



LATIN AMERICAN & IBERIAN INSTITUTE



LEARNING OBJECTIVES: This resource incorporates activities aligned to the following [Common Core Standards](#).

Key Ideas & Details: (1) Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text; (2) Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

Craft & Structure: (4) Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone; (5) analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g. a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole; (6) Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Integration of Knowledge & Ideas: (7) Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words; (9) Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Range of Reading & Level of Text Complexity: (10) Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

Comprehension & Collaboration: (2) Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally; (3) Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence, and rhetoric.

Name: _____

Date: _____

What is Carnaval?

—Our Brazilian Life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWCFIYyLRI0&t=187s>

This video was created and is narrated by an American family living and working in Brazil. In this video, they introduce Carnaval in Brazil and share the intricacies of this special celebration.



Answer the following questions as you watch this video:

1. What is a “bloquinho”?
2. What is Carnaval?
3. When is Carnval & how long does it last?
4. The video describes Carnaval as a mixture of different cultures and celebrations. Which cultures have morphed together to form Carnaval?
5. What can you expect to **see** at Carnaval?
6. What can you expect to **do** at Carnaval?
7. What can you expect to **hear** at Carnaval?
8. What might you expect to **smell** at Carnaval?
(make an educated guess based on what you notice in the video)
9. What celebrations / holidays happen after Carnaval?



[10 Fascinating Facts about Brazilian Carnival](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrsb1EZsVbA)

—Our Brazilian Life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrsb1EZsVbA>

This video was created and is narrated by an American family living and working in Brazil. In this video, they share clips from their experiences at Carnival in Salvador, Brazil and share 10 interesting facts about Carnival.

Instructions: Watch the video on *YouTube* linked above to learn more about how Carnival is celebrated and why it is an important celebration. Take notes as you watch the video and answer the questions below.

In your own words, summarize the ten interesting facts listed in this video:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____

What are **2 things** you are still curious about (they can be about Brazil in general or about Carnival)?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____



“From Samba to Carnival: Brazil's Thriving African Culture”

by: Shasta Darlington

Updated 11:13AM ET, Wed. July 24, 2013.

From Samba and Carnival to food, music and religion, African culture is everywhere in Brazil!

The cultural heritage stems from the estimated four million slaves who were brought to the country over a 300-year period, at least four times as many as to the United States.

Brazil was the last country to abolish the slave trade in 1888. More than half of Brazilians now identify themselves as Black or of mixed race, according to the latest census.

Rio de Janeiro now has the most famous Carnival in the world, attracting [an estimated 1.1 million visitors to the city this year and with 5.3 million people taking part in street parties, according to the English language newspaper The Rio Times.](#)

Carnival, which is celebrated across Brazil, combines Samba -- music and dance which grew out of Brazil's Black neighborhoods -- and the Catholic tradition of celebrating the run-up to Lent brought by Portuguese colonialists.

After the abolition of slavery, the rituals of the Catholic former colonialists and their former slaves [merged to form the origins of modern Carnival, according to the Rio Times.](#)

One explanation for the origins of Carnival is that it began in a Catholic church, Our Lady of the Rosary, built by slaves in the 1700s whose masters wanted them to convert to Catholicism.

"The Black people that were part of this congregation, most of them came from Congo," said Joao Carlos Desales, a tour guide who took CNN around Rio de Janeiro.



"So they were able to organize a celebration where they would choose a man and a woman, and they would be the king and queen of Congo. That celebration turned out to be the beginning of Carnival celebrated in Brazil."

Even many of Brazil's Catholic saints are said to have African heritage.

St Benedict, whose name is remembered in Our Lady of the Rosary church, was a slave from North Africa, who promised to devote himself to Catholicism if he became a free man, Desales said.

Brazil's patron saint, Our Lady of Aparecida, a Black clay statue of the Virgin Mary, was -- according to some -- found by runaway slaves on their way to Quilombo, a community of runaway slaves.

Quilombo communities continue across Brazil to this day.

Luis Sacopa, president of the association of Quilombos, runs a restaurant with his 17 members of his family in a piece of jungle in what is now an expensive suburb of Rio de Janeiro.

His grandparents found this piece of land after escaping slavery.

The family has fought a legal battle to hold on to its land against the threat of eviction, and now has official protection for their right to remain.

