

# Brazilian Samba!



## Did you Know?

Brazil has the largest number of Japanese people outside Japan. 2008's Rio Carnival included a performance showing the link between Japan and Brazil.

- 1 Samba is one of Brazil's most popular music and dance styles. In many ways, it is a symbol<sup>1</sup> of the country itself. In the words of one of modern samba's main artists, Seu Jorge, "Samba is our truth, our peculiarity<sup>2</sup>... and our flag." When
- 5 people today hear the word *samba*, they often think of the festival of Carnival and the city of Rio de Janeiro. But there are many different types of samba, and these styles **differ** throughout Brazil.

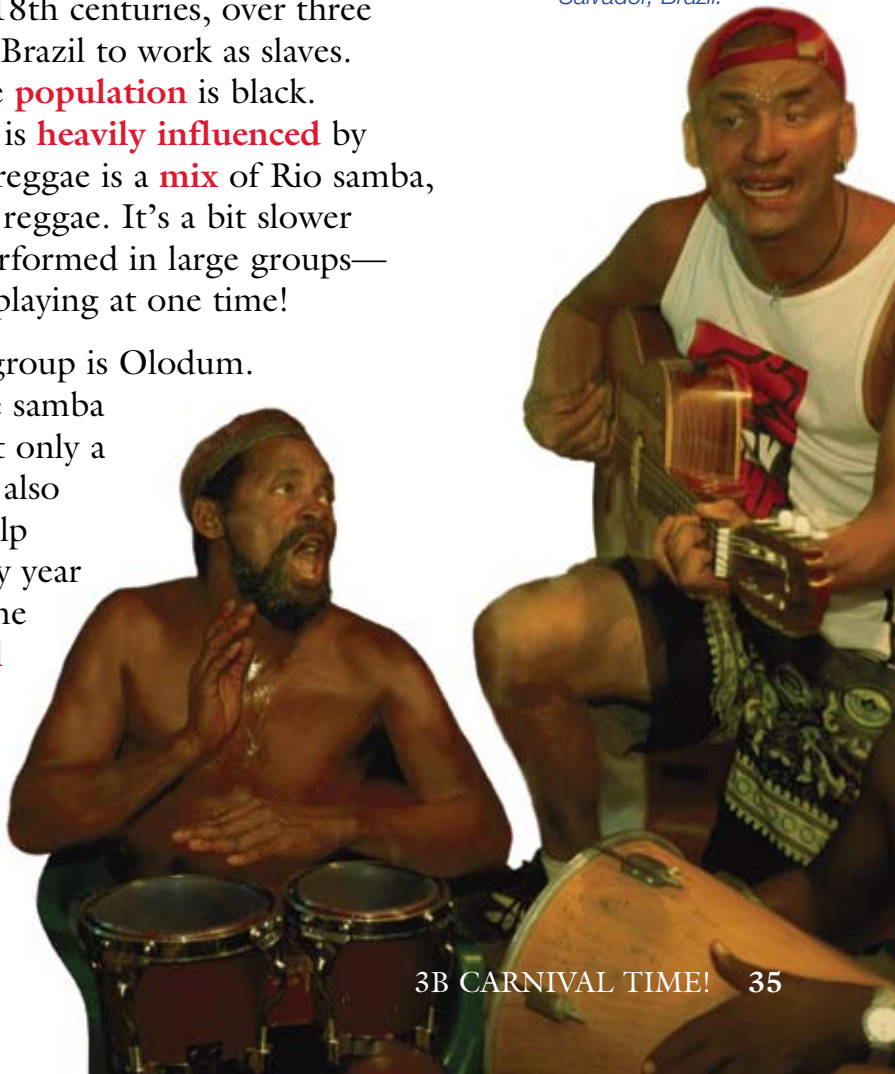
"Samba is our truth, ... our flag."

*Seu Jorge*

## Samba Reggae

- 10 Today, one of the most popular types of samba comes from Bahia, a state in the eastern part of the country. It's called *samba reggae*. From the 16th to 18th centuries, over three million Africans were brought to Brazil to work as slaves. Today in Bahia, 80 percent of the **population** is black.
- 15 Samba from this **region** of Brazil is **heavily influenced** by African rhythms. Modern samba reggae is a **mix** of Rio samba, African drumbeats, and Jamaican reggae. It's a bit slower than Rio samba, and is usually performed in large groups—sometimes with over 200 drums playing at one time!
- 20 Bahia's most famous drumming group is Olodum. Many say the group **invented** the samba reggae sound. But Olodum is not only a musical group. Its members have also created local **organizations** to help
- 25 young people and the poor. Every year in the city of Salvador in Bahia, the **lively** sounds of samba reggae **fill** the streets during Carnival—one of the world's greatest parties.

▼ A group of Bahian musicians performs in Salvador, Brazil.



<sup>1</sup> A **symbol** is a thing that represents something else. For example, a flag is a symbol of a country.

<sup>2</sup> A **peculiarity** is something that belongs to or relates to only one person or thing.