

Did you know?

- Rio de Janeiro means 'January River' in Portuguese, but there isn't actually a river there at all! Portuguese explorers mistook Guanabara Bay for the mouth of a river.
- People who are born in Rio are known as 'Cariocas'.
- Thanks to its constant good weather and beautiful beaches, Rio attracts millions of tourists from around the world.
- Rio was the capital of Brazil from 1763 until 1960 when Brasilia became its capital city.
- Rio is home to the oldest electric tramway in the world, the Santa Teresa tram or 'bondinho'.
- Football is the most popular sport in Rio de Janeiro, and there are four major football clubs to support: Botafogo, Fluminense, Vasco da Gama and Flamengo. Which would you choose?
- Brazil is home to many species of colourful birds including macaws, toucans, cockatoos and yellow canaries. They all star in the film *Rio*.
- Rio is located on Brazil's Atlantic coast.
- Rio de Janeiro was the first South American city to host the Olympic Games in 2016.
- Rio's Christ the Redeemer statue is one of the most recognisable landmarks in the world. It stands high on a mountain overlooking the city.
- In February, Rio's hottest month of the year, the city is at its liveliest with carnival fun a-plenty!
- Rio is often known as 'Cidade maravilhosa' (the marvellous city).
- The Rio de Janeiro carnival is a national holiday in Brazil.
- On each day of the Rio carnival, more than two million people party in the streets. That's a BIG party!
- Most samba drums are made of very light material so that the drums can be easily carried around the streets throughout the carnival.
- Samba, the dance of the carnival, is lively and rhythmic and is also one of the most popular styles in Latin dancing competitions.

