



Brazil's Changing Capitals

A Lesson in Site and Situation

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Brazil's Changing Capitals

A Lesson in Site and Situation

Goal: By investigating the movement of Brazil's capital from Salvador to Rio de Janeiro to Brasília, students will discover how a city's importance is related to its site and situation.

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for World Geography:

- 1: Student understands the geographic context of places.
- 5A: Student can analyze how the character of a place is related to its political, economic, social, and cultural characteristics.
- 6B: Student can explain the processes that cause cities to grow.
- 8: Student can explain how people, places, and environments are connected and interdependent.

Performance goals: Students will be able to describe and evaluate the site and situation characteristics of a city.

Learning goals: To successfully complete this assignment, students will need to know about the history, economics, physical setting, and culture of three of Brazil's most important cities: Salvador, Rio de Janeiro, and Brasília. They will also need to understand the important characteristics of capital cities.

Important vocabulary terms: site, situation, forward capital.

Unit Outline:

Warm-up

Austin, Texas: Characteristics of a Capital City

Site

A Letter from Brazil

Situation

Historical Background & Maps (16th-19th century)

Population Density of Brazil

Using Scale

Cycles of the Brazilian Economy

Assessment

Brasília Essay

Curricular resources:

Guide books about Brazil

Overhead transparencies of Brazil (attached)

Picture books about Brazil

Internet

Assessment: Students judge the success or failure of Brasília as the nation's capital. In an essay, students will support their position with facts about Brasília that demonstrate their understanding of site and situation.

Warm-up

Austin, Texas Characteristics of a Capital City

Austin became the capital of Texas in 1839. Created as a forward capital on the frontier of a nation threatened by Mexico from the southwest to the west, the city has thrived. Situated where the Colorado River leaves the hills, the beauty of the place and the abundance and purity of its water made it an attractive location for a capital. The city is also blessed by a year-round temperate climate.

The plan of the city was majestic, including a hilltop site for the capitol building itself. The capitol looks down on broad Congress Avenue that crosses the Colorado River in the distance. Streets running north and south are named after Texas Rivers (Guadalupe, Rio Grande, San Jacinto, etc.). Those running east-west were originally named after Texas trees (e.g., Pecan Street). In the middle of each quarter section of streets was a city park.

Government authority and institutions were concentrated in the capital city. The city became the home of the Legislature, Supreme Court, Governor, the University of Texas, State Mental Hospital, School for the Deaf, and School for the Blind.

In 1893, a dam was built across the Colorado, opening a new era of economic development as the abundance of hydroelectric power attracted industry. By the 1950s, the city was becoming a leader in high technology. The city became known for its cultural life beginning in the 1970s, as local artists like Willie Nelson drew national attention. The PBS program *Austin City Limits* has been around for over three decades. On any given weekend, there are over 100 venues playing live music. The city has 16,814 acres of land containing 208 parks, 14 preserves (sanctuaries for native plants, native animals, and unique natural features), and 25 greenbelts (parkland on creeks and canyons).

Today the Austin metropolitan area has a population over 1.2 million people. Ranked by Forbes magazine in 2003 as the “Best Place for Business,” it is the second fastest growing city in the nation. It is the fourth most visited city in Texas.

In the center of Texas, it is well connected by railroads and highways to all parts of the state. Austin-Bergstrom International Airport opened in 1999 and connects Austin to the rest of the country and the world.

Use the reading above and your knowledge of social studies to list and describe the characteristics of Austin, Texas that make it a successful capital city (e.g., Austin is centrally located in Texas. It is easy to reach Austin from all parts of the state).

What other characteristics of Austin make it a desirable place to live?

Warm-Up, Answer Key

Student answers might include, but not be limited to, the following:

Government functions centered there

Accessible to all parts of the state and other states and nations

Desirable climate

Proud symbol of the state (or nation)

A cultural leader

Monumental (seen as powerful)

Interesting place to visit or live

Economically viable

Education leader

Note: Austin is not the biggest or most industrialized city in Texas. Nor is it the center of the economy.

A Letter from Brazil

Investigating Site Characteristics

Goal: Site characteristics describe local conditions and are closely related to the geographic theme *Place*. In this activity, students will use Internet and print resources to examine the site characteristics of three historic capitals of Brazil. Then the desirability of each city as a place to live is evaluated.

Assessment: Students will write a letter from Brazil to their family at home inviting them to come to Brazil. In support of their invitation, students will describe and evaluate the city's site characteristics.

Lesson:

- 1) Give students Handout #1.
- 2) Remind students of the definitions of physical and cultural characteristics:
- 3) **Physical characteristics**—the naturally occurring characteristics of a place, such as climate, topography, vegetation, soil, water resources, etc.
- 4) **Cultural characteristics**—the human impact on a place, such as its belief systems, language, ethnicity, and government.
- 5) Note: some aspects of a *Place*, such as its foods or buildings, may show the influence of both man and nature.
- 6) Display several transparencies (attached) of the state of Bahia, Brazil. Both physical and cultural characteristics should be shown. Using photographic analysis techniques, such as isolating a quarter of the image at a time, have students describe both the physical and cultural characteristics of Bahia on their practice chart.
- 7) In groups or individually, have students use Internet and print resources to describe the site characteristics for each city. Students may work individually or in groups for research but each student should complete Handout #1.
- 8) Each student is to write a letter in which he/she plays the role of a volunteer in Brazil. The student is hoping to remain in Brazil after the volunteer job is over and hopes his/her family will join him/her. Students should pick one of the three cities and the most desirable place to live. The city's site characteristics are described in support of the invitation.

Site Lesson Rubric

Students will write a letter of five paragraphs in length. The purpose of the letter is to persuade members of their families living in the United States to move to Brazil. After an appropriate opening paragraph, the student will give three reasons for moving. These reasons must be detailed, accurate, and based on student exploration of the city's site characteristics. The final paragraph will summarize the reasons and close appropriately.

