

Study Guide

World Music in the Schools • Living Room Learning: World Music & Dance

Brazil: Music & Storytelling

Teaching Artist: Claudia Lyra • [Claudia's artist profile](#)

Video link: <https://youtu.be/-2MI3wtfSfk>

Through the language of storytelling, Teaching Artist **Claudia Lyra** presents a fun, interactive adaptation of a Brazilian folktale through Brazilian rhythm. Students will experience literacy, body music, rhythm, and song through the lens of the mystery of stories from Lyra's home country. Oral traditions are a great tool to keep stories alive and connect people to their heritage and each other.

Learning Objectives: Students will . . .

- Greet one another and sing in Portuguese
- Play a rhythm using their own body sounds (body percussion)
- Talk about Brazil with awareness of its location, language and dimension

Alignment with California Arts Standards for Public Schools:

- **Music:** .MU:Cn11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding

Preliminary Activities

Geography:

- On a map of the world, show where Brazil is located.
- The city of Rio de Janeiro is the most famous due to its appearance in many movies, its annual Carnival, and for the statue of *Redentor* (Christ the Redeemer).
- The Amazon forest is the largest in the world, and also has the most diverse range of bird species in the world.
- The Brazilian flag has 26 stars, 1 for each state. The top one represents Brasilia, the capitol.

History:

- Brazil was called *Pindorama* by the first population living there, the indigenous people. Pindorama in their native language means "The Palm Trees Land."
- Like the USA, Brazil was next discovered by Europeans. The sailors who arrived and explored the land were Portuguese mariners. Brazil was first occupied by indigenous peoples, and then colonized by the Portuguese.

Culture:

- Brazil is known for its music, its National soccer team, and the Amazon River and forest.
- Brazilians are known for being warm and welcoming, and for sharing stories and music within their communities that are passed along through generations.
- Brazil hosted the World Cup in 2014 and the Olympics in 2016.
- Traditional daily meals consist of rice, beans, meat, and salad.
- Capoeira is a form of Brazilian martial art that involves dance and music.
- Carnival is a celebration occurring 40 days before Easter, and it occurs in Rio de Janeiro. People go into the streets to watch amazing performances created by the local people. It involves costumes, live drumming, parade, and samba dancing.

Language:

- Portuguese
- Eight other countries (in addition to Portugal) have Portuguese as their national language. These countries are located in Africa and Oceania.
- Some vocabulary used in this assembly:

bom dia = good morning **boa tarde** = good afternoon **tchau** = Bye

besouro = beetle **pisar** = step **ouvir** = to hear **folha** = leaf

Follow-Up Activities

Questions for students:

- Where is the country Brazil located?
- What is the national language of Brazil?
- Is it hot or cold in Brazil? Why?
- Tell someone at home the part of the assembly that you liked the most, and why.
- How can music tell stories?
- What is the name of the folktale you learned today at the assembly *Brazil for Children*?
- Share a folktale you know with someone at home
- If you don't know a folktale, can you ask someone close to you to tell you one?
- Draw a picture of the main character of your favorite folktale.
- Which song and rhythm did you learn today? Sing and play them to someone at home.