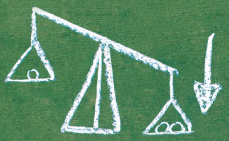


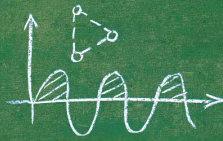


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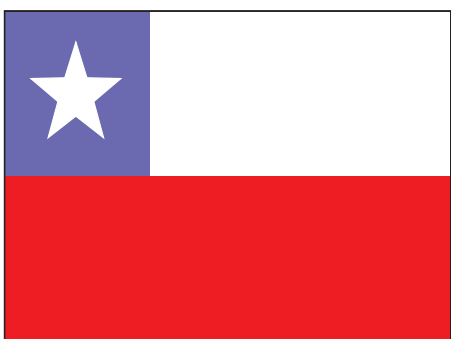
CHILE

LAND OF EXTREMES

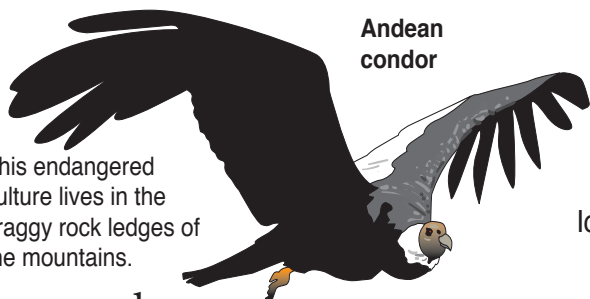
Chile is a land of contrast and great beauty, from its towering volcanic peaks in the Andes to the ancient forests of the Lake District.



Lapageria rosea, commonly known as the **Chilean bellflower** or copihue (co-PEE-way) is the national flower of Chile.



Chile's flag colors are symbolic: The white star stands for progress and honor, red stands for heroes' blood, blue stands for the sky and white stands for the snow-capped Andes mountains. Even though they look similar, the flag of Chile is 21 years older than the flag of Texas in the USA.



Andean condor

This endangered vulture lives in the craggy rock ledges of the mountains.

In a word

There are several theories about how Chile got its name, but the Spanish conquistadors learned this name from the Incas in the 1500s. The national language of Chile is Spanish.

A long, narrow strip

Chile is more than 18 times longer than its widest point. The country stretches more than 2,700 miles (4,300 km) along the southwestern coast of South America but is never more than 150 miles (240 km) wide.

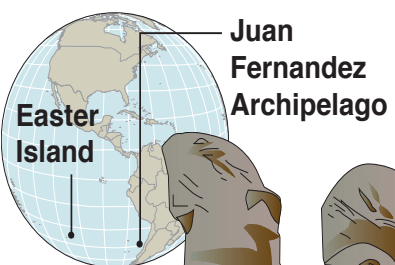
The **Andes** play a large role in creating Chile's long shape. This virtually impassable mountain range and its 50 active volcanic peaks have protected and isolated the land.

To the north, the land rises and becomes the forbidding **Atacama Desert**, one of the most inhospitable regions on Earth.

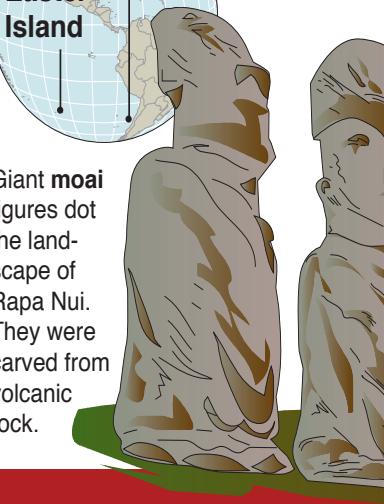
To the south, the land fades into a maze of islands that end in **Chilean Patagonia**. Chile's southern tip is **Cape Horn**, a treacherous headland surrounded by storm-tossed seas, safely passable only through the foggy **Strait of Magellan**.

Pacific possessions

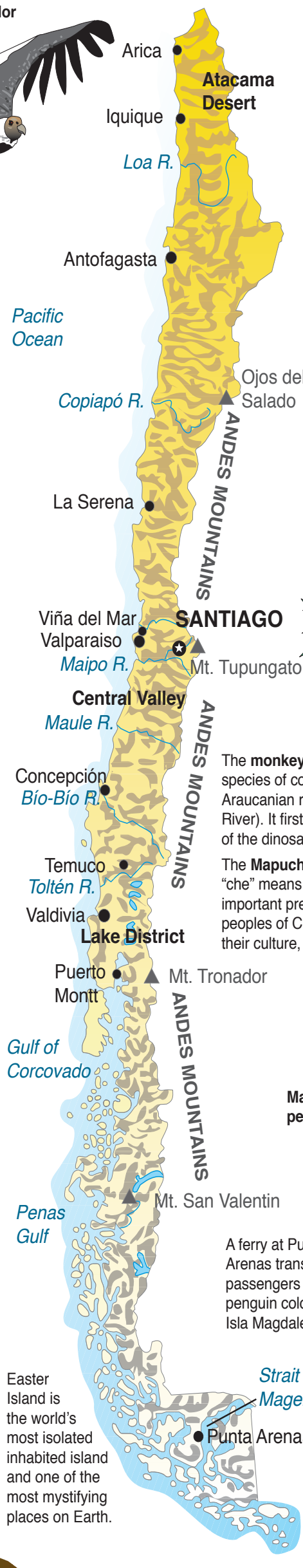
Also part of Chile are two Pacific lands, the **Juan Fernandez Archipelago** and **Easter Island**, or Rapa Nui (the Polynesian name for Easter Island). Both are national parks.