+ excellent (5 pts) ✓ average (3 pts) – below average (2 pts) 0 missing (0 pts)

Follows directions

describes both physical and cultural characteristics	_____
stays within character	_____
uses proper grammar	_____
legible	_____
completed and detailed notes	_____
answered questions at end of notes	_____
exactly five paragraphs	_____

Opening paragraph

appropriate greeting	_____
introduces desire for family move	_____

Paragraph 2 (reason #1)

supports main idea	_____
detailed reason	_____
accurate information	_____

Paragraph 3 (reason #2)

supports main idea	_____
detailed reason	_____
accurate information	_____

Paragraph 4 (reason #3)

supports main idea	_____
detailed reason	_____
accurate information	_____

Closing

summarizes reasons for moving	_____
conclusion	_____

Total _____

Student Handout #1

Physical characteristics—the naturally occurring characteristics of a place, such as climate, topography, vegetation, soil, water resources, etc.

Cultural characteristics—the human impact on a place, such as its belief systems, language, ethnicity, government, entertainment, jobs, etc.

Practice (Bahia)

Physical characteristics	Cultural characteristics

Begin with these Internet sites. Research each city and describe in detail its physical and cultural characteristics.

Salvador, Brazil – encyclopedia article about Salvador
<http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/Salvador%2c+Brazil>

Pelourinho, The Complete Salvador-Bahia Online Guide
<http://www.bahia-online.net/Pelourinho.htm>

Central & South America, Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, Introduction
<http://www.frommers.com/destinations/riodejaneiro/2845010001.html>

Rio de Janeiro – encyclopedia article about Rio de Janeiro
<http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/Rio+de+Janeiro>

Brasília – encyclopedia article about Brasília
<http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/Brasilia>

Brasília and the Central West by Sergio Koreisha
<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~sergiok/brasil/brasilia.html>

Keywords:

- Salvador capital Brazil
- Rio de Janeiro capital Brazil
- Brasilia capital Brazil

Salvador

Physical characteristics	Cultural characteristics

Rio de Janeiro

Physical characteristics	Cultural characteristics

Brasília

Physical characteristics	Cultural characteristics

Which of these characteristics is important when choosing a capital city? Support your choice with a concrete reason.

1.

2.

How would your choice change if you were picking a capital in 1500?

Situation

A city's situation, its relationships to other places, is important in determining the success or failure of a city. Use the following map activities to examine the situations of Brazil's three capital cities: Salvador, Rio de Janeiro, and Brasília. Keep in mind that a city's relative location may change with changes in technology and economics.

Map Activities:

- Ocean Currents

- The Colonial Expedition of Martin Alfonso de Sousa

- Economic Map of Brazil in the 17th Century

- Economic Map of Brazil in the 18th Century

- The Brazilian Economy in the 19th Century

- Population Density of Brazil

- Using Scale

- Cycles of the Brazilian Economy

Complete the map activities and the graph, then answer the following questions.

1. What were the first two important economic activities in Brazil?
2. Where were these activities located?
3. What was Salvador's location relative to these areas?
4. What other economic activity took place in the same region?
5. After sugarcane, what became the most important economic activity?
6. Where was this activity located?

7. How did Rio de Janeiro's relative location influence the decision to move the capital from Salvador?

8. Where were the centers of industry in the 19th century?

9. What activities take place in the interior?

As Brazil developed economically, the population became more and more concentrated along the coast. In the 1960s, Brazilians built a new capital, Brasília. A forward capital, its location, near the frontier of settlement, was designed to aid in the development of the interior.

10. Where is Brasília located in relation to population centers?

11. Which of the three capitals is most centrally located in the country?

Ocean Currents

Color the legend according to the directions. Then color the map according to the legend.

The four currents are from north to south:
Guiana Current,
Equatorial Current,
Brazil Current and
the Falklands Current.

Label the currents on the map.

Which current is a cold current?

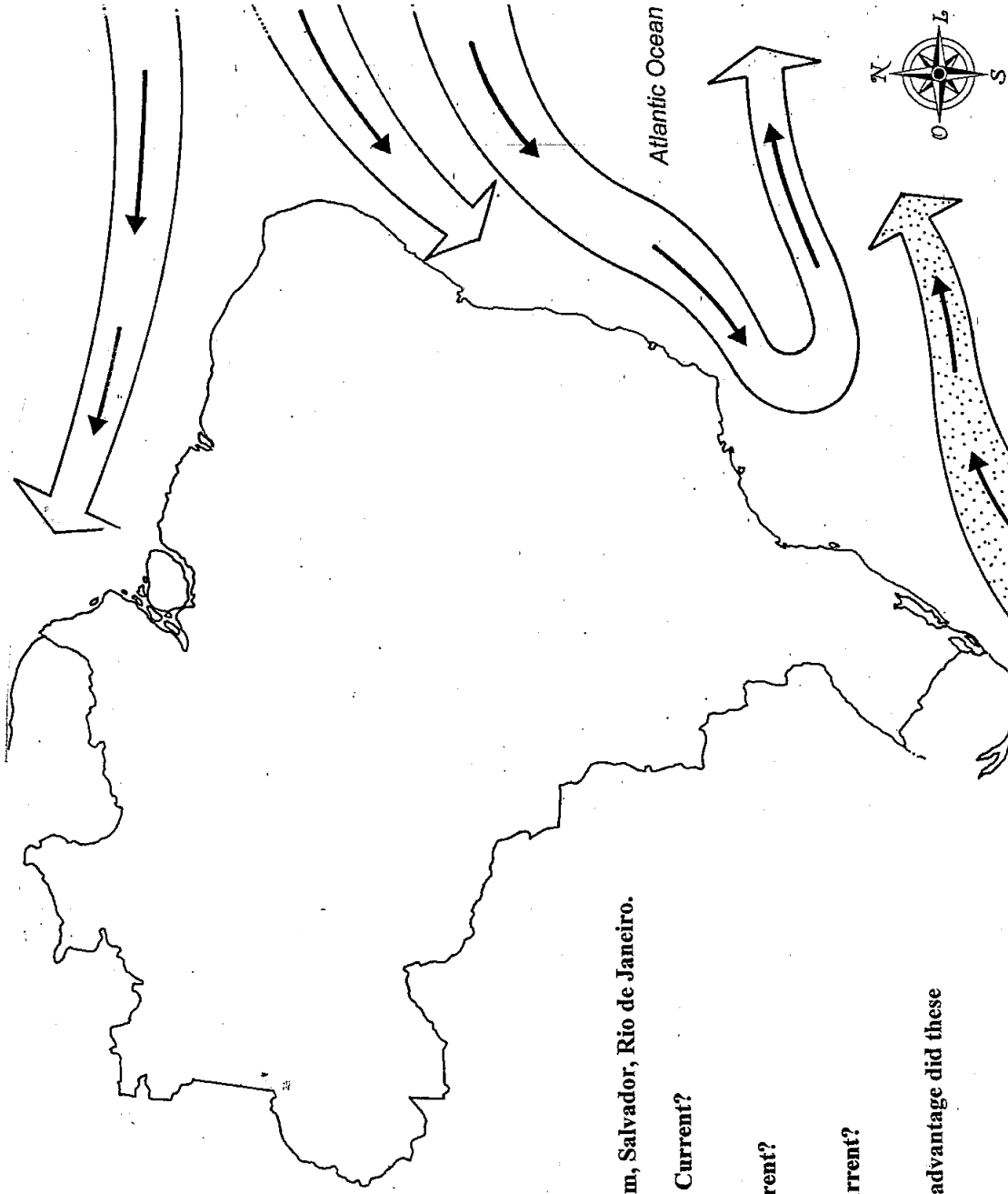
Locate and label these cities: Belem, Salvador, Rio de Janeiro.

