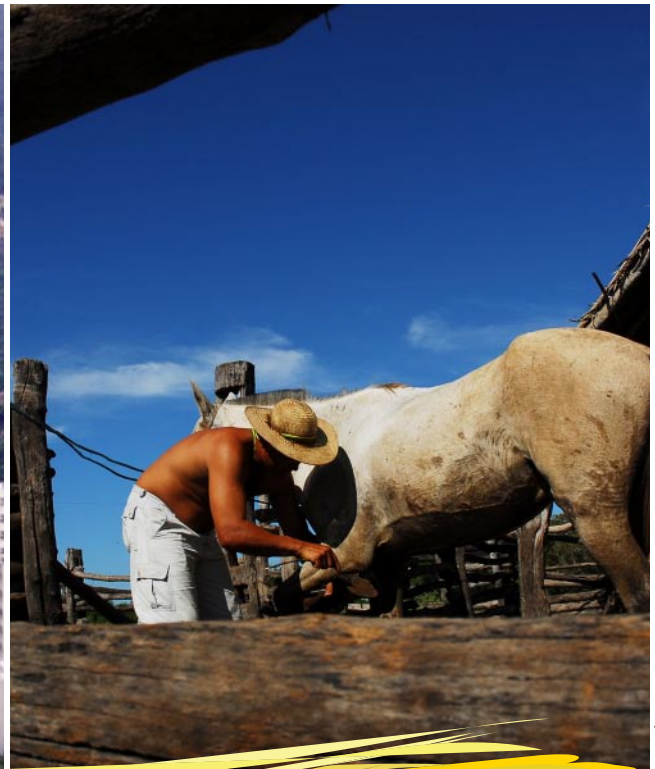


Erika Tambke



José Medeiros

Chapter 5: Urban - Rural Contrasts

This chapter looks at the reasons why many people move from rural farming areas to the towns and cities.



You will investigate these questions:

- 1 Is there a rural-to-urban population movement all over Brazil?
- 2 What are push and pull factors?
- 3 What factors might affect a particular family?
- 4 What is the government doing about this movement?

Is there a rural - urban movement all over Brazil?

We need to be careful not to make generalisations when describing what other countries are like. In a developing country like Brazil we may think that rural people are poor and struggling to farm the land but this is not always the case. Brazil's size means that there will be wide variations. On the one hand there are still some tribes in remote areas of the tropical forest who live a sustainable but technologically undeveloped way of life. On the other hand there are examples of very advanced rural societies, especially in the southern plains and forests. In the North East region there are some farmers using water from irrigation to grow good crops but others who are not able to grow enough to feed themselves if there are two or three years of low rainfall (remember the earlier climate figures in Chapter 3).

There is still, however, rural-urban migration in Brazil. This is where some people move from the rural areas to live in towns (urban areas). This may be a permanent move or a short-term move. Why does this happen?



IRRIGATION OF CROPS

José Medeiros



MILKING A COW THE TRADITIONAL WAY

José Medeiros



NORTHEAST DRY LAND

Embratur



A VILLAGE IN PERNAMBUCO, NORTHEAST

Daniela Silva



SMALL FARM IN THE NORTHEAST

Antonio Silva

One of the areas that people migrate from is the north east region. Some people leave and move to big cities like Rio de Janeiro or São Paulo. It is not an easy decision to make for a single person or for a family. There are advantages to staying where they are and advantages to moving. The exercise in the pupil tasks will help you to understand.



RIO DE JANEIRO



SÃO PAULO

What are Push and Pull factors?