Juan Fernandez Archipelago

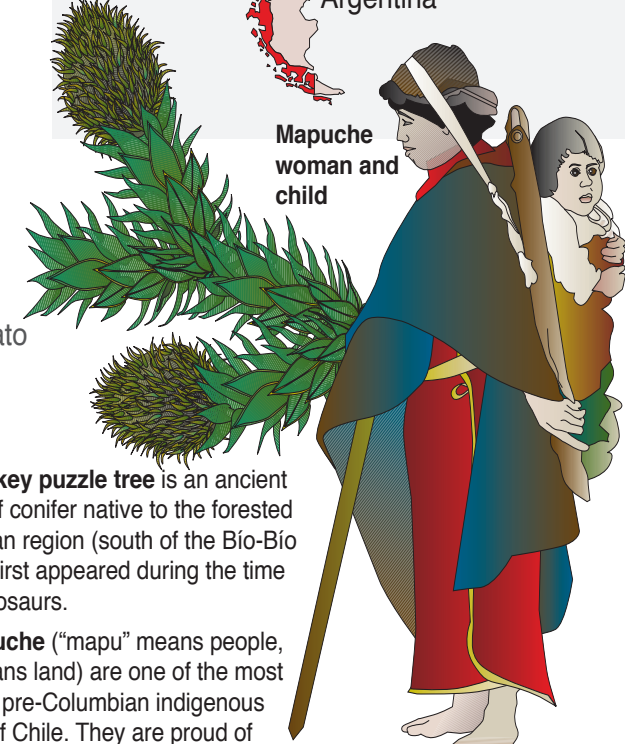


Giant **moai** figures dot the landscape of Rapa Nui. They were carved from volcanic rock.

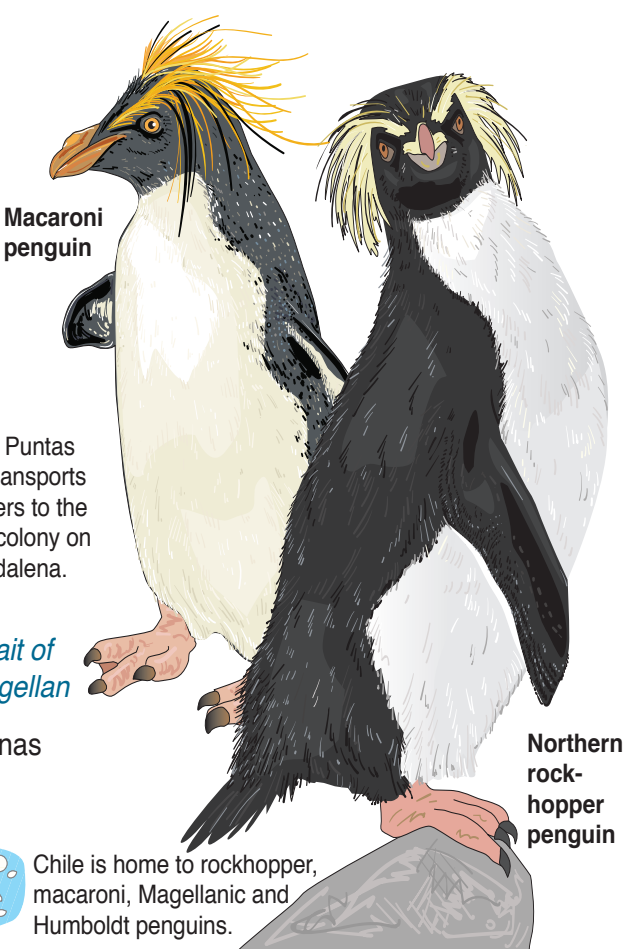


The **monkey puzzle tree** is an ancient species of conifer native to the forested Araucanian region (south of the Bío-Bío River). It first appeared during the time of the dinosaurs.

The **Mapuche** ("mapu" means people, "che" means land) are one of the most important pre-Columbian indigenous peoples of Chile. They are proud of their culture, language and way of life.



Mapuche woman and child



Macaroni penguin

Northern rock-hopper penguin

A ferry at Puntas Arenas transports passengers to the penguin colony on Isla Magdalena.

Chile is home to rockhopper, macaroni, Magellanic and Humboldt penguins.

Just the facts

Total Area	291,930 sq. mi. (756,102 sq. km)
Population	19,116,201
Capital city	Santiago
Highest elevation	Ojos del Salado 6,893 m (22,615 ft.)
Lowest elevation	sea level
Agriculture	Grapes, apples, pears, onions, wheat, maize, oats, peaches, garlic, asparagus, beans, beef, poultry, wool, fish, timber and hemp
Natural resources	Copper, timber, iron ore, nitrates, precious metals, molybdenum, hydropower
Industry	Mining (copper, coal and nitrate), manufactured products (food processing, chemicals, wood) and agriculture (fishing, logging and agriculture)

Did you know?

The **Atacama Desert** is considered to be the driest place on Earth.

Chile is one of the world's top wine destinations, the ninth-largest producer of wine and the world's fourth-largest exporter of wine.

Valparaíso is the main port of Chile and the main hub of a trans-Andean railroad. Valparaíso has also been an inspirational place for painters and poets.

The oldest mummies in the world were found in Chile. 282 **Chinchorro mummies** have been removed from burial sites in what is now northern Chile.

The **alerce tree** of southern Chile can live to be up to 4,000 years old.

Chile is located along the **Pacific Ring of Fire** and is home to about 3,000 volcanoes.

Earthquakes occur regularly in Chile.

SOURCES: *World Book Encyclopedia*, World Book Inc.; <https://www.nationsonline.org>; CIA Factbook; *Chile*, by Christopher Dwyer, Chelsea House Publishers; <https://ecochile.travel>

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