

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
SECONDARY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME
TERM ONE 2021
Subject: Portuguese
Grade Eight
Week Fourteen (14)
Lesson Two Topic: Christmas in Brazil



How Brazilians usually spend Christmas.

Christmas Eve - Christmas Day

Most Brazilians celebrate the holiday on Christmas Eve, rather than (or in addition to) Christmas Day. Those who are religious, will go to church in the evening, and then come home to dinner and presents at around midnight or so. Some families will even wait until midnight to have dinner! Christmas Day is usually spent having leftovers for lunch, visiting family and friends, or just lounging around enjoying being around loved ones.

Nativity Scenery

One thing that is noticeable and is more common in Brazil than other countries, is the presence of nativity sets in the homes. All families who are Catholics in Brazil will have at least a small set at the base of their tree or sitting in some corner, as part of their Christmas decoration. You will also see some sets in shopping malls and city squares decorated for Christmas. Here in Brazil, the religious meaning of the holiday is still much more present than in many other countries where it is celebrated both religiously and as a secular cultural tradition.



Nativity scenery

The Food

In Brazil, most of the holiday is set around the dinner table. Different families have different traditions of what to have for a meal, because of the country's diversity in cultures and traditions. Many have been adapted from European immigrants' traditions, but there are also unique traditions to each family whether they are from a different region of the country, or background. But almost every Christmas table will have some sort of animal protein and **farofa!** Farofa is a roasted flour (usually corn or tapioca), mixed with whatever is traditional to the region – eggs, carrots, raisins, etc. It's served as a side dish and goes perfectly with rice and turkey or chicken or ham.



Farofa

Secret Santa in Brazil

Instead of getting a gift for everyone in the family, many Brazilian families (especially the bigger ones), will have a secret Santa instead. It is called “Amigo Secreto,” (secret friend) or “Amigo Oculto,” (hidden friend). It is always fun trying to figure out who got whom, and who cheated in the selection of whom to gift! Usually a price limit is set, so nobody spends too much more than someone else, and it is a great way for everyone to get in on the fun.

That is it for this term. See you next term as we prepare to explore more of the Portuguese Language and Culture. Happy holidays to you all.

FELIZ NATAL E UM PRÓSPERO ANO NOVO!