Which city is near the Equatorial Current?

Which city is near the Brazil Current?

Which city is near the Guiana Current?

In the days of sailing ships, what advantage did these cities have?



The Colonial Expedition of Martin Alfonso de Sousa

Portugal needed a way of securing its claim to the coast of Brazil because of the presence of the French there. Colonization was the solution. In 1530, Portugal sent Martin Alfonso de Sousa (also spelled Martim Afonso de Sousa) to Brazil. He landed on the coast of Pernambuco, where he defeated the Frenchmen who were smuggling Brazilwood. After sending Diogo Leite to explore the Maranhão coast, he sailed south along the Brazilian coast.

On the map:

Color the route of Martin Alfonso red and the route of Diogo Leite green.

With a blue pencil, write the names of the places where Martin Alfonso visited on his trip south.

- 1. Cape Santo Agostinho**
- 2. Bay of all Saints, where he met the Portuguese Diogo Alvares Correia, called Caramuru by the natives**
- 3. Rio de Janeiro**
- 4. Cananeia**
- 5. Rio de la Plata**

Circle the part of the territory visited by Martin Alfonso that actually belonged to Portugal. Circle the areas he visited that belonged to Spain.

In 1532, Martin Alfonso founded the village of São Vicente where he had landed on the return trip from Rio de la Plata. This was the first settlement populated by the Portuguese in Brazil. The settlers began planting sugarcane and raising cattle. At São Vicente, the possibilities of growing sugarcane in Brazil were realized. Climbing in the mountains near the sea, Martin Alfonso encountered a shipwrecked Portuguese named João Ramalho, who had been living among the natives and, in fact, had married Bartira, daughter of the chief of Tabiriçá. With the help of João Ramalho, Martin Alfonso founded a second village, Santo André.

With a red pencil, label São Vicente and Santo André.



Atlantic Ocean



Economic Map of Brazil in the 17th Century

During the 16th and 17th centuries, colonial Brazil was supported by sugarcane production. From the time of the first colonizers, sugarcane production was successful in the coastal region. Sugar plantations were profitable for Portugal and also contributed to populating the coast when cities and villages were established. Cattle were also introduced at the beginning of colonization; however, they did not penetrate the interior until the beginning of the second century of colonization. Cattle were an important source of food for the people of the coastal region.

On the map:

Color...

Areas cultivated with sugarcane (green)

Areas where cattle were raised (brown)

Areas where rubber and other plants were collected (red)

List the names of the cities in bold on the map. They were established in the 16th century.

List the rest of the cities that were established in the 17th century.

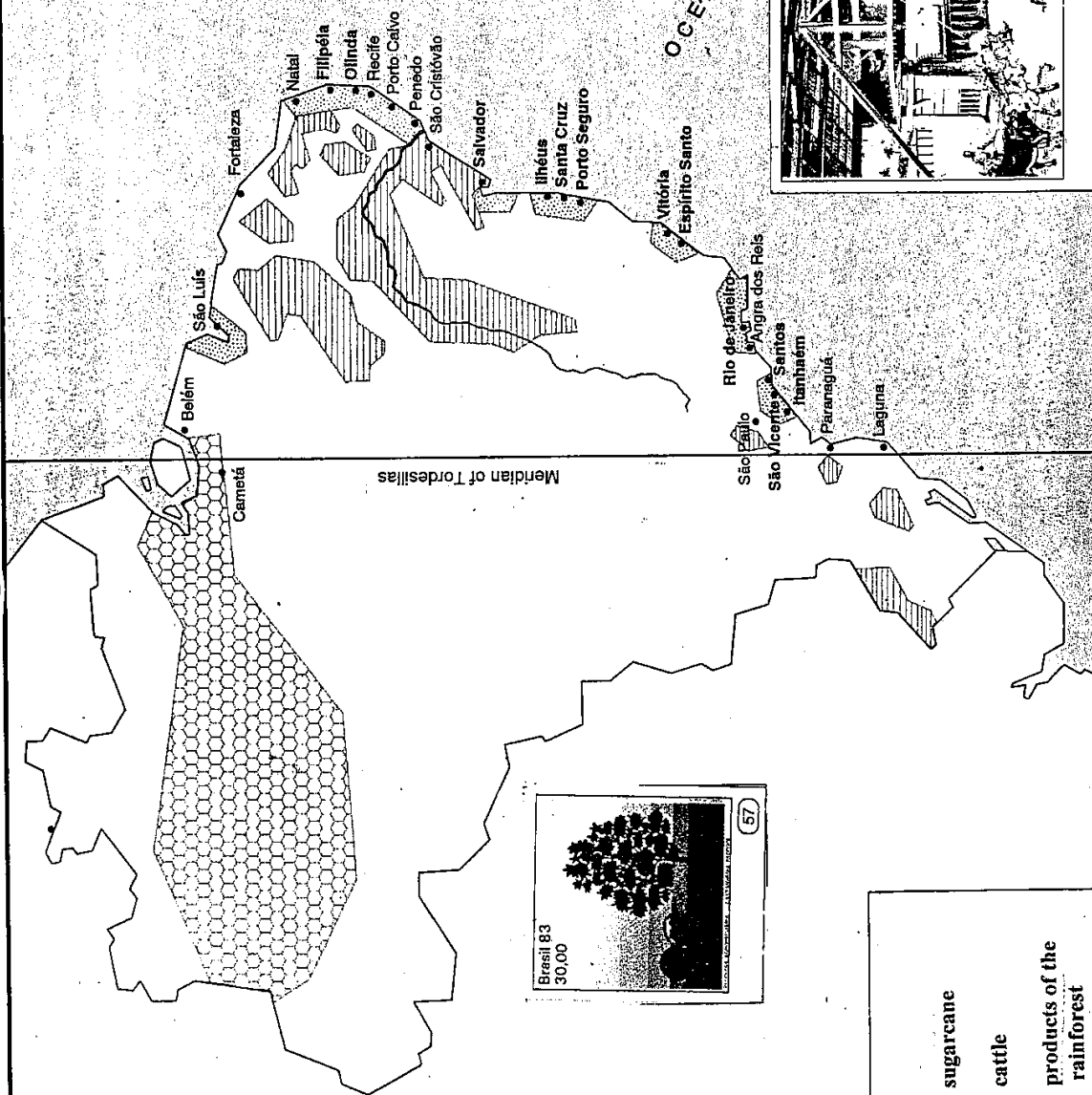
What great river originates in the interior of cattle country?