The reasons for people wanting to leave an area are called push factors and those attracting them to an area are called pull factors. In the UK a pull factor might be because a family wants to move to a bigger house and a push factor might be to move away from an area with a lot of vandalism. Here are some factors that apply to people in Brazil living in rural areas of the North East:

PUSH

- ☛ Pressure on the land means there is not enough land to live on
- ☛ Large families mean there is not enough land for each child to live off
- ☛ The quality of life is low – long hours, hard work and little pay
- ☛ Hardship when the harvest is poor
- ☛ Natural disasters like periods of drought
- ☛ Many workers do not own the land so have no power or any reason to improve it
- ☛ Schools are poor or too crowded. There is a desire to gain qualifications because these mean better jobs. These can be more easily gained in towns and cities.
- ☛ There is poor health care
- ☛ There is not much investment by the government in some areas
- ☛ Some farm labourers are out of work when the owner buys machines to take their place

PULL

- ☛ Better chances of a job – jobs in cities pay more than farming
- ☛ The hope of a better quality of life with improved housing with electricity and water
- ☛ Better schools – this is very important as it is the only way to escape poverty
- ☛ Better hospitals and entertainment

About 20 million people live in the São Paulo metropolitan area, which makes it one of the largest cities in the world. Rio de Janeiro is not far behind this total. They both grew very quickly in the last 30 years of the twentieth century. Today about 80% of Brazilians live in cities.



RURAL AREAS HAVE INVESTED IN SCHOOLS



Nelson Lafrata

CAFÉ IN RIO - A BETTER STANDARD OF LIVING



Luisa Ribeiro

IT CLASS IN SÃO PAULO - BETTER STANDARDS OF EDUCATION

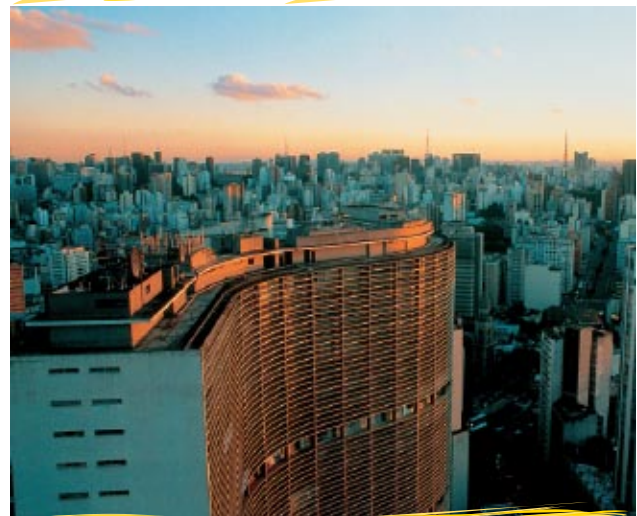
What factors might affect a particular family?

To answer this question your teacher will give you a set of cards about one of the poorer families. Your task is to decide whether this family should stay or go.

Should I stay or should I go?

Use the cards about Gabriela who lives with her six children. Her husband, Geraldo, moved to Rio de Janeiro a while ago to look for a better

Embratur



Daniela Silva

SÃO PAULO CENTRE - MORE TYPES OF JOBS AVAILABLE



Sara Tomlinson

MISTY DAY IN THE FAVELA IN RIO



Embratur

RICH AND POOR RIO: ROCINHA TO THE LEFT, SÃO CONRADO TO THE RIGHT

job. She lives in the interior of the North East, Brazil's poorest region. The region has some good land, a variable climate (see Chapter 3) and a few resources but where Gabriela lives life is hard. It is called the sertão, which means semi-arid land.

Gabriela has a big decision to make – should she move to the big city of Rio de Janeiro or should she stay where she is? She has had very little education or training so her chances of getting a job or housing are not good. However, she wants to give her children the chance of an education.

Look at your cards and sort them into these piles:

- ☺ Information about the sertão
- ☺ Things that will make it hard for her to move to Rio (barriers)
- ☺ Reasons why Gabriela should move to the favela (shanty town) of Rocinha

What is the government doing about this movement?

Brazil knows that this movement of people needs to be reduced. The cities are becoming too crowded and they cannot offer enough resources, like housing, to migrants.

It would be better if people could be encouraged to stay in the rural areas. Various schemes have started to try to make this happen.

