Brazil is the largest country in South America. One of the reasons Brazil is unique is that it is the only country in South America to speak Portuguese. The instrument above is called a berimbau. The berimbau is made of a hollow gourd as the base that is attached to a long rod and a steel string. To make noise, a person holds the gourd against their stomach and hits the string with a stick. Hitting the string higher up the rod makes different sounds.

The berimbau is used to play music for a Brazilian dance called the capoeira. Capoeira is a mixture of martial arts, acrobatics, and dance. It comes from slaves brought to Brazil from Angola and the Congo, two countries in the middle of Africa in the 1500s and 1600s. It is believed that capoeira began as a way for slaves to defend themselves against slave catchers. Today, capoeira is known for being a famous Brazilian martial art.