



## My Family from Brazil

Grades K–4

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### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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### Families Around The World Video Series

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includes these 24 programs:

- MY FAMILY FROM BRAZIL
- MY FAMILY FROM GREENLAND
- MY FAMILY FROM ICELAND
- MY FAMILY FROM CHILE
- MY FAMILY FROM INDIA
- MY FAMILY FROM ISRAEL
- MY FAMILY FROM ITALY
- MY FAMILY FROM JAPAN
- MY FAMILY FROM JORDAN
- MY FAMILY FROM CANADA
- MY FAMILY FROM FRANCE
- MY FAMILY FROM LOS ANGELES
- MY FAMILY FROM NEW YORK CITY
- MY FAMILY FROM SERBIA-MONTENEGRO
- MY FAMILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA
- MY FAMILY FROM SOUTH KOREA
- MY FAMILY FROM VIETNAM
- MY INUIT FAMILY FROM CANADA
- MY XHOSA FAMILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA

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From Asia to Africa, city to suburb, or rural farm to tropical rain forest, the presence of the family is common to all people and present in every culture throughout the world. Studying families from different places helps us to learn and appreciate both the similarities and differences between ourselves and others. Also, through exposure to cultures that are unfamiliar to them, children can learn to be accepting of people, lifestyles and traditions that may be very different from their own. The family — that special group of adults and children who care for, love, protect, and help each other — is both explored and celebrated in *Families Around the World*.



## Program Summary

In *My Family from Brazil* students will meet four-year-old Lilian and her large extended family. Students will learn of some of the hardships that Lilian and her family face. Lilian lives with nine other family members in her grandmother's four-bedroom home. Many members of Lilian's family do not have jobs outside the home, as unemployment is prevalent in the northwestern part of Brazil. Difficulties aside, students will witness how Lilian's large extended family helps and cares for each other. Students will accompany Lilian on a quest with her father to find the perfect birthday present for her great-grandmother, as she spends a joyful day at the beach, and as she helps prepare a meal for a birthday party.

## Geographical Information

The Federal Republic of Brazil, or Brazil as it is more commonly called, is located on the continent of South America. In fact, it occupies one-fifth of that continent's landmass and is the fifth largest nation in the world. Brazil is roughly 9 million square kilometers and borders the Atlantic Ocean. It has a population of approximately 173 million, and Portuguese is the official language. The country contains most of the Amazon River basin and the world's most extensive virgin rain forest. Brazil's capitol is Brasilia. Carnival, Brazil's most famous and elaborate celebration, is a blending of a Roman Catholic festival and a celebration of people from African ancestry. Brazilians spend a good part of every year preparing for this occasion.

## Pre-viewing Discussion

Using a web, brainstorm with your students to determine who they consider to be members of their family. Share with your students that families come in all shapes and sizes, and that a family is a group of adults and children who care for, love, protect, and help each other. Use the following questions to help students access their thoughts and ideas about families:

- Who do you care for, love and help?
- Who cares for, loves and helps you?
- Does a family member have to be a person who lives with you?

After this discussion, ask students to draw a family portrait which includes all the people who they consider to be members of their family.

## Follow-up Discussion

After viewing the program with your class, discuss the similarities and differences between their families and Lilian's family. Refer students back to the original definition of a family: *A group of adults and children who care for, love, protect, and help each other.* Ask them to provide examples from the video that demonstrate how this particular family expresses love, shows care and provides help for each other.

## Follow-up Activities

- Divide your class into four groups and assign each group to learn about a layer of the rainforest. Each group will research a particular layer identifying the types of plants and animals that live there. On a large piece of butcher block paper, students can illustrate and label the plants and animals that are found in their assigned layer. Complete this activity by piecing together the layers to create a complete representation of the four layers of the rainforest.
- Share *The Great Kapok Tree* (Harcourt, 2000) by Lynne Cherry and Deborah Halverson with your class. Discuss deforestation and why it is so problematic. After the reading and discussion ask each student to draw a picture and write a caption about something he or she learned about the rainforest. Compile the children's illustrations into a class book.
- To recreate the sounds of rain in a tropical rainforest, make a rain stick. The CanTeach website has excellent instructions and a list of supplies to complete this activity. ([www.canteach.ca/elementary/earthspace5.html](http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/earthspace5.html))
- Using a large Venn diagram, compare and contrast the biome of a tropical rainforest with that of another biome.
- Write a persuasive letter from the point of view of an endangered animal that lives in the rainforest. Your letter should begin, "Dear World," and should contain three good reasons why the world should protect this particular animal's habitat.
- In *My Family from Brazil*, we see Lilian and her family enjoying coconut milk. Bring in coconut milk to share with your class.

## Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our Web site at [www.LibraryVideo.com](http://www.LibraryVideo.com)

- [www.enchantedlearning.com/biomes/](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/biomes/)  
An extensive website related to habitats and biomes created for elementary-age children.
- [www.ran.org/info\\_center/](http://www.ran.org/info_center/)  
The Rainforest Action Network website provides information, pictures, definitions, educational resources and more.
- [www.timeforkids.com/tfk/specials/goplaces/0,12405,104221,00.html](http://www.timeforkids.com/tfk/specials/goplaces/0,12405,104221,00.html)  
This website will allow students to hear Portuguese, view Amazon animals, visit Brazil's famous landmarks and meet Brazilian children.

## Suggested Print Resources

- Campos, Maria de Fatima. *Child's Day in a Brazilian Village*. Marshall Cavendish, London, England; 2001.
- Cherry, Lynne and Mark J. Plotkin. *The Shaman's Apprentice: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest*. Harcourt, Orlando, FL; 1998.
- Moore, Eva and John Spiers. *Magic School Bus in the Rain Forest*. Scholastic, New York, NY; 2000.
- Parker, Edward. *Brazil*. Raintree Publishers, Chicago, IL; 2002.