

# Brazil

## Where in the World

Brazil, the largest country in South America, is only slightly smaller than the continental United States. Brazil is home to the world's largest rainforest (the Amazon), as well as over 4,600 miles of Atlantic coastline.

## Meet the Instruments



**Agogo bells** (*ah-GOH-goh*)—Two or more attached bells of different pitches. Agogo bells have their origin in the *gankogui* (black iron bells) of West Africa.

**Tambourim** (*tahm-boo-REEM*)—A small, single-head frame drum, played with a stick.

**Surdo** (*SOOR-doh*)—A large drum, similar to a bass drum, which is common in samba music.

**Ganza** (*GAHN-sah*)—A rattle consisting of a metal tube filled with pebbles or large seeds.

**Cuica** (*KWEE-kah*)—A friction drum played by rubbing with a damp cloth a stick that is embedded into the head of the drum.

### Surdo Basics

Most surdo rhythms consist of alternating ringing tones with muted tones. Ringing tones are produced by striking the drumhead with a surdo stick (a wooden stick with a round, felt head) and allowing the drumhead to vibrate freely. To produce a muted tone, place the free hand on the drumhead while striking the drumhead with the surdo stick.

### Cuica Basics

Hold the cuica under your left (non-dominant) arm. Using your right (dominant) hand, rub a damp cloth along the stick inside the cuica. While rubbing the stick, press the center finger of your left hand against the head of the cuica to change the tone. Experiment with the variety of sounds you can make. Expert cuica players can imitate many animal sounds and even play melodies.

## Rhythm

The *samba* is a very popular Brazilian rhythm. It developed in Rio de Janeiro and is integral to annual Carnival celebrations. The samba rhythm is in duple meter with layers of syncopated rhythms over a march-like foundation.



# IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE!

A basic samba is presented below. Its texts incorporate the names of various animals of the Amazon rainforest.

The performance on Track 2 of the CD is built using a basic layering technique. It begins with 4 measures of ganza alone, then the surdo comes in and they play together for 4 more measures. The tambourim enters at that point, followed by the agogo bells 4 bars later. All play together for 8 measures and end on a strong downbeat.

Track 26 is an Extended Play-along Jam of this samba. It begins as outlined above but stays in the groove much longer. As suggested on page 32, consider layering in your students with the CD, letting them get comfortable in the groove, and then fading out the recording.



# Samba

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$\text{♩} = 100$

**Agogo Bells**  $\frac{2}{4}$   
Ar - ma - dil - lo. Tou - can, I - gua - na.

**Tambourim**  $\frac{2}{4}$   
Blue mor - pho but - ter - fly. Blue mor - pho but - ter - fly.

**Surdo**  $\frac{2}{4}$   
Ta - pir. Ta - pir.

**Ganza**  $\frac{2}{4}$   
Howl - er mon - key. Howl - er mon - key. Howl - er mon - key. Howl - er mon - key.

