Brazil in a Brazil Nutshell

It’s much more than just soccer and samba
History

• Tupi and Guarani
• Portuguese colony
• Slavery until 1888
• Independence
• Democracy since 1985
People

- Racially diverse due to mixing with slaves and immigration from Italy, Germany, Portugal, Lebanon and Japan.
- Most people live in cities and not far from the coast.
- Strong Brazilian identity.
- Huge gap between rich and poor.
Education

• Poor education system in general
• Public education trails well behind private
• Recent affirmative action program for entrance into university
• School hours are shorter than in U.S.
• Older students study in the a.m. and younger in the p.m.
• Seafood and meat
• *Feijoada* is a national dish
• *Churrasco*
• *Rodízio* and *comida a kilo* are popular
• Lots of different fruits and vegetables
• *Salgadinhos* (fried snacks)
• *Influence* from immigrant populations
Arts and Leisure

• Soccer is most popular sport
• **Capoeira** and jiu-jitsu are also popular
• Music, dance, drama and other arts are highly appreciated in Brazilian culture
• However, no arts education in schools
• Non-governmental organizations offer free arts programming to students without the means to otherwise participate in these activities
Music

• Samba
• Bossa Nova
• Forró
• Axé
• MPB- Popular Brazilian Music
• There are MANY more types
• Corpo Cidadão: An outgrowth of Grupo Corpo dance company
• Before and after school arts programs whose mission is to transform and develop youth through the arts
• 4 locations in Belo Horizonte teaching art, dance and music
• Advanced dance and music group by audition
• Located in a favela
• Offers an array of arts and computer classes, all of which are free
• Cultural center is open 24/7
• Founded by members of musical group AfroReggae, its vision is to awaken potential in youth through the arts and raise their self esteem

Promotional Video: http://www.afroreggae.org/wp/institucional/video-institucional/