

CHILE

Chile Quick Facts

Official Name: Republic of Chile
Total area: 8,515,770 sq km
Population: 17,650,114 (July 2016 est.)
GDP: \$436.1 billion (2016 est.)
Government: presidential republic
Capital: Santiago
Motto: By right or by might

Chile is located on the western and southern edge of South America. It is a narrow country with the high, rugged Andes Mountains on the east and the Pacific Ocean on the west. Most of the country is covered in mountains, deep valleys, and high plateaus.

The Central Valley is where most of the people live. It extends roughly from the capital Santiago south to Concepción. This is where most of the country's agriculture takes place. In the northern part of the valley there are vineyards and large farms. Fruits, vegetables, grains, beef, and poultry are the major agricultural products. In the southern part, there are forests and lakes.

Chile's terrain and geographical location present some difficulties for its people. The Andes Mountains contain over 600 volcanoes within Chile's borders, and many of them are active. There is also a risk of tsunamis along the coast. Earthquake activity is common in Chile. Some of the greatest magnitude earthquakes ever recorded have occurred in Chile. When earthquakes occur in Chile or off its shores, tsunami waves hit the coast of Chile very quickly and for a sustained period of time. This can cause great damage and loss of life. However, the waves also travel across the Pacific Ocean and cause death and destruction as they come ashore in places like Hawaii, Japan, and the Asian mainland.

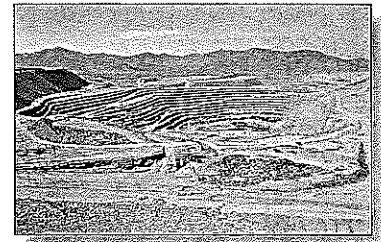
In northern Chile, the Atacama Desert is one of the driest places on Earth. It is a high plateau between the Chilean Coastal Range and the Andes Mountains. The land is covered with salt basins and lava flows. Some parts of this desert may have never seen rain. The area is a rich source of copper, one of Chile's major exports.

Easter Island is a territory of Chile. The island is famous for its mysterious stone statues called moai. It is located 3,700 km (2,300 mi.) off the west coast of Chile in the Pacific Ocean.

In the south, there are thousands of mountainous islands that form archipelagos (chains of islands). The coastline is full of winding channels and fjords. There are huge ice fields in the Patagonian region. Glaciers move out away from the ice fields. Some move toward glacial lakes to the east, and some move toward fjords that empty into the Pacific on the west. The southernmost headland in South America is at Cape Horn on Hornos Island. This is part of the archipelago of Tierra del Fuego. The name means "Land of Fire" and may refer to the bonfires of the natives seen by early explorers.

The Incas moved into northern Chile in the fifteenth century. They made their way into the Central Valley until they met the Mapuche who were living in the region. The Inca army was unable to defeat the Mapuche, so they stayed north of the Lake District. The Spanish moved into the region in the early 1500s and were able to defeat the Incas. However, the Spanish were never able to remove the Mapuche from the area. They remained in control of their territory in the Lake District until settlers gradually pushed them out in the mid-1800s.

The country declared its independence from Spain on September 18, 1810. However, there were seven years of war before Chile was granted independence in 1817. Today, Chile has a stable government and one of the strongest economies in South America.



Copper Mine in Chile

Name: _____ Date: _____

CHILE WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Directions: Use the clues below to determine the words associated with Chile that are in the puzzle. Write the words on the lines provided and find and circle them in the word search puzzle.

B	X	U	O	A	E	V	S	E	O	N	A	C	L	O	V
P	Q	P	O	A	R	Q	V	N	R	O	H	E	P	A	C
D	A	Q	T	G	R	W	T	H	Z	P	R	Q	V	V	G
I	L	C	Y	D	Y	C	T	D	I	N	C	A	S	I	I
V	A	A	I	E	N	D	H	I	D	I	P	L	J	N	I
G	O	U	V	F	L	A	Y	I	T	E	A	T	G	E	E
M	N	T	Q	A	I	L	L	N	P	S	S	Y	G	Y	B
C	A	S	H	M	F	C	A	S	F	E	W	K	I	A	O
O	I	U	N	B	A	L	O	V	I	Z	L	A	Q	R	W
G	N	N	S	Y	H	P	O	C	L	R	S	A	U	D	F
A	O	A	E	X	Y	I	U	W	E	A	E	D	G	S	P
I	G	M	D	K	A	Y	J	C	S	A	R	T	G	O	Q
T	A	I	N	V	J	N	J	D	H	W	N	T	S	B	L
N	T	S	A	X	Z	R	N	X	L	E	A	T	N	A	S
A	A	A	I	S	J	F	T	S	H	R	S	Y	R	E	E
S	P	A	T	A	C	A	M	A	D	E	S	E	R	T	C

1. The _____ Mountains are on Chile's eastern border.
2. Most of Chile's people live in the _____.
3. The _____ is on Chile's western edge.
4. The capital of Chile is _____.
5. _____ are found in the northern part of the Central Valley.
6. There are over 600 _____ within Chile's borders.
7. Earthquakes can cause _____ that travel across the Pacific Ocean.
8. One of the driest places on Earth is the _____.
9. The desert is covered with salt basins and _____.
10. Chile has control of _____, famous for the moai statues.
11. Huge ice fields are found in the _____ region.
12. _____ is the southernmost headland in South America.
13. The _____ were never defeated by the Spanish.
14. The _____ once lived in northern Chile.
15. An _____ is a chain of islands.