"Thanks to god we have had success and we're still here at the end of our dispute," said Sacopa. "Thanks to god, the family has united, we're fighting and we're winning the fight against the elite in this expensive neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro."

Sacopa said he was able to resist eviction with the help of his Orixas, gods of the Yoruba people of South-west Nigeria, Benin and Togo.

In Brazil, the religion is known as Candomble, and it has a large following in some Afro-Brazilian areas, particularly Salvador in Bahia state.

Candomble was prohibited in Brazil up until the 1950s, but influenced much of the country's food and music. In Sacopa's restaurant he serves feijoada, a typical Brazilian dish originally created by slaves from their masters' leftovers.

A new Historical Circuit of African Heritage opened in Rio de Janeiro in 2010 to help tourists and descendants of slaves reconnect with the past slavery. The project began after workers installing a new drainage system in the central districts of Saude and Gamboa [discovered hundreds of personal objects belonging to African slaves, according to the Rio Times](#).

Archaeologists established that this was the site of the 19th century slave trading complex, the Cais do Valongo, or Valongo Quays. Many of the discoveries are now on display in the Valongo Gardens, the newspaper reported.

Another discovery of recent years is the remains of a squalid slave cemetery in the courtyard of a home in central Rio de Janeiro. Renaldo Tavares, an archeologist who has been studying the discovery, said: "These are human remains mixed in with the garbage from the city. It shows how society in the 19th century treated slaves.

"Bones, pieces of ceramic, bits from construction, tiles, animal remains, bits of food, society threw all sorts of things in here. Slaves were considered garbage by society."

Ana de la Merced Guimaraes, the homeowner who discovered the bones in her courtyard, said: "When we started to remodel our house, we found all these bones. We thought it was a family grave, but there was so much we thought maybe it had been a serial killer.

"But then we calmed down and talked about it and called a lawyer and the police. And he said 'don't worry, we aren't going to accuse you, it's probably something very old.' A neighbor told us, a long time ago, that our street was a slave cemetery."

Brazil's third city Salvador, in Bahia state, northeast Brazil, has some of the strongest links to Africa. Salvador was the first colonial capital of Brazil and its central district, Pelourinho, now a [UNESCO world heritage site](#), was the New World's first slave market from 1553, according to UNESCO.



Text source:

Shasta Darlington. 2013. "From Samba to Carnival: Brazil's Thriving African Culture." *CNN*. 24 July.

Name: _____

Date: _____

COMPREHENSION CHECK for Shasta Darlington. 2013. "From Samba to Carnival: Brazil's Thriving African Culture." *CNN*. 24 July.

VOCABULARY:

As you read through the text, locate the following vocab terms and (1) annotate the terms in the text, (2) then use context clues to create a definition for each term using your own words.

a. abolish: _____

c. Quilombo: _____

b. Samba: _____

d. feijoada: _____

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:

After reading through the text, answer the questions below in 2-3 complete sentences. You may refer back to the text; however, remember to use your own words to answer the questions below.

1. The subtitle of the text claims that "African culture is everywhere in Brazil;" based on information in the text, explain 2 ways (or examples) in which Africa culture is still very present in Brazil today.

2. This article provides an example of a religious syncretism, which Khan Academy defines as: "the blending of cultures and ideas from different places."¹ Based on this text, which two cultural identities have blended together in Brazil? How can elements of both individual cultures still be seen today in Brazilian culture?

¹ "Syncretism (Article)." *Khan Academy*, Khan Academy, www.khanacademy.org/humanities/world-history/ancient-medieval/syncretism/a/syncretism-article.

ETHICAL ISSUE:

At the end of the text, the author explains that UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) recognizes and thus preserves Pelourinho, which is the central district of the former Brazilian capital —Salvador— and has a lengthy history as the first slave market and place where Indigenous, African and European cultures intermingled. While this space is now protected by UNESCO, the author also mentioned a part of central Rio de Janeiro where a cemetery for enslaved people was found. The author explains that these burial grounds were uncovered when a family began to renovate their house but doesn't mention whether this area has been preserved or protected. In your opinion, should this cemetery be protected and preserved? Explain why or why not in a full paragraph. If you believe it should be preserved, explain what the city of Rio should do to protect it. Feel free to compare this site to any other sites as you see fit.