



NICK & AYA TRAVEL TO CHILE AT A GLANCE!

TEACHER CLASSROOM UNIT
GRADES 1-4



QUICK FACTS



Continent:
South America



Capital City:
Santiago



Language:
Spanish



Currency:
Chilean Peso (CLP)



Population:
About 20 million people



FUN FACT!

Chile stretches more than 4,300 km (2,670 miles) from north to south but is only about 177 km (110 miles) wide on average!

IMPORTANT PLACES TO KNOW



Santiago

Chile's capital city, located in a valley surrounded by the Andes Mountains.



Atacama Desert

One of the driest deserts on Earth, famous for salt flats, volcanoes, and star-filled skies.



Patagonia (Carretera Austral)

A region of glaciers, mountains, forests, and national parks in southern Chile.



Easter Island (Rapa Nui)

A remote island in the Pacific Ocean, known for its giant Moai statues.



Torres del Paine National Park

One of the world's most beautiful national parks, with towering granite peaks, lakes, and wildlife.



Chiloé Island

Known for colorful wooden churches, fishing villages, and unique local traditions.



BEFORE READING

Ask students:

- 1 Where is Chile located?
- 2 What kinds of animals might live there?
- 3 Why do people visit Patagonia?
- 4 Have you ever seen mountains, glaciers, or a desert?
- 5 What do you know about Easter Island?



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- ☒ Locate Chile on a map
- ☒ Discover Chile's unique geography
- ☒ Learn about wildlife and ecosystems
- ☒ Explore Chilean culture and traditions
- ☒ Compare Chile with their own community

EXPLORE

LEARN

DISCOVER

CONNECT



TEACHER TIP

As students read the book, have them keep track of:

Animals they discover

New places they learn about

Traditions they find interesting

PEOPLE & LIFE ACROSS CHILE

Geography Shapes Everyday Life

Chile is often called **The Land of Volcanoes** because more than 2,000 volcanoes stretch along the Andes Mountains. Chile also experiences earthquakes, glaciers, deserts, rainforests, and islands. These different landscapes have shaped how people live, work, travel, and build their communities.



1 Living with Volcanoes (South-Central Chile)



Many towns are built near volcanoes. Rich volcanic soil helps farmers grow crops, while volcanoes attract visitors from around the world.

FUN FACT!

Chile has around 90 active volcanoes.



2 Earthquakes & Preparedness



Chile experiences many earthquakes each year because it lies on the Pacific Ring of Fire. Schools and families practice safety drills so everyone knows what to do.

FUN FACT!

Chile has some of the strongest earthquake-resistant building standards in the world.



3 Farming in Central Chile



The fertile valleys of Central Chile produce cherries, grapes, apples, blueberries, and many other fruits that are shipped around the world.

FUN FACT!

Chile is one of the world's largest exporters of fresh cherries.



4 Indigenous Cultures



The Mapuche are Chile's largest Indigenous people. Their traditions, language, music, and crafts remain an important part of Chilean culture today.

FUN FACT!

The word Mapuche means "People of the Land."



5 Chile's Coastline



Chile has one of the longest coastlines in the world. Fishing, shipping, and tourism are important parts of life along the Pacific Ocean.

FUN FACT!

Chile's coastline stretches more than 6,400 km (4,000 miles).



MATCH THE LANDSCAPE TO DAILY LIFE

Draw a line to match each landscape with how it shapes daily life in Chile.

- 1 Volcanoes
- 2 Earthquakes
- 3 Valleys (Central Chile)
- 4 Pacific Coast
- 5 Mapuche People

- Fertile soil for farming
- Safety drills and strong buildings
- Fruit farming and agriculture
- Fishing and coastal jobs
- Indigenous traditions and culture



DID YOU KNOW?



Chile is home to the world's tallest active volcano, Ojos del Salado.

Earthquakes help shape the land and can also cause tsunamis.

You can ski on a volcano in the morning and visit the ocean in the afternoon!

Chile is one of the safest and most prepared countries for earthquakes.



WILDLIFE & NATURE ACROSS CHILE

Five Amazing Ecosystems

Because Chile stretches across many climates, it is home to thousands of different plants and animals. Some species live nowhere else on Earth. As Nick and Aya travel across Chile, they discover deserts, Mediterranean forests, temperate rainforests, grasslands, and one of the richest oceans on the planet.

ECOSYSTEM JOURNEY



1 Atacama Desert (Northern Chile)



Vicuña

Andean Flamingo

Cardón Cactus

The Atacama Desert is one of the driest places on Earth. Even with very little rain, many amazing plants and animals have adapted to survive.

FUN FACT!

Some parts of the Atacama haven't seen rain in over 100 years!



2 Mediterranean Forest (Central Chile)



Giant Hummingbird

Chilean Palm

Quillay Tree

Boldo Leaves

This ecosystem is found in only five places on Earth, making it one of the rarest climate regions. Native plants and trees provide food and shelter for many birds and small mammals.

FUN FACT!

Central Chile has a Mediterranean climate similar to parts of California, Spain, Italy, South Africa, and Australia.



3 Temperate Rainforest (Southern Chile)



Pudú

Monkey Puzzle Tree

Darwin's Fox

Copihue (National Flower)

Ancient forests grow in the rain and mist near lakes and volcanoes. These forests provide shelter for rare animals and some of the oldest trees in South America.

FUN FACT!

Some monkey puzzle trees can live for more than 1,000 years!



4 Patagonia Grasslands & Glaciers (Southern Chile)



Guanaco

Huemul (National Animal)

Andean Condor

Lenga Tree

Patagonia is home to wide grasslands, towers of granite, glaciers, and cold winds. Many wild animals roam freely across this vast and beautiful landscape.

FUN FACT!

The huemul is a native deer found only in Chile and Argentina, and it is now a protected species.



5 The Humboldt Current (Pacific Ocean)



Humboldt Penguin

Blue Whale

Sea Lion

Giant Kelp

The cold Humboldt Current carries nutrient-rich water along Chile's coast. Tiny plankton feed fish, which feed penguins, sea lions, dolphins, and whales. It creates one of the richest marine ecosystems in the world.

FUN FACT!

The Humboldt Current is like a giant highway of food in the ocean!



DID YOU NOTICE?



Pudús are the world's smallest deer.



The copihue is Chile's national flower.



Monkey puzzle trees can live for over 1,000 years.



The giant hummingbird is the largest hummingbird on Earth.

THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST!

Why does Chile have so many different ecosystems?

- ☐ Because it has many islands.
- ☒ Because it stretches over 4,300 km from north to south.
- ☐ Because it rains the same everywhere.
- ☐ Because it has only mountains.

