

# Many people are leaving Venezuela to go to other countries in Latin American


By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 09.12.18


Word Count **551**

Level **560L**



Image 1. A group of Venezuelan immigrants rests near the bus terminal in Boa Vista, Brazil. Photo by: Gui Christ/The Washington Post


BOA VISTA, Brazil — People from Venezuela are moving into Boa Vista, a city in Brazil.   
Venezuela and Brazil are both countries in South America. This is changing the lives of people in Boa Vista.

It is hard to get food or medicine in Venezuela. This is why many Venezuelans have left their   
country.

## Brazilians Don't Want More Migrants To Come



People in Brazil are worried about an increase in crime with all the people coming. They are worried that their lives will change.

People in Boa Vista used to feel sorry for the migrants. Migrants are people who go to another country. They go because they can't stay in their country. They are often escaping war and hunger at home. Now Boa Vistans feel angry. They want things to stay the same. They are scared they might lose their jobs. 



THE WASHINGTON POST

There was an anti-migrant protest in Boa Vista. The people who live there don't want more people to come to the city.


## A Rarity No More

Boa Vista made shelters for Venezuelans in town. They are changing the city. 


In the market, Venezuelans grilled arepas. They are corn cakes. Salsa music played on radios. People chatted in Spanish.

It feels almost like a Venezuelan neighborhood, said Marisol Martinez.

She works to earn enough money to bring her children to Brazil.

Maria Suely Silva Campos is a leader in Boa Vista. She asked the Brazilian Supreme Court to close the border. That would stop people from coming to Brazil. The court said no. 

## Coping With Immigrant Surge

In 2015, there were 53 Venezuelan students in Boa Vista's schools. This year, there are almost 2,300. The schools do not know how to deal with the students. The students only speak Spanish and the schools only teach in Portuguese. 

The school leader is Hefrayn Lopes. The Venezuelan children need to learn to fit in, Lopes said. They need to learn Portuguese. 

Boa Vista did not get enough help from the government to help the migrants. Many Venezuelans are arriving hungry. Many are sick, too. 

At the town market, a Venezuelan musician picked up his guitar and began singing a Venezuelan song. Venezuelan customers tapped their feet and sang along.

But not everyone enjoyed the music.

Nelle de Maciel is a Brazilian seamstress. She complained about the noise.

Many in the city also fear the Venezuelans will take their jobs. 

Venezuelans are charging less money for their work than Brazilians. They just want to make some money to send to their families. They are willing to work for less money than some of the Brazilians are. This is why some people are worried about losing their jobs.

Valmor Saldenia is a fruit seller. He sells corn for 30 cents an ear. He says he has lost business. He blames the Venezuelan migrants.

Nearby, Robert Jimenez was selling corn for about 16 cents an ear. 

Jimenez came from Venezuela to Brazil. He was almost starving.

Even with his low prices, it is hard to get Brazilian customers.

At the end of a workday, he had not sold a single cob or eaten a meal.

Asked how he was doing, he said, "Excellent. I'm still alive."

## Quiz

1 Which sentence from the introduction [paragraphs 1-2] explains why Venezuelans are moving to Brazil?

- (A) Venezuela and Brazil are both countries in South America.
- (B) This is changing the lives of people in Boa Vista.
- (C) It is hard to get food or medicine in Venezuela.
- (D) This is why many Venezuelans have left their country.

2 Read the section "Coping With Immigrant Surge."

Select the sentence from the section that explains a problem Venezuelan students now face in Boa Vista's schools.

- (A) In 2015, there were 53 Venezuelan students in Boa Vista's schools.
- (B) This year, there are almost 2,300.
- (C) The students only speak Spanish and the schools only teach in Portuguese.
- (D) The school leader is Hefrayn Lopes.

3 Finish the sentence below.

One MAIN idea of the article is that \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) Brazilians in Boa Vista do not speak the same language as the migrants from Venezuela
- (B) Brazilians in Boa Vista are worried that the migrants will change their way of life
- (C) Brazilians in Boa Vista made shelters in their town for the migrants from Venezuela
- (D) Brazilians in Boa Vista asked the Brazilian Supreme Court to close the border to migrants

4 A MAIN idea of the article is that people in Boa Vista are angry about migrants moving to their town.

Which key detail from the article supports this MAIN idea?

- (A) There was an anti-migrant protest in Boa Vista.
- (B) It feels almost like a Venezuelan neighborhood, said Marisol Martinez.
- (C) The schools do not know how to deal with the students.
- (D) Even with his low prices, it is hard to get Brazilian customers.

**Answer Key**

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