

ORIGINS OF SAMBA

- Samba has its roots in a Central African 'round dance'
- This dance was brought to Bahia region of Brazil in the late 1600s by the first slaves and was later renamed *Samba de Roda*
- Around 1900, Bahian workers took the dance to Rio de Janeiro and included it in local festivals
- Until the end of 1920s, these festivals and street parades consisted of dances accompanied by an assortment of players beating rhythms on various types of percussion instruments

SAMBA SCHOOLS

- In 1928, three men founded the first *Escola de Samba* – a school specifically set up to teach samba rhythms in a more formal and educational setting. These samba innovators also introduced the Surdo (bass drum) to the percussion group

- Over the next few years, more schools were established. The press, which went crazy for the new exciting rhythms, organised the first competition in 1932
- Today, there are over 70 major samba schools in Rio alone, organised into six competitive leagues
- A single samba school can have up to 5,000 participants

RIO CARNIVAL

- Many *Escolas de Samba* compete in the annual Carnival, usually held just before the start of Lent
- Each school chooses its own theme (called the *Enrêdo*) and many months are spent preparing elaborately dressed floats and colourful costumes, and rehearsing the singers, dancers and *Bateria* (the percussion section)
- A typical *Bateria* consists of 400 players and can include 80 Surdos, 40 Repiniques, 40 Caixas, 100 Tamborims, plus a large number of Agogo Bells, Ganzas and other percussion

SAMBA INSTRUMENTS



Surdo



Repinique



Caixa



Timba



Cuica



Tamborim



Agogo Bell



Ganza



Pandeiro



Reco Reco



Rocar



Chocalho



Cabasa



Woodblock



Apito (whistle)