The plantation culture consisted of two opposing groups: slave owners and slaves. Large estates were developed with grand houses, sugar mills, and slave quarters.

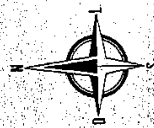
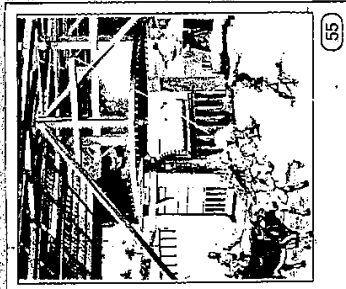
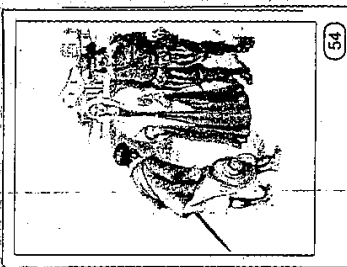
The success of cattle raising in the interior led to the appearance of a new type of farmer: the cowboy. On the cattle ranches, these cowboys worked as free men.

The products of the rainforest (cacao, nuts, medicines, etc.) brought wealth from a region that had only been explored by Jesuits as they brought their doctrine to the Indians.

Economic map of Brazil in the 17th century



- LEGEND**
- sugarcane
 - cattle
 - products of the rainforest



Economic Map of Brazil in the 18th Century

The discovery of gold and diamonds accelerated settlement of the interior. The most valuable minerals were located in the states of Mato Grosso, Goiás, and Minas Gerais (which means “General Mines”). This era of mining activity was responsible for the dislocation of the center of the economy from the Northeast to the South Central and the movement of the capital from Salvador to Rio de Janeiro.

On the map:

Color the areas where sugarcane is cultivated (green). Color the legend also.

Color the areas where cattle were raised (brown). Color the legend also.

Color the areas of rubber production (red). Color the legend also.

Color the areas of minerals (yellow). Color the legend also.

On the map, with a red pencil, write the name of the city that became the capital of Brazil in 1763.

With a green pencil, write the name of the city that was the former capital of Brazil.

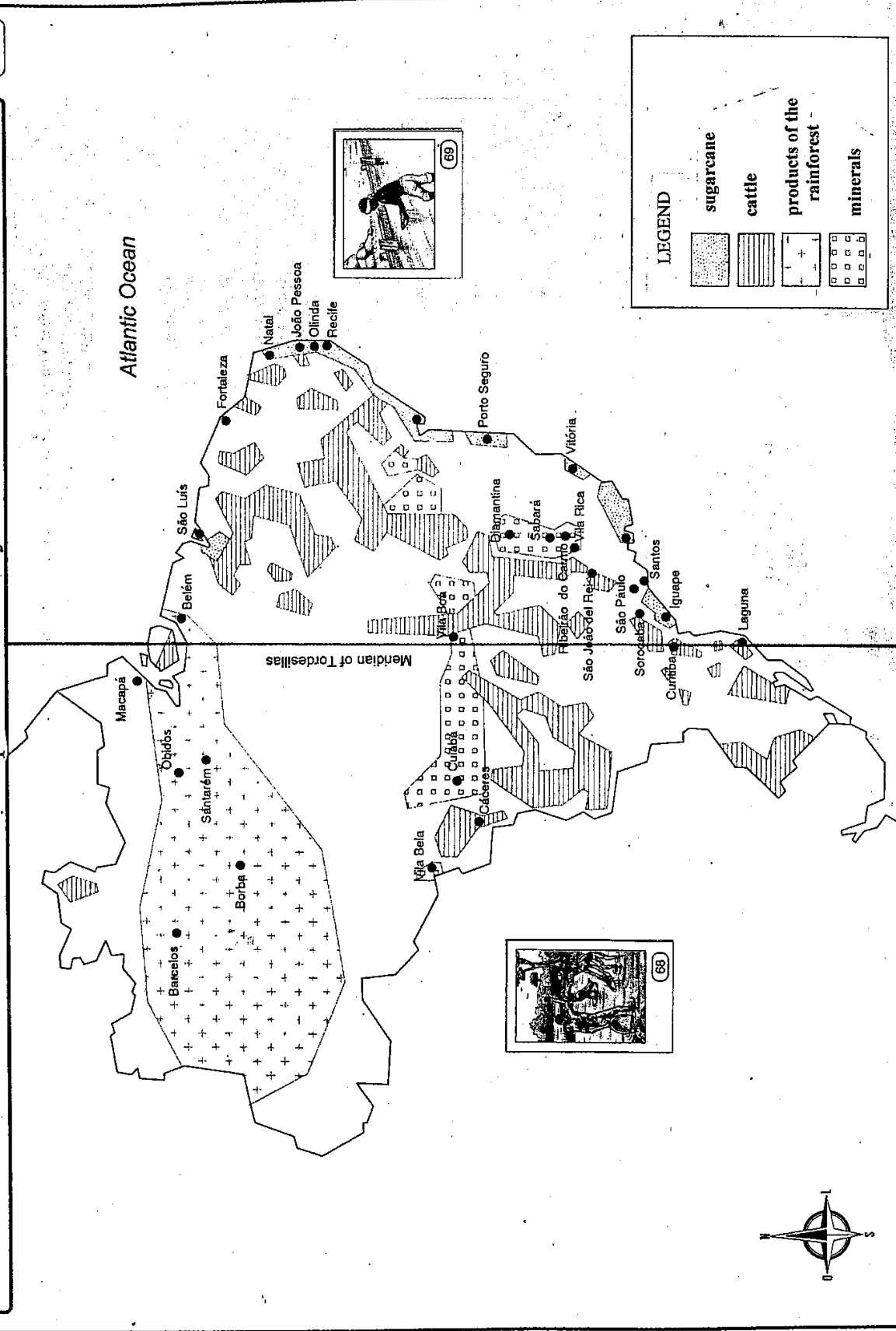
With a blue pencil, underline the name of the city that, by its name, appears to have been the center of the diamond exploration. Circle the name of the city Ouro Preto, Portuguese for black gold, near where gold was discovered.

