



Carnival

Brazil is famous for its many colourful carnivals. The Rio Carnival is a festival held every year before the Christian period of Lent and is said to be the biggest carnival in the world.



Samba

Samba is a type of dance that is very popular in Brazil. It is based on an African dance and is very lively. Samba is performed by dancers at carnivals. The dancers wear colourful costumes with sequins and feathers.

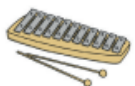
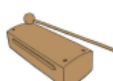
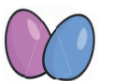
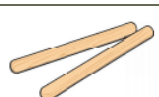


Instruments

Music in Brazil uses any percussion instruments. These are instruments that are hit, scraped or shaken.

	The pandeiro is a hand held drum. It has cymbals around the edge and is held in the left hand. The player hits or shakes it to make a sound.
	The surdo is a big drum. It is used to keep the beat. The player hits the skin of the drum with a beater and their hand.
	The chocalho has one or more rows of cymbals. It can be played with one or two hands. The player shakes the chocalho to make a sound.
	The agogo is a type of bell. Two or more bells are joined together. Each bell is a different size. The player hits the bells with a stick to make a sound.

Other percussion instruments

drums 	cymbals 	triangle 
glockenspiel 	tambourine 	maracas 
wood block 	castanets 	xylophone 
egg shaker 	sleigh bells 	guiro 
bongo 	clave 	cow bell 

Glossary

beat	The basic unit of time within music
carnival	A celebration with parades, costumes, food, music and dancing.
chant	Singing together with a similar rhythm to speech.
compose	Write or create music.
conductor	A person who directs the performance of an orchestra or choir.
duration	The length of a sound.
harmony	Two or more notes sounding at the same time.
lyrics	The words of a song.
melody	A sequence of notes and rhythms.
musician	A person who plays a musical instrument.
national anthem	The special song of a country.
pitch	How high or low a sound is.
pulse	The underlying steady beat of music. This is what we might tap our foot or clap along with.
tempo	The speed of the music.
rhythm	A pattern of sounds, words or notes.
samba	A Brazilian music and dance style that started in Africa.