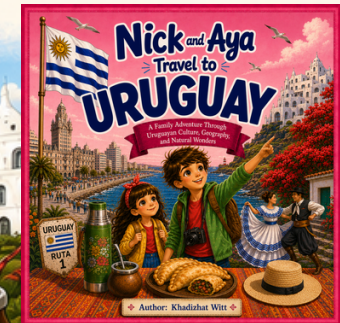


NICK & AYA TRAVEL TO URUGUAY

AT A GLANCE!

TEACHER CLASSROOM UNIT
GRADES 1–4



QUICK FACTS



Continent:
South America



Capital City:
Montevideo



Language:
Spanish



Currency:
Uruguayan Peso (UYU)



Population:
About 3.5 million people



National Flower:
Ceibo



National Bird:
Tero (Southern Lapwing)

GEOGRAPHY SNAPSHOT



ATLANTIC COAST

Long beaches, rocky shores, sea life, and fishing communities shape life along the coast.



RÍO DE LA PLATA

This wide river forms the border with Argentina and brings boats, birds, and important trade.



ROLLING GRASSLANDS (PAMPAS)

Open plains perfect for cattle ranching. This is where gauchos work and live.



NATIVE FORESTS

Found in the north and along rivers. Home to many birds, insects, and animals.



LAGOONS & WETLANDS

Found in the north birds, fish, and other wildlife. They help keep nature healthy.

ESSENTIAL VOCABULARY



gaucho A traditional horseman who works on the ranches.



estancia A large ranch where cattle are raised.



mate A traditional drink made from yerba leaves.



candombe A music and dance tradition with drums.



pampas The vast grasslands of Uruguay.



rambla A long seaside walkway along the coast.

BEFORE READING

Ask students:

- 1 Why do countries protect their coastlines?
- 2 How might living near the ocean shape daily life?
- 3 What jobs might people have in a country with many cattle?
- 4 What clues tell us a place has a rich history?
- 5 How can traditions be passed from one generation to another?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES



GEOGRAPHY

- Locate and describe Uruguay's physical features
- Understand how land and water influence life



SCIENCE

- Identify important habitats and natural resources
- Recognize the importance of conservation



CULTURE

- Explore traditions, music, food, and daily life
- Appreciate the diversity of Uruguayan culture



HISTORY

- Learn about early inhabitants and colonial history
- Understand how history shapes present-day life



TEACHER TIP

As students read, encourage them to keep track of:



Animals
they discover



New places
they visit



Spanish words
they learn

EXTENSION IDEAS

- Use a map to trace Uruguay's rivers and coastline.
- Compare life in the city, on the coast, and in the grasslands.
- Invite students to share a family tradition.



EXPLORING URUGUAY'S CITIES & NEIGHBORS

From historic towns to modern cities, discover where people live and how Uruguay connects with South America.



URUGUAY'S LARGEST CITIES



MONTEVIDEO

The Capital City

- Uruguay's largest city.
- Home to nearly half of the country's population.
- Known for the Rambla, beaches, museums, and the Port of Montevideo.



COLONIA DEL SACRAMENTO

A Walk Through History

- Founded over 300 years ago.
- Famous for its cobblestone streets and old lighthouse.
- A UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Activity: Look for clues that show this city is historic.



PUNTA DEL ESTE

Uruguay's Beach Resort

- One of South America's best-known beach destinations.
- Famous for the sculpture La Mano.
- Popular for boating, surfing, and family vacations.



SALTO

City of Hot Springs

- Located along the Uruguay River.
- Known for natural hot springs and citrus farms.
- Close to the border with Argentina.

URUGUAY'S NEIGHBORS



ARGENTINA

The Uruguay River helps form much of the western border between Uruguay and Argentina.



People travel between the two countries by ferries, bridges, and roads.

Both countries enjoy:



BRAZIL

Uruguay's northern border is shared with Brazil.



In some border towns, people speak both Spanish and Portuguese, making it easy for neighbors to communicate.

Brazil and Uruguay trade goods and welcome visitors from each other every year.



CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

BORDER DETECTIVE

Color the map using the key below.

- Blue → Rivers that form natural borders
- Green → Land border with Brazil
- Yellow → Atlantic Ocean



Then answer the questions.

- Which country is west of Uruguay? _____
- Which country is north of Uruguay? _____
- Which city is closest to Argentina? _____
- Which city is closest to Brazil? _____

DID YOU KNOW?

- You can travel by ferry from Montevideo or Colonia del Sacramento to Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Uruguay is South America's second-smallest country, but it has modern cities, historic towns, beautiful beaches, and peaceful countryside.



TEACHER EXTENSION

COMPARE TWO CITIES

Students complete a Venn diagram comparing Montevideo and Colonia del Sacramento.

Compare:

- Buildings
- Transportation
- Tourist attractions





DISCOVER URUGUAY: SCIENCE, HISTORY & CULTURE

A small country with big stories, bright ideas, and strong traditions.



SCIENCE & INNOVATION



Renewable Energy Leader

Uruguay generates most of its electricity from clean sources like wind, water, biomass, and solar power.



Protecting Nature

Scientists and conservationists work to protect wetlands, coastlines, and wildlife so future generations can enjoy them too.



Plan Ceibal

Uruguay is known for Plan Ceibal, a program that gives laptops and digital tools to students across the country.



HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS



Independence

Uruguay declared its independence from Brazil in 1828, becoming one of the first countries in South America to establish a democratic government.



A Peaceful Nation

Uruguay is often called the "Switzerland of South America" because it has a long tradition of peace, neutrality, and respect for laws.



Immigrant Roots

People from Europe, the Middle East, and other parts of the world came to Uruguay and helped build its towns, farms, and industries.



First World Cup Champions

Uruguay hosted and won the first FIFA World Cup in 1930, starting a proud football tradition.



CULTURE & TRADITIONS



Candombe

A music and dance tradition with African roots. It is part of Uruguay's identity and spirit.



Mate: More Than a Drink

Sharing mate is a daily ritual that brings people together to talk, listen, and enjoy good company.



Gaucha Heritage

Gauchos are part of Uruguay's history and culture. Their skills on horseback and connection to the land are still celebrated.



Delicious Traditions

From asado and chivito to dulce de leche and torta frita, food is an important part of celebrations and family life.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

Choose a Topic!

Pick one topic from above (science, history, or culture) and create a mini poster or comic strip to teach others about it.



THINK & DISCUSS

- 1 Why is renewable energy important for the future?
- 2 How do traditions help people feel connected to their community?
- 3 What event from Uruguay's history do you find the most interesting?

VOCABULARY BUILDER

renewable	energy from natural sources that do not run out
neutrality	staying out of conflicts; not taking sides
heritage	traditions and customs passed down
ritual	a custom or tradition done regularly
industry	work that produces goods or services

DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ Uruguay has more cows than people!
- ★ The flag of Uruguay is one of the oldest national flags in the world.
- ★ The Teatro Solís in Montevideo is one of the oldest theaters in South America.
- ★ Uruguay was the first country in the world to legalize daytime eight-hour workdays way back in 1915.



Small in size,
strong in values,
connected to the world!



Uruguay's stories teach us about nature, people, the past, and the future. Let's keep learning and discovering together!