What role does cattle raising seem to have in aiding the expansion of Brazil?

The map is illustrated with the following information:

Panning for gold was one way of mining. Prospectors worked along or with helpers. Larger mines were primarily worked by slaves.

Economic map of 18th Century Brazil



The Brazilian Economy in the 19th Century

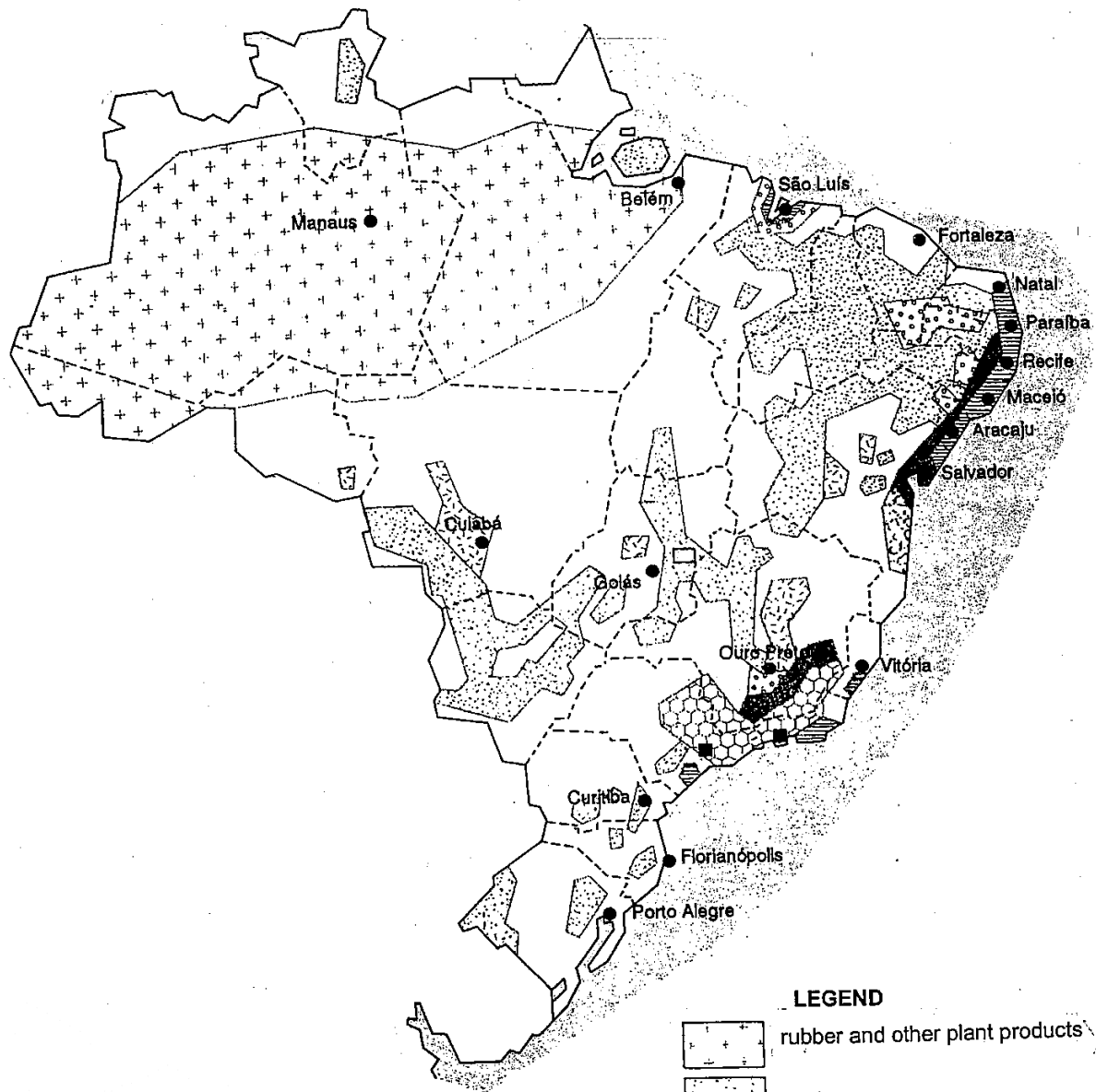
In the early 19th century, agriculture was the principal economic activity in Brazil. Sugarcane had been the most important product of the early colonial period. Coffee was introduced to Brazil later, but by the end of the 19th century had surpassed sugar in importance. Other economic activities included tobacco, cotton, chocolate (cacao), and cereals. Increased foreign immigration, mainly in the southern part of the country, aided the development of agriculture. In the Amazon, there was a boom in the production of rubber. Cattle production increased, but mineral production declined. Industry had developed little under Portuguese rule.

