

# Rio de Janeiro

## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. What is Rio de Janeiro famous for?
2. What is Brazil famous for?
3. Have you ever eaten Brazilian food?
4. Can you find Brazil on a map?



### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. mistake ( <i>verb</i> ) | a) to run away from                          |
| ___ 2. monarchy                | b) a poor area in a city                     |
| ___ 3. flee                    | c) a person from another country             |
| ___ 4. independence            | d) to provide a place for an event           |
| ___ 5. situated                | e) related to medicine                       |
| ___ 6. overlook                | f) a space between two things                |
| ___ 7. carnival                | g) to confuse one thing for another thing    |
| ___ 8. gap                     | h) a royal family                            |
| ___ 9. slum                    | i) the freedom of being able to self-rule    |
| ___ 10. foreigner              | j) located                                   |
| ___ 11. host ( <i>verb</i> )   | k) to be above something                     |
| ___ 12. pharmaceutical         | l) a big street party with music and dancing |

## Reading

1. Rio de Janeiro is a large coastal city in Brazil. It is not the capital, but it is the second-most populated city in the country and perhaps the most famous. In English, *Rio de Janeiro* means “River of January.” However, the river the city is named after is actually a bay. Portuguese explorers **mistook** the bay for a river when they first arrived in the area.
2. The Portuguese colonized Brazil in 1500 and founded Rio de Janeiro in 1565. Hence, the official language of Brazil is Portuguese. In 1808, Rio, as it is often called, actually became the capital of Portugal when the Portuguese **monarchy fled** to Brazil during the Napoleonic Wars. Rio remained the capital of Portugal until Brazil gained **independence** in 1822.
3. Rio is **situated** between the Atlantic Ocean and mountains. In 2012, Rio was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Two of the city’s most popular landmarks are the fashionable Ipanema Beach and the statue of Christ the Redeemer. This giant statue stands on a mountain **overlooking** the city. Rio’s most famous event is Carnival, an annual street festival that attracts two million people a day. It is considered the biggest **carnival** in the world.
4. Despite Rio’s beauty and attractions, a wide **gap** exists between the rich and the poor. Many of the city’s hills are covered in *favelas*, which are overcrowded **slums**. Close to 22% of Rio’s population lives in these poor neighbourhoods.
5. Rio is a major tourist destination for **foreigners** and Brazilians alike, and receives more tourists per year than any other South American city. It is a favourite destination of soccer fans. In fact, Brazil **hosted** the FIFA World Cup in both 1950 and 2014, with many games played in Rio. In addition to tourism, Rio de Janeiro’s economy also depends on the oil industry, **pharmaceutical** companies, and shipbuilding.

*“You walk off  
the plane in Rio  
and your blood  
temperature  
goes up.”*

—Amy Irving, actress

## Comprehension

### A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F and correct the information in your notebook.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Rio de Janeiro is the capital of Brazil.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Portuguese is spoken in Brazil.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Rio de Janeiro has the biggest carnival in the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Most people in Rio de Janeiro live in slums.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Brazil has hosted the FIFA World Cup twice.

### B. Ask & Answer

Practise asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

1. What does *Rio de Janeiro* mean in English?
2. Why did Rio become the capital of Portugal for several years in the 1800s?
3. What are two popular landmarks in Rio?
4. What is a *favela*?
5. How many people go to the carnival in Rio each day?
6. Which industries does Rio's economy depend on?

# Vocabulary Review

## A. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.  
You may need to change the word forms.

1. France was ruled by a \_\_\_\_\_ until the French Revolution.
2. I'm so embarrassed! I \_\_\_\_\_ this plastic apple for a real one and tried to eat it!
3. Before Timmy got braces, he had a big \_\_\_\_\_ between his two front teeth.
4. Last summer, Miss Sutton rented a cottage \_\_\_\_\_ the ocean.
5. Before we go to the \_\_\_\_\_, we should learn how to dance the samba.

## B. Choose the Closest Meaning

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Johnny decided to <u>flee</u> the country so he wouldn't have to join the army.<br/>a) support<br/>b) protest<br/>c) run away from</li> </ol>                           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Fabio and Estelle <u>hosted</u> a big party last night.<br/>a) cancelled<br/>b) had<br/>c) attended</li> </ol>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. She used to be a doctor, but now she works for a <u>pharmaceutical</u> company.<br/>a) drug<br/>b) official<br/>c) shipbuilding</li> </ol>      |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. My house is <u>situated</u> in the northern part of the city.<br/>a) located<br/>b) falling down<br/>c) overcrowded</li> </ol>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Maybe we could meet at two o'clock. That's when there's a <u>gap</u> in my schedule.<br/>a) a street party<br/>b) an issue<br/>c) an empty space</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. The United States hasn't been ruled by a <u>monarchy</u> since 1776.<br/>a) strong ruler<br/>b) king or queen<br/>c) diplomat</li> </ol>        |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Sundar's classmates didn't care that he was a <u>foreigner</u>, and he made many friends.<br/>a) claustrophobic<br/>b) from another country<br/>c) bilingual</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. At 16, teenagers start wanting more <u>independence</u>.<br/>a) publicity<br/>b) money<br/>c) freedom</li> </ol>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. The boy lived in a <u>slum</u> until he was adopted by rich parents.<br/>a) poor area<br/>b) wealthy neighbourhood<br/>c) skyscraper</li> </ol> |

## Discussion

1. What are the advantages of having a big festival or carnival in a city?  
What are the disadvantages?
2. What do you know about the pharmaceutical industry?
3. Is there a big gap between the rich and the poor in your city?
4. Do many foreigners visit your city? What do they come to see and do?
5. Why do some people flee their home countries?