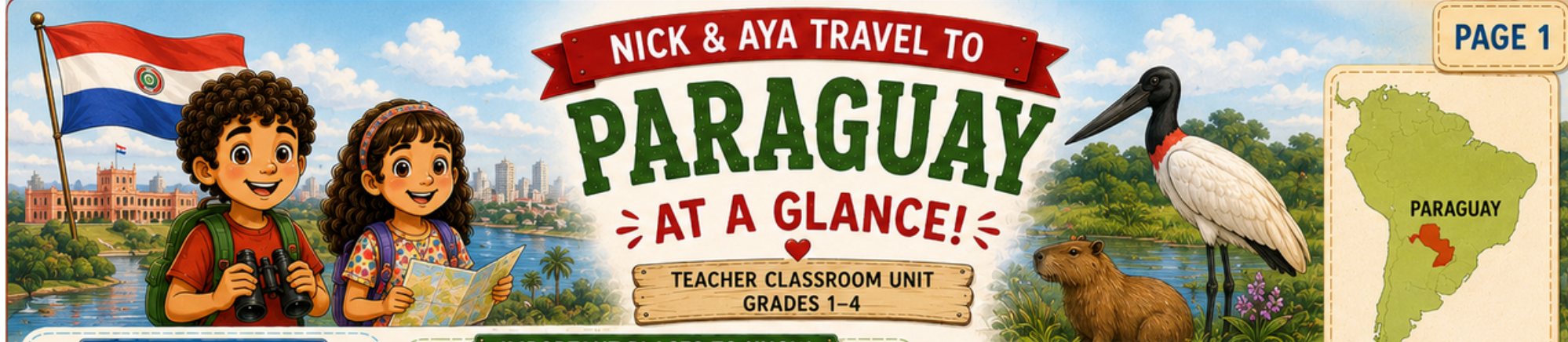




QUICK FACTS



Continent:
South America



Capital City:
Asunción



Language:
Spanish & Guaraní



Currency:
Paraguayan Guaraní (PYG)



Population:
About 7 million people



IMPORTANT PLACES TO KNOW



Asunción
One of South America's oldest capital cities and home to important government buildings.



Itaipú Dam
One of the world's largest hydroelectric power plants.



The Chaco
A vast region of forests, wetlands, and grasslands filled with wildlife.



Jesuit Missions (La Santísima Trinidad)
Historic mission ruins that tell the story of a special time in Paraguay's past.



Ñu Guasu Park
A large city park where families enjoy nature and outdoor activities.



BEFORE READING

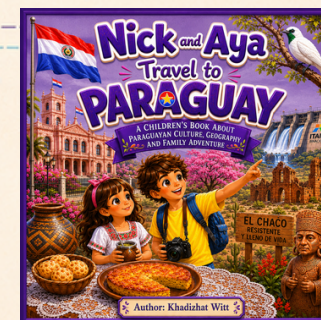
Ask students:

- 1 Where is Paraguay located?
- 2 Why does Paraguay have two official languages?
- 3 What kinds of animals might live in the Chaco?
- 4 Why are rivers important?
- 5 What do you already know about hydroelectric power?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- ☒ Locate Paraguay on a map
- ☒ Learn about Paraguay's geography
- ☒ Discover native wildlife
- ☒ Explore Guaraní culture
- ☒ Understand why rivers are important



TEACHER TIP

As students read, have them keep track of:

Animals
they discover

New places
they visit

Guaraní words
they learn

PEOPLE & CULTURES ACROSS PARAGUAY

How Geography Shapes Culture



1 Asunción Spanish & Guaraní Heritage



Paraguay's capital city blends Spanish colonial history with Guaraní traditions. Government buildings, festivals, music, and language reflect both cultures every day.



2 Luque Ñandutí Lace



Ñandutí means "spider web" in Guaraní. Artisans carefully weave colorful lace with needle and thread. This traditional art is a symbol of Paraguayan creativity and patience.



3 Areguá Pottery Traditions



Areguá is famous for its handmade clay pottery. Families pass down this craft from generation to generation, creating beautiful and useful pieces that show local pride.



4 Jesuit Missions History Preserved



Jesuit missionaries and the Guaraní people built missions where they lived, learned, and worked together. The ruins help us understand Paraguay's past and the lives of the people who once lived there.



5 The Chaco Indigenous Peoples



Indigenous communities have lived in the Chaco for thousands of years. They know how to live in harmony with nature and keep their traditions alive today.



MATCH THE REGION TO ITS CULTURE

Draw a line to match each region with the culture or people connected to it.

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Asunción | • Ñandutí Lace |
| 2 Luque | • Pottery Traditions |
| 3 Areguá | • Spanish & Guaraní Heritage |
| 4 Jesuit Missions (Trinidad) | • Indigenous Peoples |
| 5 The Chaco | • History Preserved |

DID YOU KNOW?

The Paraguayan harp is the national instrument and its music is heard in celebrations all across the country.



♥ WILDLIFE & NATURE ACROSS PARAGUAY ♥

From Rivers to Dry Forests

Although Paraguay has no ocean, its rivers, forests, wetlands, and grasslands support an **incredible** variety of plants and animals. As Nick and Aya explore from the Paraguay River to the Chaco and the Atlantic Forest, they discover many different habitats and **amazing** wildlife.



HABITAT METER



1 Paraguay River



Capybara Jabiru Stork River Fish

The Paraguay River is one of the longest rivers in South America. Its calm waters provide food and shelter for many animals and plants.

2 Atlantic Forest



Toucan Coati Orchid

The Atlantic Forest is one of South America's richest forests. It is full of tall trees, vines, flowers, and colorful animals.

3 The Chaco



Giant Anteater Rhea Armadillo

The Chaco is a hot, dry region of forests and grasslands. Many animals have adapted to the heat and long dry seasons.

4 Bañado Wetlands



Caiman Roseate Spoonbill Water Lily

Each rainy season, large areas called bañados flood with water. These wetlands become a paradise for birds, fish, and other wildlife.

5 Itaipú Area



Leaf-cutter Ant Butterfly Forest Restoration

The Itaipú area shows how people and nature can work together. Hydroelectric energy is clean, and reforestation helps protect wildlife.

DID YOU NOTICE?



Pineapples grow very well in Paraguay!



Tereré is a popular cold herbal drink shared with family and friends.



Leaf-cutter ants can carry pieces of leaves many times their own size!



Paraguay is home to more than 700 species of birds!

THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST!

Why don't giant anteaters live in rivers?

- ☐ They cannot swim.
- ☒ They eat ants and termites instead of fish.
- ☐ They need cold mountain water.
- ☐ They only live in wetlands.

