

## Why study Portuguese?

- With over 220 million speakers, Portuguese is the seventh most widely spoken language in the world, outranked by only Chinese, Spanish, English, Hindi-Urdu, Arabic, and Bengali. More people speak Portuguese than French, Italian, German, or Japanese.
- Portuguese is the official language of eight countries: Portugal, Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, S o Tomé and Príncipe, Guiné-Bissau, and East Timor.
- Portuguese is the most widely spoken language in South America.
- After English, Portuguese is the most widely used language on websites and in blogging.
- During the Age of Exploration, Portugal led the world in navigation and colonization, producing such explorers as Vasco da Gama, Pedro Álvares Cabral, and Ferdinand Magellan.
- Both Portugal and Brazil have produced some of the world's greatest literature.
- Brazil is world famous for samba and bossa nova music, Carnaval, capoeira, and its five World Cup titles in soccer.
- Brazil is a major tourist destination, boasting some of the world's most famous beaches (including Copacabana and Ipanema in Rio de Janeiro) and the Amazon rain forest.
- Brazil is considered by many scientists to be the country with the most important biodiversity in the world.
- Brazil's economy is expanding rapidly and is currently ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the world in GDP.
- The LDS Church currently has 30 Portuguese-speaking missions (27 in Brazil, 2 in Portugal and 1 in Mozambique).
- Because Portuguese is phonologically more complex than Spanish, Portuguese speakers generally are able to understand more Spanish than Spanish speakers are able to understand Portuguese.
- Portuguese speakers are usually able to learn Spanish with little difficulty.

## General Resources on Immersion and Elementary School Language Learning

Website of the American Council on Immersion Education

<http://www.carla.umn.edu/immersion/acie.html>

*Contains a wealth of information about immersion education, including research findings and frequently-asked questions*

ERIC Digest: "What Parents Want to Know About Foreign Language Immersion Programs"

<http://www.cal.org/resources/digest/0304fortune.html>

Annotated bibliography: "Research in Support of Elementary School Foreign Language Learning" <http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3653>

Research paper "The Benefits of Second Language Study"

<http://www.ncssfl.org/papers/BenefitsSecondLanguageStudyNEA.pdf>