



Celebrating Black Brazil

How to Make the Most of This Lesson

This lesson serves as a **road map** for your journey through a rich and exciting collection of online content made available by **Google Arts & Culture's partners**. You will explore photographs, slideshows, voice recordings, and more. The images in this lesson are just a sample of what's available to you via the **Google Arts & Culture** website.

You can complete this lesson independently or with fellow students, a teacher, or another adult. The content is accessible to a wide range of ages, but it's especially geared toward students ages 14 to 17.

Your journey in this lesson will take you through three major topics:

Chapter 1: Pioneering Leaders of Resistance

Chapter 2: Heroes of Today

Chapter 3: Black Brazil in the Arts

You'll see some helpful signs along the way:



Estimated time for completing the chapter



Audio recording or video



Link to more online content



Learning activity

Tools for Learning

Below are tools for learning that you may need for Digital Discovery lessons:



A device that connects to the Internet (a computer or tablet)



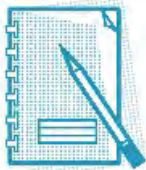
A tool for writing your responses and big ideas (pen, pencil, computer, etc.)



Art supplies (markers, crayons, paint)



Scissors



A notebook



Scrap paper

Explore! Google Arts & Culture pictures are **big**. If you want to explore a picture in greater detail, click on the magnifying glass symbol and zoom in with the zoom slider. By dragging the white box around, you can see even **tiny** details.

Welcome to Celebrating Black Brazil

Brazil is home to the world's largest number of people of African descent outside of Africa itself. The ancestors of today's Black Brazilians were forced to come to Brazil after being sold as enslaved people in their home countries. Enslavement ended in Brazil in 1888, thanks to the work of many resistance leaders in the Black community. Today, their legacy is celebrated with Black National Consciousness Day in November. This day recognizes not only the history of Black Brazilians but also their immeasurable cultural contributions to the fabric of the nation.

What Will You Do?

1. Find out why enslaved Africans arrived in Brazil.
2. Learn how enslaved Africans fought for freedom by fleeing enslavement and establishing their own communities.
3. Meet some Brazilian artists and see how their work celebrates Black Brazil.



What's in this lesson?

1. Discover why Black National Consciousness Day was established.
2. See some famous Black Brazilian heroes.
3. See how art has played a role in the history of Black Brazil.

By participating in this lesson, you will be able to:

1. Explain events in the history of Black Brazil.
2. Identify several Black Brazilian heroes.
3. View iconic works by Brazilian artists.

Vocabulary

colony, plantation, *quilombo*, samba, *tropicália*, masseur

Need help with some of these terms? See the glossary at the end of this lesson.



Pioneering Leaders of Resistance



What is this chapter about?

Enslavement and its opponents in Brazil



How long with this chapter take?

1 hour

Chapter 1: Warming Up

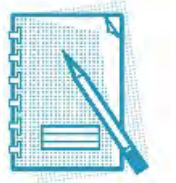
Before you explore, answer the questions below in your notebook.

Consider

1. Why were enslaved people sent to Brazil?

Discover

2. How did enslaved people who escaped their captors establish their own communities?



Enslaved People in Brazil

The Portuguese established the **colony** of Brazil in 1500, primarily as a location from which to conduct trade, including in enslaved people. From the 1500s to the 1800s, some 4 million Africans, mostly from West Africa and Angola, were forcibly transported to Brazil. Many did not survive the hideous conditions of the journey or their enslavement on the sugar **plantations** and gold and diamond mines.



Painel - Rotas do Tráfico Negroiro - Exposição Potuqueses no Mundo - MHN, Museu Histórico Nacional

This diagram shows the routes of the slave trade. The center drawing shows how ships of enslaved people were packed full, with no regard for human safety.



Review the history of Blacks in Brazil in [this story](#).

Quilombos

During the colonial period, some enslaved people escaped from captivity and fled to remote locations. They established farming communities. These communities were called **quilombos** (also known as *mocambos*, *palenques*, *cumbes*, *cimarrones*, or *maroons* in Brazil and other colonial societies).



Read about the Curukango quilombo [here](#).



Memories of the Resistance

During the early 1600s, several *quilombos* in northeastern Brazil joined together to form an independent state called Palmares. People in Palmares survived by farming and by raiding nearby communities. By the late 1600s, more than 20,000 people lived in Palmares. Ganga Zumba was the state's leader. His nephew Zumbi took his place after Ganga Zumba's death.

Portuguese and Dutch colonial authorities tried many times to put an end to Palmares, seeing it as a danger to the enslavement system. In 1694, authorities finally defeated Palmares forces. Palmares came to an official end with the execution of Zumbi in 1695.

Palmares and Zumbi became a symbol of resistance for enslaved Brazilians. Over time, Palmares and Zumbi also came to represent all forms of Black struggle against oppression and discrimination.



Read more about Zumbi [here](#). See a monument to Zumbi [here](#).