- ☺ investing in fresh water and waste water treatment works
- ☺ they aim to make electricity available to all
- ☺ education of rural workers in their own communities. This will be basic literacy and some technical courses to help improve their farming skills. A scheme called Bolsa Família gives some poor families a government grant so their children can have some schooling and some access to health care.



RIO: NEW HOMES FOR EX-RESIDENTS OF FAVELAS, BUT NOT ENOUGH

Erika Tambke



Pupil tasks

Task 1

Should I stay or should I go?

You will be given a set of cards about Gabriela. She lives in North East Brazil, the country's poorest region. The region has some good land and a few resources but where Gabriela lives life is hard. It is called the sertão, which means semi-arid land.

Gabriela has a big decision to make – should she move to the big city of Rio de Janeiro or should she stay where she is? She has had very little education or training so her chances of getting a job or housing are not good. However, she wants to give her children the chance of an education.

Look at your cards and sort them into these piles:

- 🍌 Information about the sertão
- 🍌 Things that will make it hard for her to move the distance to Rio (barriers)
- 🍌 Reasons why Gabriela should move to the favela (shanty town) of Rocinha

Gabriela lives in Itatingui, a village in the North East of Brazil.	Gabriela would earn more money if she moved to Rio and got a job, perhaps as a maid.
Life for the poor in Rio is not easy. Living conditions in the favelas are poor, sometimes with no electricity or water in the house.	Gabriela dreams about a new exciting life in Rio with her children in school and money to buy plenty of food, school books and goods like a computer.
In the sertão the weather is hot with long dry periods.	The sertão vegetation is mainly scrub and thorn bushes.
Her husband, Geraldo, now lives in Rocinha, the largest favela in Rio.	The North East has mainly flat- topped mountains and some coastal lowlands.
Some Rio locals discriminate against migrants from the North East, many of whom keep their traditional culture.	Gabriela enjoys the peace and quiet of the open countryside. She doesn't know if she will like the hustle and bustle of city life.
There are many rich people living in Rio.	Gabriela had very little education or training.
Rocinha is safe from street crime because the area is protected by the locals.	Some unskilled work for Gabriela is available in the closer northeastern cities of Recife and Salvador.
The government offers some favela residents the chance to improve their houses.	Rocinha is a shanty town (or favela) and is built near to a wealthy part of the city on a steep hillside with good views over Rio's beaches.
Rio has lots of crime and drugs and her children could get involved in this.	Disease are a problem in some of the North East because health care is not widespread. Gabriela's mother died from one last year.
Gabriela's family have lived and farmed in their village for years.	Rocinha is overcrowded and disease and dirt is a big problem.
Rio is a beautiful, huge and wealthy city. It is very crowded.	Drought and unreliable rainfall are common in the North East.

Gabriela's husband, Geraldo, moved to Rio to look for a more reliable job. He sends money home to her and their six children.	Gabriela has heard that there are good wages and jobs in Rio, but her husband tells her that it won't be that easy.
Thin and dry soils make farming very hard where Gabriela lives. It is almost subsistence farming.	Gabriela cannot read and there will be forms to fill in if she gets a job in Rio.
It will cost a lot of money to move with six children to Rio.	Gabriela and her husband rent their farm from a landowner.
The government is investing in the North East to try to slow down the migration out of the area.	Geraldo has started building a home for the family in Rocinha.
Gabriela knows everyone in Itatingui. She is never lonely.	You need a lot of land these days to be a successful farmer.
Rio has some good schools, clinics and social welfare.	Many favelas are illegal and the people face the risk of eviction.
Gabriela watches TV every night in Itatingui. She loves the soap operas set in Rio. It is a glamorous place full of beautiful people. She dreams of meeting her favourite soap actors.	The children love to play in the village square in Itatingui. It is always safe.
If Gabriela finds work far from Rocinha she will have to pay a lot for transport on buses and the tube.	Gabriela will have less time with her children if she finds a job in Rio.

