.

Recalling Facts

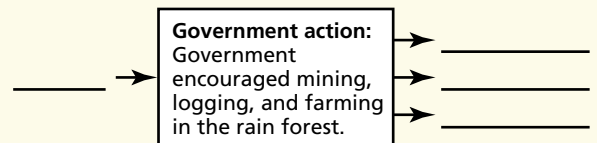
2. **History** Who was the first and largest group of Europeans to colonize Brazil?
3. **Economics** What resources attract companies to the Amazon Basin?
4. **Culture** What is the major religion of Brazil?

Critical Thinking

5. **Drawing Conclusions** In what way is deforestation threatening the Native Americans who live in the rain forest?
6. **Summarizing Information** What economic challenges face Brazilians?

Graphic Organizer

7. **Organizing Information** Create a diagram like this one. Beside the left arrow, write the cause of the government action. On the right, list three results of this action.



Applying Social Studies Skills

8. **Analyzing Maps** Look at the physical map on page 233. What large landform in Brazil surrounds the Amazon River?

BRAZIL AND ITS NEIGHBORS



Guided Reading Activity 1

Brazil—Emerging Giant

DIRECTIONS: Reading for Accuracy Reading the section and completing the activity below will help you learn more about Brazil. Refer to your textbook to decide if a statement is true or false. Write **T** or **F**, and if a statement is false, rewrite it correctly.

- _____ 1. The Amazon River flows from the Andes to the Pacific Ocean.

- _____ 2. Rainfall in the Amazon Basin contributes to the growth of thick tropical rain forests.

- _____ 3. The Great Escarpment is where the highlands drop sharply to the Atlantic Ocean.

- _____ 4. The Amazon Basin is known only for the rubber harvested from its trees.

- _____ 5. There is no poverty in Brazil.

- _____ 6. Native Americans who live in the Amazon Basin find it difficult to follow their traditional cultures as more roads are built.

- _____ 7. Brazil's culture is largely Spanish, like most of Latin America.

- _____ 8. African slaves were brought to replace Native American slaves who died from disease or overwork.

- _____ 9. The capital of Brazil is Rio de Janeiro.

- _____ 10. Unlike the rest of Latin America, Brazil does not celebrate any festivals.