Blacks and Caboclos, Quilombo de Bebedouro. Quilombo, Theo Brandão and Rio de Janeiro: Funarte, 1978 / Museu Theo Brandão Collection 1952, Geledés Instituto da Mulher Negra | Rede de Historiadores Negros | Acervo Cultne

Later, Black Brazilians honored Palmares and Zumbi through dramatic reenactments, usually held during the Christmas holidays. During the 1800s, authorities tried to outlaw such demonstrations. However, the practice continued and became a symbol of racial pride and part of the fight to end discrimination and racism.



Learn more about the significance of Palmares and Zumbi in [this story](#).



The Origins of Black Consciousness

In the 1960s, a group of young Black Brazilians formed an organization to recognize Palmares and the continued fight against oppression. The Palmares Group's effort led to the creation of National Black Consciousness Day in Brazil, which takes place yearly on November 20. The day honors Zumbi and reflects on the historical injustices faced by Black Brazilians.



Learn more about Black Brazil and Palmares [here](#).



See a modern-day festival celebrating Black awareness [here](#).



Edison Carneiro. O Quilombo dos Palmares . 2.ed. São Paulo: Editora Brasiliense, 1958 [1947], cover and p. 41 Copy 1958, Geledés Instituto da Mulher Negra | Rede de Historiadores Negros | Acervo Cultne

Na verdade, porém, o Zumbi não pereceu nesses combates, nem se atirou no abismo. Nos dias imediatos à captura do Macaco (6 de fevereiro de 1694), Domingos Jorge Velho passou atestados sobre a conduta militar de Bernardo Vieira de Melo e do capitão Antônio Pinto Pereira, pernambucanos, contando detalhadamente as peripécias do cerco, da luta e da perseguição aos negros, mas sem se referir, de maneira alguma, à morte do Zumbi. Somente em carta de 1696 o governador Caetano de Melo e Castro noticiava ao rei a morte do Zumbi, que, traído por um mulato, fôra atacado no seu esconderijo por uma coluna de paulistas, sob o comando do capitão André Furtado de Mendonça. O Zumbi estava com mais 20 homens e resistiu bravamente, enfrentando os paulistas. Apenas um dos seus homens foi apanhado vivo. O Mestre de Campo dos paulistas confirmava a notícia, em requerimento ao rei, datando a morte do Zumbi de 20 de novembro de 1695, — quase dois anos depois de destruído o Macaco. No ano de 1697, André Furtado de Mendonça pedia e obtinha, no Reino, favores especiais, dando como um dos seus títulos a “valorosa ação” de matar o Zumbi.

Este é o Zumbi da História.



Jaques Felix Trindade. "Capa". *Jornegro*, São Paulo, n. 5, 1978. Jaques Felix Trindade and *Jornegro* 1978, Geledés Instituto da Mulher Negra | Rede de Historiadores Negros | Acervo Cultne

The 1970s brought continued efforts to create social change for Black Brazilians. Organizations such as the Unified Black Movement Against Racial Discrimination (MNUCDR) formed to bring an end to discrimination.

These groups' efforts brought about significant change in the national mindset. For example, today, education about Black culture and contributions is mandatory in all Brazilian schools.



Learn more about the Black Movement in [this story](#).



Chapter 1: Wrapping Up

Now that you've read the chapter, reflect on what you've learned by answering the question below.



- How did increased awareness of Black history and culture bring social change to Brazil?

RCA

VICTOR
ESTEREO
102-0054

MARTINHO DA VILA
BATUQUE NA COZINHA



Chapter 2: Heroes of Today



What is this chapter about?
Some of Brazil's national heroes



How long will this chapter take?
1 hour

Chapter 2: Warming Up

Before you explore, answer the questions in your notebook.

Consider

1. Why is honoring our cultural heroes important? What role does this play in establishing a sense of national history?

Discover

2. How can sports and music bring people together?



Martinho da Vila (1938–)

Across all walks of life, Black Brazilians are making a mark and defining the culture of Brazil for the world. In this chapter, we'll take a look at some of the Black Brazilians who are famous for their life's work, from music to sports to massage therapy.

Martinho da Vila is a singer, composer, and master of **samba**. He was the first samba artist to become a pop star in Brazil. Some of da Vila's records have sold more than 1 million copies.



Read more about
Martinho da Vila
[here](#).



Gilberto Gil (1942–)

Gilberto Gil is a singer and songwriter who plays multiple instruments and has experimented with multiple styles. He is one of the originators of *tropicália*—a musical style blending rock, samba, funk, soul, and more that developed during the 1960s. Gil has won both Grammys and Latin Grammys for his work. He has also been involved in Brazilian politics and has served in multiple positions.



See another Gilberto Gil album cover [here](#).

Pelé (1940–)

Perhaps one of the most well-known football (soccer) players in history, Pelé was famous for his incredible goals and his ability to determine ahead of time his opponents' next plays. During his career, his team won three World Cup Championships. In addition to being a Brazilian national hero in football, Pelé is a successful author and composer.



Pelé celebrating the conquest of the 1970 FIFA World Cup Lemyr Martins/Placar/Dedoc Abril 1970, The Football Museum

This photograph was taken after Brazil's victory in the 1970 World Cup.



See another photo of Pelé [here](#).

