

5 List one way Maria spends her time during the weekend.

6 Provide another way Maria spends her time during the weekend.

10 Why would it be a good place to live? Explain your ideas below

9 What do you believe Maria is grateful for?

Life in Rio

Life in Rio: The rich – Diary entry from Maria (12 years old)

My name is Maria and I live in Rio with my parents and older brother. My father is a manager at the Ford car factory on the outskirts of the town. My mother works in an office. We have a nice house in the suburbs with a large garden. A maid comes in most days to cook the meals and keep the house clean.

My brother Carlos is two years older than me and we both go the same school. I like studying Geography and languages, and I hope to attend university. During the week I work hard at school and I have a lot of homework.

On the weekend we often go our small beach house on the

coast. If we don't go there, I spend my time in the main city. It is like any other city, full of shops, restaurants and activities for all ages. Rio is well known for its tourism, with the Christ the Redeemer statue attracting lots of tourists.

Like many families in Rio, we are very well off and have a good standard of living. We have access to electricity, running water, two cars and internet. Some people are not as lucky. Some people in the favelas are very poor and live a very difficult life. I have heard there are gangs which control the people, and their houses are very simple. They can lead difficult lives. I am very fortunate.

1 How many people are in Maria's family?

2 What jobs do Maria's parents do?

3 Does Maria have to cook or clean? If no, why?

4 What does Maria hope to do with her education?

7 What is Rio well known for?

8 What tourist attraction brings many tourist to the area?

7 Summarise the poor living conditions which Roberto and his family experience in the favela.

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1 How many people are in Roberto's family?

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2 How many rooms exist in their house and what are the purposes of those rooms?

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3 Describe the job his father does and how much he gets paid.

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4 Where does Roberto spend his mornings?

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Life in Rio

Life in Rio: The poor – Diary entry from Roberto (12 years old)

I am Roberto and I am 12 years old. I live with my parents and my 4 sisters on the outskirts of Rio. Our home is in the slum district, which in Brazil is called a favela. Our houses are very basic. We built it ourselves out of materials we found lying around. There are only two small rooms in our house. In one room, we all work, eat and relax, and in the other room we all sleep. It is very crowded, but we are making improvements all the time. My father hopes to add a third room if he finds the time.

My father makes sandals from old car tyres. He sells them at a small market at the edge of the favela. On a good day, he can make 80p.

When it comes to school, I only go during the mornings. There are not many resources, sometimes I cannot write down what the teacher says as there is no paper. In the afternoons, I travel to the city to do my job as a shoe-shiner. I will have to give up school soon, as my family really need the money.

The smell in our favela is horrible. There are open sewers running underneath houses, causing a lot of illness. My sisters almost died of diarrhoea when they were babies. The local council is trying to improve the conditions, like providing piped water and electricity. Nearly 25% of the population of Rio live in these conditions.

5 Where does Roberto spend his afternoons?

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6 How does Roberto's school compare to ours?

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9 Roberto has mentioned the council has made improvements such piped water and electricity. Suggest 2 other improvements which could be made to improve living conditions in the favela.

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8 How many people in Rio live in favelas like Roberto and his family?

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