



# Capoeira Quick-facts

**Capoeira:** is an Afro-Brazilian martial-art developed in Brazil by African slaves brought to Brazil by the Portuguese between the 16th century and the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Slavery in Brazil came to 'an end' in 1888 (May 13) with a law called Lei Áurea, sanctioned by imperial parliament and signed by Princess Isabel.

**Capoeirista:** the person who plays capoeira

**Capoeira Estilos (styles):** **Angola (Mestre Pastinha is the key figure in this style) and Regional (Mestre Bimba is the key figure in this style)** with many groups (Beribazu included) practising what today is called Contemporary Capoeira. This style tries to overcome the separation between the two mentioned styles by practising both. Capoeira today can be found in many Brazilian states, and it is practised in gyms, schools, universities and in social projects that assist endangered children and youth. Capoeira is also at the curriculum of many Federal Universities and it has a strong presence in the academic world, with PhDs being awarded in Capoeira-related subjects.

**Roda (Circle):** is a form of gathering where Capoeira is played. Consist of two capoeiristas in the centre with instruments being played.

**Grupo (Group):** many capoeira groups (or schools) exist and each Grupo usually has different teaching methods, grading systems and philosophies.

**Professor (Instructor):** is the person who leads/teach the class. Instructors are not necessarily (and most often are not) Mestres.

**Mestre (Master):** older/very experience teacher.

**Musicas (Songs):** many of the songs are sung in a "call and response" format while others are in the form of a narrative. Capoeira songs can talk about virtually anything: historical facts, famous capoeiristas, trivial life facts, hidden messages for players, what's going on within the roda, about life or love lost, lighthearted and playful topics, etc. Improvisation is very important also, while singing a song the main singer can change the music's lyrics, telling something that's happening in or outside the Roda. Capoeira songs are generally divided in four categories: **Ladainhas, Chulas, Corridos** and **Quadras**.

**Instrumento (Instrument):** Musical instruments played: berimbau, pandeiro, atabaque, agogô, reco-reco.

**Toques de Berimbau (Rhythms):** there are different rhythms/beats (called toques) that are played by the berimbau during the roda that will determine the mood and the game to be played. Some toques were created so capoeiristas could communicate with each other within the roda without having to say a word, like Cavalaria, while others were created to define a style, like Regional de Bimba. Some of the most popular toques are: **Angola, Bengela, Sao Bento Pequeno, Sao Bento Grande, Iuna, Sao Bento Grande de Regional and Samba de Roda**. Other toques include: Cavalaria, Santa Maria, Amazonas, or Miudinho with their own story, meaning and game style.

**Samba de Roda:** is a traditional Afro-Brazilian dance & musical form that has been associated with Capoeira for many decades. Instruments are accompanied by singing and clapping and a pair (usually a man and a woman) dance samba inside the roda.

**Maculelê:** originally the Maculelê is believed to have been an indigenous fighting style, using two sticks or a machete. Nowadays it's a folkloric dance practiced with heavy afro-Brazilian percussion.

**Palma (clapping):** the most common clapping is **Palma de Bimba (usual 3-times clap)**, for Samba de Roda or toques de regional in some groups **Palma de Terreiro is used (3-times clap, but in somewhat different rhythm - like clap clapclap clap clapclap clap clapclap)**. When playing traditional angola rhythm, usually there is no clapping or just clap (2-times clap).



**Corda (Belt/Cord):** is used as a grading system to represent the level of experience that capoeiristas have in a given group.

**Batizado/Evento (Baptism/Event):** is a ceremonial roda where new students will get recognized as capoeiristas and earn their first graduation. Also more experienced students may go up in rank, depending on their skills and capoeira culture. Following the batizado the new graduation, generally in the form of a cord, is given.

**Grupo Beribazu:** was created in **August 11, 1972** in Brasília, the capital of Brazil, by Mestre Zulu. In total, the group currently has **143 capoeira teachers**, among mestres, mestrandos, contra-mestres, instrutores, monitores and estagiários. The group is **administered by a "Conselho de Mestres" (Board of Masters)**, composed of all the mestres in the group (currently 14) with a president elected every year.

**Grupo Beribazu Brisbane:** Mestre: Mestre Falcão. Instructor: Monitor Pequeno.

**Belts with Grupo Beribazu:**

Corda (Belt)	CATEGORY
<i>Student Cordas</i>	
1 - Azul (Blue)	Student
2 - Azul-marrom (Blue-brown)	Student
3 - Marrom (Brown)	Student
4 - Marron-verde (Brown-green)	Student
5 - Verde (Green)	Student
<i>Teacher Cordas</i>	
6 - Verde-amarela (Green-yellow)	Estagiario
7 - Amarela (Yellow)	Monitor
8 - Amarela-roxa (Yellow-purple)	Instrutor
9 - Roxa (Purple)	Contra-Mestre
10 - Roxa-vermelha (Purple-red)	Mestrando
11 - Vermelha (Red)	Mestre-Edificador
12 - Branca (White)	Mestre-Dignificador