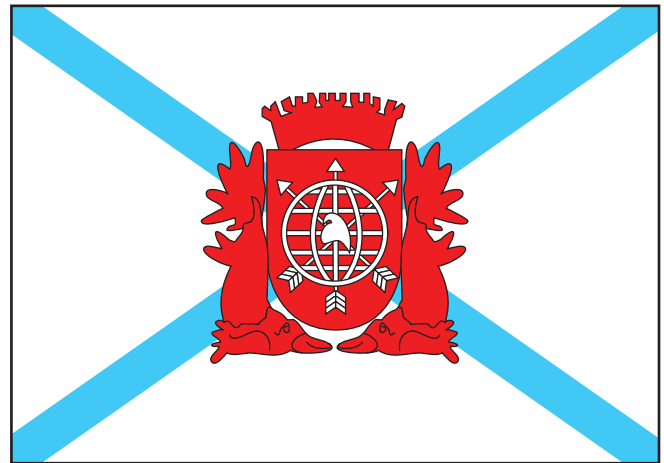# All About
Rio de Janeiro

Flag of Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro is the second largest city in Brazil, *situated* on a strip of land between the mountains and the Atlantic Ocean. It was *founded* in 1565 by the Portuguese, but was *invaded* by French pirates for many years. When gold and diamonds were found near Rio in the late 1600s, the city became an important port for *exploration*. Rio became the capital of Brazil from 1763 to 1960. Taking some of these *natural resources* required a lot of hard work. To do this work, the Portuguese brought many slaves from Africa to Brazil.

Africans brought to Brazil as slaves *contributed* many important traditions that today make up the cultural fabric of Brazil. They combined African traditions with the Roman Catholic traditions of the Portuguese. One example of this is Carnaval, one of Rio's biggest events. At Carnaval, people celebrate before the beginning of Lent, when Catholics stop eating meat. At the heart of this celebration is a big parade that features Afro-Brazilian drums and samba, a dance with bright costumes created by the Africans who came to Brazil.

Vocabulary

Situated: Located; placed
Founded: Begun
Invaded: Entered like an enemy

Exploration: To find out about an unknown place
Natural Resources: Material from the Earth
Contributed: Added

Who were some of the most important people to come to Rio de Janeiro, and how did they change the city? Use facts from the text in your answer.

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