



Rio de Janeiro

Listening Questions 1

1. What does 'Rio de Janeiro' mean in English?
2. Until when was Rio the capital city of Brazil?
3. How many people attended the 1950 World Cup game played in Maracanã Stadium between Brazil and Uruguay?
4. What does *favela* mean in English?

Listening Questions 2

1. What's a famous location for rock climbing in Rio?
2. How long does it take to get to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain by cable car?
3. What movie has a scene that includes the cable car?
4. Name three famous people who come from Rio?

Transcript 1

Rio de Janeiro, or 'River of January' in English, is home to six million people and this makes it the second biggest city in Brazil in terms of population. In 2012, UNESCO designated some of the city's landscape as a World Heritage Site. Rio was the capital city of Brazil until 1960.

Rio is famous for Carnival and samba, and now as the first South American Olympic host city. Two of the city's iconic landmarks are Christ the Redeemer, a very large statue, and Maracanã, a legendary soccer stadium. In 1950, just under 174,000 people watched the World Cup Final in Maracanã making it the biggest crowd ever to watch a soccer game. Brazil lost the game 2-1 to Uruguay.

Rio is also known for its shanty towns, or *favelas* in Portuguese. Officially about 70,000 people live in Rio's largest favela, however, some say the actual number could be more than double. Thousands of tourists visit it every year.



Transcript 2

Rio has hosted both Formula One and MotoGP races and is also a popular urban rock climbing destination.

One of the most famous spots for climbers is Sugarloaf Mountain. The mountain was named 'Sugarloaf' because it apparently looked like the traditional shape of sugar after it was processed and put into molds shaped like cones.

Visitors who want to go up to the summit can take a cable car. The ride to the top only takes about six minutes. For fans of the James Bond series, 007 can be seen fighting with Jaws on the cable car in the movie *Moonraker*. It also appeared in an episode of the popular TV show, *The Simpsons*.

Some famous people from Rio include soccer players Ronaldo, Romario and Zico, as well as three-time Formula One champion, Nelson Piquet.