Greetings from Brazil

As I sit down to write this Iam at a loss as to where to start. Not just because it is becoming increasingly dificult to think let alone write in English but because in such a short amount of time I have done so much.
One of the highlights of my exchange so far would be travelling through the Amazon. On the 5th of May myself and 45 other exchange students went to the Amazon!
After being in Brasil for almost three months I still had not found the “Brazil” I thought I would encounter, the Brazil of books and Films had continued to alude me. but I found the Brazil of my inagination in the Amazon. Every person, tree, shanti house and degree celsius was exactly as I thought it would be. We spent two nights in a very small but very important town in the Amazonias called Presidente Figuarado. Here we explored parts of the Amazon rainforest, we saw many beautiful waterfalls and there was allways an opportunity to swim. We then went to the city of Manous. Here we stayed in a fantastic resort and spent three days touring the city, seeing museums, zoo's, theatres, beautiful antique houses, going to markets and theatre shows. Then we hopped on a boat and headed off down the Amazon river. We saw the meeting of the Rio Negro and Rio Preto (the black and white rivers) where the waters mix creating beautiful patterns. We walked throught the Amazon jungle and learnt how to make baskets spons, shelter and other useful things out of palm leaves, we were shown what trees had medicinal qualities and all of us were very eager to find the plants the warded off misquitos!!!! The 27degrees centigrade and stifiling humidity meant that at every opportunity we had we would go swimming in the Amazon.
We visited three Indian reservations which was a very interesting experiece seeing a civilistation without any technology and learning about there customs which they still follow strongly. We encountered much wildlife on our adventures;we saw pink dolphins (boto Vermelho) which is only found in the Amazon; we went crocodile hunting and our guides actually jumped into the river at night on top of crocodiles and brought them back onto our canoes (luckily they were only little crocs). We held anacondas and even had a snake drop into our boat on one of our excursions when we got too close to a tree but fortunately it was not venamous. Needless to say I still climed on top of the person beside me until it was safely in our guides strong grip.
My favourite part of the trip was sleeping in hammocks being rocked to sleep by the sway of the boat and watching the sun set and rise everyday over the Amazon river. Another highlight included travelling to Belo Hizonte and historic towns in the state of Minas Gerias and a return trip to Rio DE Janeiro.
I have had such a fun time learning the native language here while times it is tiring and difficult it has bought endless amounts of laughter and ongoning jokes for my friends and family here. Many of my friends liked the way I mispronouced words so much that they all say it wrong.
Time is really slipping away, only 5 months left, alreadyI have more trips planned and a few more things on the “to do” list to check off but I am really enjoying just living in the moment and doing more than just experienceing a new culture, I’m living it.

Kyla