Now take the reasons for her to move and in pairs sort them in what you think is the order of importance. Say why you have them in this order and explain to your neighbour.

Now take the cards you thought were barriers to her movement and say why.

Now find the cards that are reasons for Gabriela to stay in her village. Once again sort them in order of importance and explain your reasons to your neighbour. (Some of these may be the same as your barriers pile.)

Now you have to decide. Should Gabriela move?



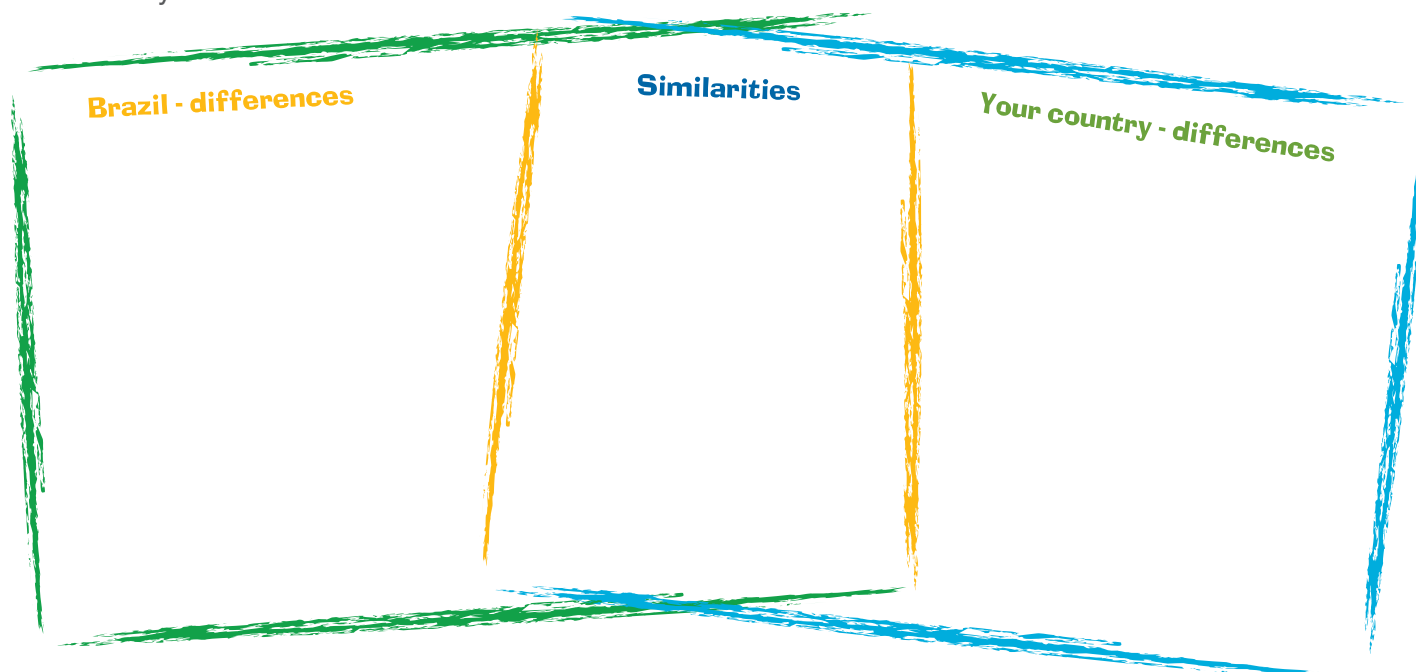
RECIFE, PERNAMBUCO'S CAPITAL CITY

Embratur

Task 2

What about my country?

Do a comparison alley to look for similarities and differences when discussing rural-urban migration in Brazil with the reasons why people move from the countryside to towns and cities in your own country.



Task 3

Your teacher will read you a story and ask you to draw a story board of what you think are important aspects of the story.