Mariléia dos Santos, AKA “Michael Jackson” (1963–)

When Mariléia dos Santos first started playing football, there was a national law in place preventing women from playing. The law was largely ignored and was eventually overturned. Dos Santos played for several teams, including a women’s professional team called Radar. She also played on the Brazilian team at the first Olympics with women’s football, in 1996.



Marileia dos Santos playing for Esporte Clube São Bento, Sorocaba, São Paulo, .Archive Michel Jackson 1998

Dos Santos was given the nickname Michael Jackson because of her resemblance to the American pop singer. She became famous for both the nickname and her scoring ability.



Learn more about dos Santos [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

Mário Américo (1912–1990)

Another famous figure in the football world wasn't a player—he was a professional **masseur**. He served the Brazilian National Team during a period of great success, from 1950 to 1974. The team masseur ensures that players recover well from stress and injury and helps to relieve joint and muscle pain and tension. Earlier in his life, Américo was a talented musician and then a lightweight boxer.



Mário Américo, Acervo Mário Américo, The Football Museum

Américo is posing here with his first football club, Madureira Esporte Clube.

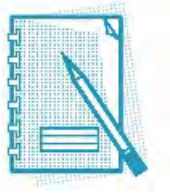


Find out more about Mário Américo in [this exhibit](#).



Chapter 2: Wrapping Up

Now that you've read the chapter, reflect on what you've learned by answering the questions below.



- How can famous sports and music figures unite a country?
- Why might this be important to a nation's people and history?

Chapter 3:

Black Brazil in the Arts



What is this chapter about?

Artists celebrating the history of Black Brazil



How long will this chapter take?

1 hour



Portrait of Emiliano Felipe Benício Mundrucu (Emiliano Mundrucu), Moisés Patrício 2020, Pinacoteca de São Paulo

Chapter 3: Warming Up

Before you explore, answer the questions in your notebook.

Consider

1. How does art become part of the historical record?

Discover

2. Why would it have been difficult for Black artists to create and show their work in Brazil during the period of enslavement?



History Recorded through Art

Enslaved Africans brought their design, artistic, and technological skills with them to Brazil. These skills contributed to a unique cultural legacy. Some artists have used their talents to record the histories of the first Black enslaved people to make their lives in Brazil.



Learn more about the skills of some early Black Brazilians [here](#).

Read about the woman in this painting and other iconic historical figures [here](#).



Justina Maria do Espírito Santo, Michel Cena7 2020, Pinacoteca de São Paulo

Black Artists of the Imperial Academy

Some Black artists, during a time when enslavement was still a reality in Brazil, were able to succeed in art and become part of Brazil's elite artistic community. A handful joined the Imperial Academy of Fine Arts, where they not only practiced their masterful artistic skills but also served as professors. Their works are part of the National Museum of Fine Arts collection.



Fruits, Estevão Silva 1888, Museu Nacional de Belas Artes

This is a detail from 'Fruits,' a painting by Estevão Silva, who was well known for his still lifes.



[This story](#) highlights the works of Silva and other Black artists.

Read [this story](#) to learn more about how the arts reflect the history of Black Brazilians.

More Works Celebrating Black Brazil

The following slides feature works by several Brazilian artists, both white and Black, who made important contributions to the representation of Black Brazilian culture in the arts. Here, you see a detail from Candido Portinari's work 'Mestizo.'



Explore this painting in greater depth [here](#).

Mestiço, Candido Portinari 1934, Pinacoteca de São Paulo



This is a detail from artist Octávio Araújo's self-portrait, made in 1949. Araújo served as an assistant to Candido Portinari for a brief period.



Go [here](#) to learn more about this artist and examine this work up close.



This drawing was created by Héctor Julio Páride Bernabó, better known as Carybé. Many of Carybé's works feature scenes from everyday life. Carybé worked in several different fields in addition to painting. He was also a researcher and historian.



Explore Carybé's work [here](#) and [here](#).

See more works by Carybé and other artists [here](#).

Chapter 3: Wrapping Up

Now that you've read the chapter, reflect on what you've learned by answering the questions below.



- Were there any commonalities in the works you saw in this chapter?
- What subject matter did many artists cover?

Digital Learning in Action

So, what did you learn? Read the questions and complete the learning activities below to extend your learning based on what you just experienced.



Reflect Answer these questions:

- What role did enslavement play in the history of Brazil?
- How and why did National Black Consciousness Day get started?
- How do some artists honor Brazil's Black history?



Summarize:

Who were some of the Black Brazilians you learned about in this lesson? How did they contribute to Brazilian history?



Create:

In this chapter, you learned about many famous Black Brazilians from the beginning of Brazilian history to the present. Choose one person from the lesson to learn more about. Research that person's life and work, and then write a report providing more details about them. Try to include visuals with your report, if possible.

Glossary

- **colony:** an area controlled by a foreign nation
- **plantation:** an agricultural estate worked by laborers
- **masseur:** a man who practices massage
- **quilombo:** a community in Brazil organized by escaped enslaved people
- **samba:** a type of Brazilian music accompanied by a dance of the same name
- **tropicália:** a musical style blending rock, samba, funk, soul, and more that developed during the 1960s