

#9072

BRAZIL

MARYKNOLL WORLD PRODUCTIONS

1997

Grade Levels: 4-8

14 minutes

DESCRIPTION

The Brazilian "landless movement" forces the government to provide farmers opportunity to work. Lucivaldo's family is large, poor, and part of the movement. He offers a glimpse into his hard life.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Geography--Environment and Society

- Standard: Understands how physical systems affect human systems
 - Benchmark: Knows the ways in which human systems develop in response to conditions in the physical environment (e.g., patterns of land use, economic livelihoods, architectural styles of buildings, building materials, flows of traffic, recreation activities)

Subject Area: Geography--Human Systems

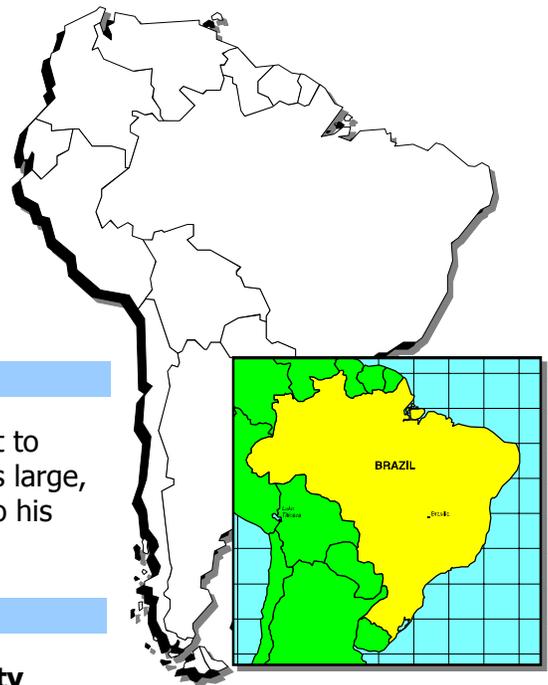
- Standard: Understands the nature and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics
 - Benchmark: Knows the similarities and differences in characteristics of culture in different regions (e.g., in terms of environment and resources, technology, food, shelter, social organization, beliefs and customs, schooling, what girls and boys are allowed to do)

Subject Area: Geography—Places and Regions

- Standard: Understands the physical and human characteristics of place
 - Benchmark: Knows the human characteristics of places (e.g., cultural characteristics such as religion, language, politics, technology, family structure, gender; population characteristics; land uses; levels of development)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To introduce the country, geography, and people of Brazil.
2. To dramatize the life of a 15-year-old Brazilian boy who lives in the northeastern part of Paraiba.
3. To review the Landless Movement.



BEFORE SHOWING

1. Write the name of Lucivaldo Santos de Lima and the name of the farm, "Gamiliera," on the blackboard.
2. Do you know any Brazilians? Where is Brazil and what do you know about Brazil? What is the name of its capital city? Where is Brazil on the map? What language do Brazilians speak?
3. What does the word *land squatter* mean? Would you like to be called a land squatter?
4. Is there prejudice against poor people?

AFTER SHOWING

1. If Lucivaldo were before you today, what questions would you like to ask him? What would you tell him about knowing how to read and write?
2. What do you think you would definitely not like about being a land squatter in Brazil?
3. What thoughts do you have about the houses you saw in the video and their construction? The source of their drinking water?
4. Lucivaldo's father was fired from his job at the sugar refinery because he was 45 years old and considered too old to work. He then was forced out of the company house the family was living in. Do you have any comments about the company's actions?

SUMMARY

This video centers on Lucivaldo Santos de Lima, a recently turned-15-year-old Brazilian boy. Lucivaldo and his family live as squatters on farmland located in the northeast Brazilian state of Paraiba, a region known for its poverty.

When his father was "downsized" from his job as a supervisor at a sugar refinery, the family with 10 children was literally on the streets. They joined a national Landless Movement, which promotes the take-over of non-productive farmlands. Then some 160 families encamped on 3 idle farms, his being one of the families.

At the time of the filming, they were living on a farm, called Gamiliera, for 6 months. All 10 children and parents were jammed into the back half of what was a garage. Black sheets of plastic separated their rooms and their living quarters from the front half, which was a meeting room of sorts for the community. Before they lived in a shack of dirt floor and roof of palm branches covered by the ever-present black plastic.

The viewer meets their neighbors, sees them constructing their shacks and listens to their stories. Their hope is to some day receive land titles from the government's land reform office and to grow their own food. In the meanwhile, their lifestyle is very much on the edge: money, food, clothing, medicine is in short supply.

He misses his old neighborhood, his friends and the ready game of soccer. He sometimes wishes to return, but his parents say that their future lies here as owners of a farm.

RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- Brazil: Breno and His Dolphin #8653
- South America: Brazil and the Northern Countries #2581



World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and “kid safe” sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **BRAZIL**

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/pe.html>

From the CIA World Factbook, presents information on Brazil, such as a brief background on its history, economy, government; its geography; statistics on its literacy, birth and death, ethnic groups, and other rates; and more.

- **BRAZIL**

http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/south_america/brazil/

From the Lonely Planet site, provides information on Brazil including history, culture, environment as well as events, off the beaten track, getting around, and others.

- **LANDLESS WORKERS MOVEMENT**

<http://www.mstbrazil.org/>

“Get Involved” in the Brazilian Landless Workers Movement, which is the largest social movement in Latin America, review the “Background,” and other pertinent topics.