

# Kansas City Young Audiences Teacher Program Guide

## BrasilCultura: The Power of Celebration

Artist: BrasilCultura

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### Performance Description

The culture of Brazil presents a very diverse nature reflecting an ethnic and cultural mixing occurred in the colonial period involving mostly Native Americans, Portuguese and Africans.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries Italian, German, Spanish, Arab and Japanese immigrants settled in Brazil and played an important role in its culture, creating a multicultural and multi-ethnic society.

As consequence of three centuries of colonization by the Portuguese empire, many aspects of Brazilian culture are derived from the culture of Portugal.

The numerous Portuguese inheritances include the language, the predominant religion and the colonial architectural styles. These aspects, however, were

strongly influenced by African and Native American traditions, as well as those from other Western European countries. Some aspects of Brazilian culture are contributions of Italian,

German and other European immigrants. Amerindian peoples and Africans played a large role in the formation of Brazilian language, cuisine, music, dance and religion. 500 years of multicultural creativity have produced the simple joy of being human in transcendent experiences from Carnaval in the Brazilian summer to

Quadrilha dancing in the winter. BrasilCultura uses dance, drumming and music to tell the story of astonishing festivity, racial diversity and multicultural power.



### Educational Objectives and Standards

Students will:

- Be able to distinguish between different kinds of sounds and tones.
- Be exposed to music from another culture that has influenced our own

Geography:

- Knows how places and regions serve as cultural symbols

Dance:

- Knows folk dances from various cultures.

#### Points of Interest

Brazil's official language is Portuguese, spoken by 99% of the population

#### Special REQUIREMENTS:

Large open space 20' X 25'; computer w/projector and screen for powerpoint presentation; space clean and clear one hour before program for set up and 30 minutes after for load out

## Artist Bio: Felipe Pinto/Brasilcultura

Born and Raised in Brazil, **Luis Felipe Ninja Pinto** moved to the US in January 2000. Ninja, teaches Capoeira based on the premise that physical activities, sports, dance, music, and other forms of art can affect one's mind and body in a positive manner. It is well established that through physical activities people are able to lower their anxiety levels, change mood states, and improve self-esteem, self-concept, and much more. Through teaching Capoeira his objective is to mark

people's life positively, always believing that as students learn how to use their body in a wide variety of ways and improve their awareness of themselves, they become mentally and physically stronger and self-confident. After getting a Bachelor of Science from Saint Mary University, Ninja founded the Brazil Academy in Lenexa: a martial arts/dance center. Ninja also leads the Brazil Cultura doing cultural performances and workshops to throughout the KC metro area.



Felipe Pinto

## Vocabulary

**Ago-go:** a double-headed bell.

**Apito:** Brazilian samba whistle.

**Carnival:** a pre-spring Brazilian celebration with music, dance, and big parades, lasting 4 days and 4 nights.

**Escola de samba** (Portuguese:) literally translates as "samba school," but refers to the big marching bands comprised of 1,000 to 4,000 people.

**Ganza:** large shaker shaped like a tube.

**Kaleidoscope:** a tube you turn to see changing patterns made by mirrors and colored glass.

**Samba:** the national rhythm and dance of Brazil, brought there by African slaves.

**Surdo:** large bass drum played with one mallet.

## List of Resources

### BOOKS

[The Brazilian Sound: Samba, Bossa Nova, and the Popular Music of Brazil](#)

by Chris McGowan, Ricardo Pessanha  
Temple University Press; New edition  
(February 25, 1998) ISBN: 1566395453

[Musica Brasileira: A History of Popular Music and the People of Brazil](#)

by Claus Schreiner, Mark Weinstein  
Marion Boyars Publishers;  
(November 1, 2002) ISBN: 0714530662

[The Mystery of Samba : Popular Music and National Identity in Brazil](#)

by Hermano Vianna,  
John Charles Chasteen  
University of North Carolina Press;  
(February 1, 1999) ISBN: 0807847666

## Post-Performance Activities

1. Discuss what you saw and heard. What kinds of tones are bright tones (bells?) What kind are dark (bass Drums?) Use your voices and vowels sounds to explore the sound of bright (e-e-e) and dark (uh) tones.
2. You are going to Brazil for a Carnival. What will you pack?
3. Color or draw a map of Brazil using bright colors to suggest its colorful people and traditions.
4. Plan a Carnival parade route thru your playground that uses a circle, square, and triangle shape. Take the class through their paces in 2 X 2 formation.
5. Divide into small groups of 4. Each group submits two themes for an imaginary classroom carnival. Vote on the class theme.