Color the map according to the directions on the map.

Label these cities: São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Brasília.

- 1. What cities are located near concentrations of industry?**
- 2. Which agricultural product was most important at the beginning of the 19th century?**
- 3. Where was this product grown?**
- 4. What was the main export product at the end of the 19th century?**
- 5. Where does this product grow?**

The Brazilian Economy in the 19th Century



Color the map according to the legend.

Color the legend also.

Use these colors:

rubber & other plant products—light green

cattle—brown

minerals—yellow

coffee—red


sugarcane—dark green

cotton—pink

cacao—orange


tobacco—purple


LEGEND

 rubber and other plant products

 cattle

 minerals

 coffee

 sugarcane

 cotton

 cacao (chocolate)

 tobacco

 central industries

Population Density of Brazil

The map shows distribution of people in Brazil by indicating population densities.

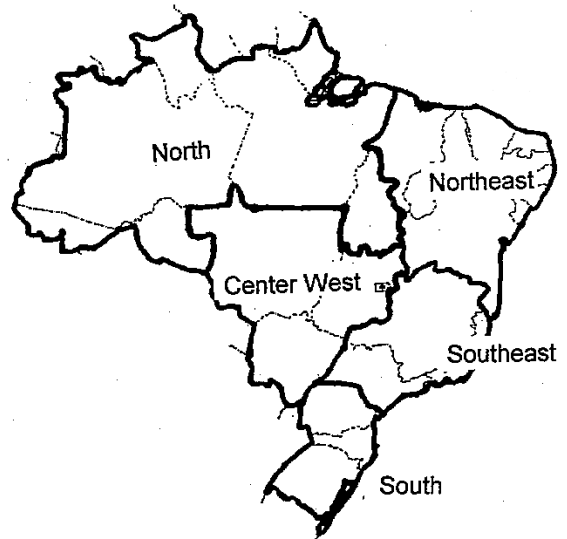
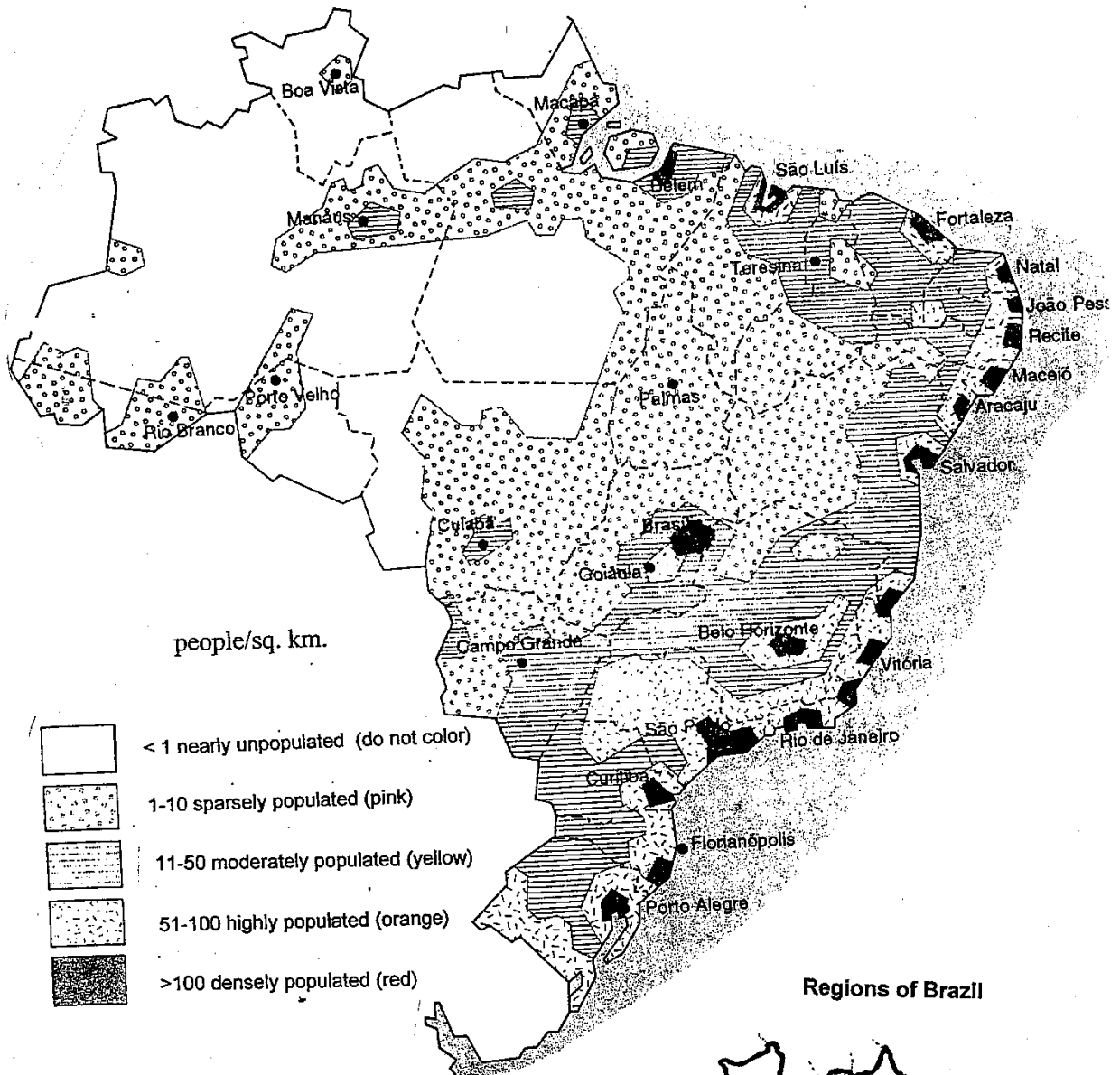
Color the map according to the legend.

