

- 1. We're Lauren and Chelsea. We're going to tell you about the little known history of the relationship between Japan and Brazil. At one time Brazil invited Japanese to immigrate to its country but today, more and more Brazilians of Japanese descent make the reverse journey back to Japan.**
- 2. Like to share a fact with all y'all. There are approximately 1.6 million people of Japanese descent living in Brazil, making up 1% of their population. This is the largest concentration of individuals of Japanese descent outside of Japan.**
- 3. At the end of the 19th century, overpopulation in Japan and the coffee boom in Brazil led the first ship, Kasato-Maru, setting sail on June 18, 1908, with seven-hundred and eighty-one Japanese to the Port of Santos in Brazil.**
4. Even though Brazil had a surplus of black Brazilian labor, formerly enslaved people, Japanese and European immigrants were preferred over Brazilians because they were thought to be more studious and productive and even today Japanese Brazilians are perceived as and enjoy all the privileges of White European Brazilians.
5. Just because they were invited, doesn't mean they didn't receive discrimination. Despite this "positive" stereotype, of studious, well mannered, hard working people, not everyone was happy about the invitation of this new and strange people.
- 6. The new Japanese laborers intended to work hard, get rich, and return home, but few did so. Instead many ended up working on coffee plantations until they had enough to buy an independent settlement. They tended to settle together and form enclaves due to the anti-Japanese sentiment in some parts of the country**

- 7. This sentiment was prevalent in pre-WWII Brazil. The government created laws to discourage strong Japanese communities by forbidding the descendants from learning their culture and language. This is a sign that prohibits speaking of enemy languages, German, Italian, and Japanese.**
- 8. Japan's loss of WWII created some division among the Japanese descendants in Brazil. For example, Shindo Renmei Kai was a group of emperor supporters than turned to performing terrorist attacks on Japanese Brazilians that accepted Japan's defeat during WWII.**
9. In the mid-1950s, the prime minister of Japan borrowed \$15 million from other countries so Japan could provide emigration subsidies to Japanese citizens going to Brazil. These subsidies led to a second migration boom.
10. By the 1960s Japan had become a major investor and trader in Latin America and the Japanese in Brazil over time assimilated to the country. Many consider themselves mestizo, went to Portuguese schools and were baptized Roman Catholic
11. In the 1980s, Brazil was facing an economic crisis and Japan had a shortage of unskilled workers. This led to the Japanese government encouraging the reverse migration of those with Japanese ancestry by offering work visas.
12. The Japanese government primarily encouraged those of Japanese descent because they thought they would assimilate back into the culture better than those with no Japanese ancestry. However, the Japanese Brazilians were still discriminated against since they were no longer seen as really Japanese and treated as second class citizens

13. As with the first migration, the Japanese-Brazilians also intended to work for a short time in Japan before returning home. However, many ended up staying for much longer, settling down, and having families.
- 14. One of the biggest issues around children of Brazilians who come to work in Japan is the school system. Many Brazilian children struggle with language and do not have sufficient support from their busy parents. This comic was created by a famous Brazilian comic to explain Japanese school life.**
- 15. Lack of support from both parents and government results in many of them dropping out as early as elementary school because education for foreigners is still not compulsory. This picture is from a Japanese news program about foreign kids who fell through the cracks.**
- 16. While in Japan, Japanese Brazilians face racism, class mobility problems, and identity crisis. They may be Japanese by race but have the culture and language of Brazil, therefore not really fitting into either country.**
17. After the Japanese economy continued to decline, in 2009, the Japanese Government offered Brazilian workers \$3,000 USD for airfare and \$2,000 per dependant to leave and never return. This picture shows Brazilian workers protesting the program.
18. This circular migration between the two countries has increased the presence of Japanese culture in Brazil. The countries influence can be seen in the presence of Japanese manga, anime, food, and even traditional farming practice. There is even a neighborhood in Sao Paulo called Liberdade, much like San Francisco's Japantown, is full of Japanese culture.

- 19. This shared cultural-historical issue has been discussed in works of fiction and non-fiction across Japan, Brazil, and the United States in books, film, and other media.**
- 20.** While both countries have embraced convenient cultural products, racism and discrimination persist in both countries. Brazil has become famous for Jiu-Jitsu which originated in Japan and many cities in Japan now celebrate Brazilian style Carnival celebrations.