

## Life in Barra Da Tijuca

Barra da Tijuca is a very wealthy neighbourhood with a high standard of living for its residents. It is well known for its beautiful beaches and luxurious lifestyle. It is a highly developed area, with gardens, shopping malls, schools, hospitals, apartment buildings and large mansions. Many celebrities live in this area. It has a high level of security, with many of the apartment buildings having their own security guard and gate. It is considered a very safe place to live. Some of the apartment blocks are known as 'neighbourhood condos'. Inside these huge buildings and within their grounds are spaces to work, playgrounds, spas, pools, gyms, coffee shops and social lounges, so residents have everything they need in one place, and don't have to leave if they don't want to!



I live in a high-rise apartment block with my family. We have an amazing view of the beach and ocean.

My family and I like to visit the large shopping malls in the area, or go to the cinema to see the latest films.

My school has lots of resources to help me get a good education. I work hard so I can get a good job when I am older.

My apartment block has a swimming pool and an area for me and my friends to meet up and hang out in.



If we do leave the neighbourhood, we never walk - we always travel by car.

We are quite far from the centre of Rio de Janeiro. We rarely travel and see other parts of our country.

Lots of roads have been built in Barra Da Tijuca. There can be a lot of traffic and it takes time to travel anywhere.

There are lots of great restaurants near where I live - my family and I eat in them often.



## Life in Rocinha

Rocinha is a favela, or shanty town. This type of neighbourhood is typically defined as 'a deprived area with large numbers of poorly made shacks'. These areas are home to many people who have moved from the rural areas of Brazil and cannot afford to live anywhere else. They are built on the outskirts of the city, on the steep slopes of the hills. The shacks are built from whatever materials can be found, such as cardboard, wood and plastic sheeting. They often do not have running water or electricity. However, the Rocinha favela has been greatly improved in recent years. This is partly due to 'self-help schemes' where locals use their skills to improve the area they live in. Everyone helps each other, and a good community spirit has developed. The government has also provided some building materials. Today, most of the houses in Rocinha are made from bricks and concrete, and almost all have running water and electricity. Some homes even have cable tv, and there are shops, medicine stores and cafes in the area.

My home is at the top of a steep hill. It is small but cosy. We have a great view of the city as we are so high up.

Everyone is helping to improve Rocinha. There is a new shop and a cafe just around the corner from my home.

I love playing football with my friends in the streets - but we have to be careful as there are a lot of motorbikes that travel very fast.

My mum and dad both work long hours so that we have enough money for food and other things we need.



Everyone knows each other in my area - we have a good community where everyone looks out for one another.

Many of the streets in Rocinha are too narrow for bin lorries, so rubbish can end up on the streets unless we clear it away ourselves.

A school has just opened near my home. I want an education so I can get a good job when I grow up.

Crime and violence can be a problem in Rocinha. Thankfully, the area is much safer than it used to be a few years ago.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



First, read the information on the Life in Barra Da Tijuca and Life in Rocinha sheets.  
Now, note down your answers to the headings in the boxes below.

**Advantages to living in Barra Da Tijuca:**



**Disadvantages to living in Barra Da Tijuca:**

**Advantages to living in Rocinha:**



**Disadvantages to living in Rocinha:**

**Which of these neighbourhoods would you most like to visit, and why?**



First, read the information on the Life in Barra Da Tijuca and Life in Rocinha Sheets.

Imagine you spent a day in each neighbourhood.

On worksheet 5B, write a short diary entry for each day, including:

What you saw and did

What you thought and felt

What you liked about the area

What you disliked about the area



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Monday, August 3rd

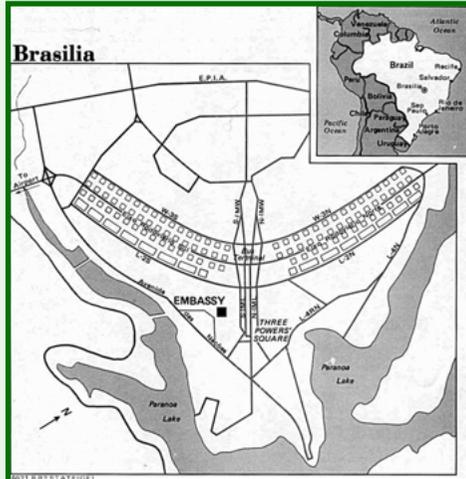
Dear Diary,  
Today I visited Barra Da Tijuca!



Tuesday, August 4th

Dear Diary,  
Today I visited Rocinha!





An early plan of the city of Brasilia

## Brasilia

Until 1960, Rio de Janeiro was the capital city of Brazil. However, in an effort to stop overcrowding, the government decided to build a new capital city in the centre of the country.

It was called Brasilia.



A satellite view of Brasilia

The architect and urban planner, Lucio Costa, planned the new city. It was designed in the shape of an aeroplane - the 'wings' were where the housing would be, the 'main body' would be where the offices and shops were located, and the 'cockpit' would be where the presidential palace was built. Costa also included lots of open spaces and roads - it was a city to move around in by car, rather than on foot.

The city was built from scratch on flat, empty land in the middle of Brazil. It took 60,000 workers just over three years to complete. Oscar Niemeyer, another architect, designed the four-mile long housing estates, which were called 'superblocks'. In addition to apartments, each superblock had a school, church, cinema, library and health centre.

Today, approximately 50,000 people live in the centre of Brasilia, with a further 1.75 million people living on the outskirts of the city.



We need shops in lots of different parts of the city; not just in one area.



We have lots of lovely open spaces and parks.

The buses and the bus station are always overcrowded.



The centre is a dull place to live - there's not much to do outside of the superblocks.



Brasilia feels like a city where people just go to work - it needs to be a more interesting place to live, with more things to do and see, like museums and art galleries.



The outskirts of the city, where most people live, are less well-planned.



There can be traffic jams on the roads during busy times of the day.

There is nothing to do on an evening for fun.



I would like to see more restaurants, theatres and cinemas throughout the city.



# Exploring Brazil

# Brasilia Photo Cards



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the Brasilia Information Sheet and the Residents of Brasilia Comments Sheet, and look at the Brasilia Photo Cards. Redesign the urban area to make it better suit the needs of the people who live there now. Draw a bird's-eye view map of where everything would be located. Use different colours for the buildings and areas according to their uses, and create a key.

**Key:**