Use the map and the map regions of Brazil to answer to the following questions:

- 1. Which regions of Brazil are less populated?**
- 2. Which regions of Brazil are most populated?**
- 3. Which state capitals are located in the densely populated areas?**
- 4. In which population class is the capital Brasília?**
- 5. Which state capitals are located in the highly populated areas?**
- 6. Which state capitals are located in the moderately populated areas?**
- 7. Which state capitals are located in sparsely populated areas?**
- 8. Why are areas near the coast more populated than areas in the interior?**
- 9. Draw a thick line on the Population Density map along the border between the areas that are moderately populated and those that are sparsely populated. Where is Brasília in relation to that line?**

The population of colonial Brazil contained Indians, black Africans, and white Europeans. Later immigrants, such as the Italians, Germans, and Japanese, contributed to the formation of modern Brazilian society.

Population Density of Brazil



Using Scale

The map, *Using Scale*, has a scale of 1:25,000,000. This means that 1 centimeter (cm.) on the map is equivalent to 25,000,000 cm. on land. Change the 25,000,000 centimeters to kilometers (km.) by dividing 25,000,000 by the number of centimeters in a kilometer (100,000).

Now the scale is 1 cm = _____ km. Fill in the numbers on the map's scale.

Use a ruler or the scale on the map to measure the distance from Brasília to selected state capitals. Write the distances on Student Handout #2.

Your final answer should be in kilometers.

You may use a ruler to measure distances in centimeters. Add the distances. Divide by ten, then convert the answer to kilometers. Make sure you label all numbers with the units (cm. or km.).

OR

You may use the scale on the map to measure the distances in kilometers, add them together and find the average.

What is the total? _____

What is the average distance from Brasília to these selected state capitals? _____

On the second map, draw lines from Rio de Janeiro to the same cities, including Brasília. Measure and record the distances on Handout #2 as you did with the first map.

What is the total? _____

What is the average distance from Rio to these same cities? _____

Which city is more centrally located, Brasília or Rio de Janeiro?

Student Handout #2

Distances from Brasília to...

Boa Vista _____

São Luís _____

Fortaleza _____

Recife _____

Salvador _____

Vitória _____

Rio de Janeiro _____

Porto Alegre _____

Campo Grande _____

Cuiabá _____

Total _____

Average _____

Distances from Rio de Janeiro to...

Boa Vista _____

São Luís _____

Fortaleza _____

Recife _____

Salvador _____

Vitória _____

Brasília _____

Porto Alegre _____

Campo Grande _____

Cuiabá _____

Total _____

Average _____

Student Handout #2, Answer Key

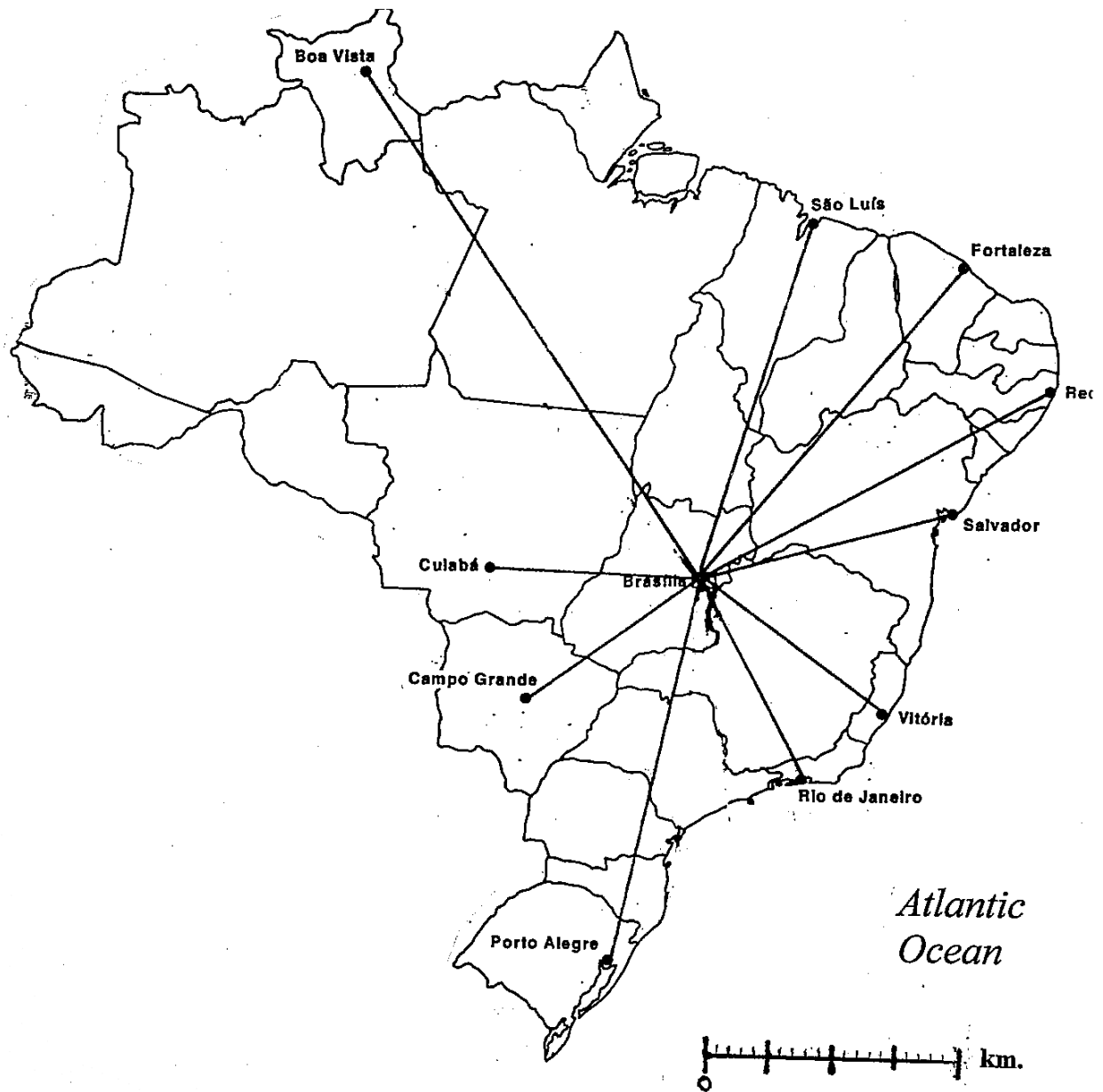
Distances from Brasília to...

