

Do You Know?
Expanded History Questions and Some Answers
with Some Rhymes
(for "Follow Your Dreams")

- 1) Canadians, Mexicans, Brazilians, Argentineans, etc. all call themselves Americans. Why?
(“The Americas are not one but three - North, Central, and South America, they be.”)
So in an international conversation, you should identify yourself as a “U.S. American” to avoid confusion.
- 2) How did the Americas get their common name?
“Amerigo Vespucci said the lands I see.... are NOT the East Indies....”
(The Americas are named for Amerigo Vespucci who was the first explorer to realize that new lands had been discovered. Columbus just thought he had reached the East Indies.)
- 3) When did Columbus sail to the New World?
(“In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue.”)
- 4) When was Brazil discovered?
(“In 1500, Pedro Cabral of Portugal sailed to Brazil, following the will of King Manuel.”)
- 5) So how much older is the U.S.?
- 6) Can you guess what country is the leading economic power of N. America?
(U.S.)
- 7) Can you guess what country is the leading economic power of S. America?
(Brazil)
- 8) How big is Brazil compared to the U.S.?
(They are almost the same size. The U.S. has 3,718,695 sq. miles and Brazil has 3,287,597 sq. miles, so how much bigger is the U.S.?)
- 8) What country has the largest number of Christians?
(U.S.)
- 9) What country has the second largest number of Christians?
(Brazil)
- 10) The U.S. and Brazil are both “the United States of....” How many states are in each?

(The U.S. has 50 and Brazil has half that plus one, which is ____.)

- 11) Which country has a bigger population? The U.S. or Brazil?
(The U.S. has 300,000,000. Brazil has 186,405,000. How many more people does the U.S. have? So the U.S. has almost ____ times (or twice) as many people as Brazil.)
- 12) What are the indigenous people of the United States and Brazil called? What does indigenous mean?
(Indians) In-di-gen-ous refers to the people or plants that were there first. That's why the Indians refer to themselves as the first nations.)
- 13) Were there very many different Indian tribes in Brazil and the U.S.?
(Brazil has over 80 with 6 different language families; and the U.S. lists 52 major tribes and 8 language families. To see how many tribes there were, take a deep breath, hang on to your hat, and go to....

<http://www.native-languages.org/languages.htm#alpha>

You won't believe how many there were.....)
- 14) When did the U.S. become independent of England?
(In 1776, the Americans said bravely, "We are no longer a colony, but free.")
- 15) When did Brazil become independent of Portugal?
(In 1889, Brazil broke free of Portugal, that small country across the sea.)
- 16) When did the United States become independent of Britain?
(1776)
So how many years later did Brazil gain independence?
- 17) What was the first capital of the United States?
Some say Philadelphia, and some say Baltimore. Others say Lancaster or York. You could also add Princeton, Annapolis, Trenton, or New York. Truth be known, they all count, because Washington, D.C. was not the capital before 1800 A.D.
- 18) What was the first capital of Brazil?
Rio de Janeiro
- 19) What statue sits on top of the capitol and towers over Washington, D.C.?
The Statue of Freedom stands above D.C. She looks like an American Indian and is inscribed E Pluribus Unum, which means from many, one; which was the original national motto, picked by the founding fathers.

What is the motto of Brazil?

(ordem e progresso [order and progress])

P.S. (What is the new U.S. motto? “In God we trust” as of 1956.)

Check out: <http://www.aoc.gov/cc/art/freedom.cfm>

20) By the way, when do you use “capitol” or “capital”?

When distinguishing between capital and capitol, just remember our capitol is round so you need an “o” when spelling the building. For capital cities use “al.”

21) What is the capital of the U.S.? Is it in a state? Can its citizens vote?

(Washington, D.C.) (No, it’s in a federal district.) (No, they cannot vote.)

22) What is the capital of Brazil?

(Brasilia in 1960. So how much older is Washington D.C.?)

23) What statue towers above Rio de Janeiro, the first capital of Brazil?

(A statue of Christ, the Redeemer, arms outspread)

24) After the Civil War, many Confederates moved to what South American country? Why?

(Brazil - because slavery was still allowed there.)

25) When was slavery abolished in the U.S.?

The Civil War ended slavery in 1865. In 1866, the thirteenth amendment to the constitution abolished slavery officially.

26) When was slavery abolished in Brazil?

In 1888, slavery was abolished in Brazil.
(How many years after the U.S.?)

27) Slaves were used primarily for what crops in the U.S. and Brazil?

For cotton in the U.S.; and for sugar cane in Brazil

28) Both the U.S. and Brazil are considered “melting pots.” What does that mean?

29) What are the main fuels for vehicles in Brazil and U.S.?

Ethanol in Brazil and gasoline in the U.S.

30) What is the main source of electricity in the U.S. and Brazil?

Coal in the U.S. and hydro (water) electric in Brazil.

31) What year was the first airplane manufactured in the U.S. and in Brazil?

1910

32) What year did "Popular Mechanics" publish blueprints for the "Dragonfly" in the U.S.?

1911

33) What is the third largest aircraft manufacturer?

Embraer of Brazil.

34) What are the two largest?

The largest is Boeing in the U.S. The second largest is Airbus in France.