



BRAZIL

The Streets of Ouro Preto

Location

The historic city of Ouro Preto, located in the southeastern Brazilian state Minas Gerais



“If mathematics is a universal language, then, just as in English, there are accents, and different terms used or emphasized from one country to another. In Brazil, students learn to create their own mathematical poems using mathematical modeling.”

—Milton Rosa (left) and Daniel Orey (right)

Context

Brazil is the largest country in South America and the fifth most densely populated country in the world, with a population of nearly 200,000,000. It is a country of rich natural environments and resources, diverse cultures, and one of the world’s fastest growing, most robust economies. Brazil will receive special attention around the world through its hosting of the World Cup in 2014 and the Summer Olympics in 2016.

Educational systems in Brazil are evolving to reflect the country’s vibrant economic and social growth. They present an effective, futuristic model for other educational systems around the world—a stark contrast to what happened from the mid-1960s to 1990 when Brazil was governed by a military political dictatorship that restricted free speech and opposing political views. Educational change is underway in Brazil, and while significant challenges remain, efforts to design a world-class educational system where all children realize their fullest potential are being implemented. One such government program applied at the national level is called *bolsa escola*. Grants are provided to economically disadvantaged parents to keep their children in schools.