	cm./km.
Boa Vista	<u>9.5/2375</u>
São Luís	<u>5.8/1450</u>
Fortaleza	<u>6.4/1600</u>
Recife	<u>6.3/1575</u>
Salvador	<u>4.1/1025</u>
Vitória	<u>3.6/900</u>
Rio de Janeiro	<u>3.5/875</u>
Porto Alegre	<u>6.2/1550</u>
Campo Grande	<u>3.3/825</u>
Cuiabá	<u>3.3/825</u>
Total	<u>52/13000</u>
Average	<u>5.2/1300</u>

Distances from Rio de Janeiro to...

	cm./km.
Boa Vista	<u>12.6/3150</u>
São Luís	<u>8.5/2125</u>
Fortaleza	<u>8.2/2050</u>
Recife	<u>7.1/1775</u>
Salvador	<u>4.9/1225</u>
Vitória	<u>1.6/400</u>
Brasília	<u>3.3/825</u>
Porto Alegre	<u>4.0/1000</u>
Campo Grande	<u>4.6/1150</u>
Cuiabá	<u>5.9/1475</u>
Total	<u>60.7/15175</u>
Average	<u>6.07/1517.5</u>

Using scale



Scale

Using scale



Cycles of the Brazilian Economy

The Brazilian economy is one of the 10 largest in the world. Brazilians have large and well-developed economic sectors that include agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and services. The Brazilian influence is widely felt throughout Latin America and the world.

Brazil's economic history was one of cycles. Each cycle was characterized by the exploitation of a different resource.

Brazilwood	-----early 1500s
Sugarcane	-----mid-16 th –17 th century
Precious metals & gems (gold, diamonds, emeralds)	-----18 th century
Rubber	-----early 20 th century
Coffee	-----19 th century to present

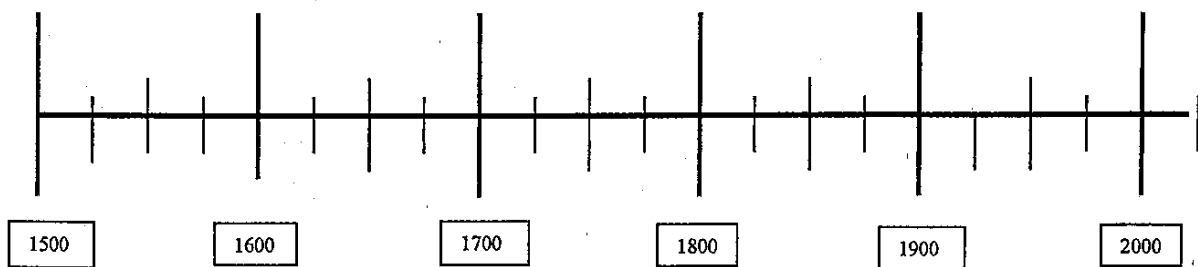
In the early 1950s, Brazil began a plan of diversification, developing a strong industrial sector that would end its dependence on the marketing of raw materials. At the same time Brazil maintained strong agricultural, mining, and service sectors while moving toward the development of high technology.

On the graph below, create a time line that shows the following information from Brazil's economic history. Use a different color for each cycle. Label the cycles directly on the graph rather than creating a key.

Selected Cycles of the Brazilian Economy: Brazilwood (1500-1550); Sugar (1600-1700); Precious metals and gems (1698-1899); Rubber (1825-1945); Coffee (1830-present); Industry (1930s-present).

The location of Brazil's capital city is related to the cycles of its economy. As the center of the economy shifted from sugar in the Northeast to minerals in the Southeast, so the capital shifted from Salvador to Rio de Janeiro. When the country diversified, it also made an effort to develop the interior and a new forward capital, Brasília, was built.

On the graph below, make a timeline of the three capitals of Brazil: Salvador (1549-1763); Rio de Janeiro (1763-1960); Brasília (1960-present). Use a different color for each city. Label the segments for each city.



What economic cycles were associated with each capital city:

Salvador:

Rio de Janeiro:

Brasília:

Evaluating Brasília as a National Capital

Directions:

Write an essay in which you evaluate Brasília as a national capital. Use your knowledge of social studies, knowledge gained in this unit, and further research to argue that Brasília is or is not a successful capital city for Brazil. Take only one position and support it with facts that include information about the city's site and situation. You may compare Brasília to another forward capital you consider more or less successful. Your essay should be between four and six paragraphs in length and use proper grammar.

Questions you might consider include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1. Does the city serve as a symbol or rallying point for the nation?**
- 2. Does the government function effectively from this location?**
- 3. Does the city help unite the nation?**
- 4. Are all parts of the nation well connected to the city?**
- 5. Is the city a desirable place to visit or live?**

Modifications: How successful is Brasília as the capital of Brazil? Make a list of pros and cons to evaluate Brasília.

Brasília Essay Rubric

Students will write an essay from 4 to 6 paragraphs in length. The purpose of the essay is to evaluate Brasília as a national capital using its site and situation characteristics. After an appropriate opening paragraph, the student will write from two to four paragraphs. The paragraphs must contain detailed facts about the city in support of the student's position. The final paragraph will summarize the position and close appropriately.

+ excellent (5 pts) ✓ average (3 pts) – below average (2 pts) 0 missing (0 pts)

Follows directions

describes both site and situation characteristics	_____
uses proper grammar	_____
legible	_____
from 4-6 paragraphs	_____

Opening paragraph

states position	_____
previews reasons	_____

Paragraph 2

supports position	_____
detailed reasons	_____
accurate information	_____

Paragraph 3

supports position	_____
detailed reasons	_____
accurate information	_____

Paragraph 4 (optional)

supports position	_____
detailed reasons	_____
accurate information	_____

Paragraph 5 (optional)

supports position	_____
detailed reasons	_____
accurate information	_____

Closing

summarizes reasons supporting position	_____
conclusion	_____

Total _____