



## The World's Most Mysterious Places

The mysterious places built by those who lived long ago are as amazing as they are **fascinating**. With limited tools, these ancient peoples created splendid works of stone that still stand. We can only wonder why and how they did such things. Open this book and join us on a trip to the world's most mysterious places. See where pharaohs ruled, astronomers watched the skies, and people honored their dead.

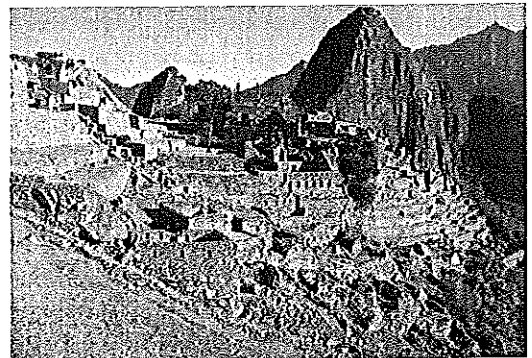


### Easter Island off the Coast of Chile

Easter Island lies in the South Pacific Ocean. Although the island is small, it is famous. It has many giant human statues. They are hundreds of years old. Those who lived here long ago made them, possibly, to honor dead loved ones. These huge statues were carved by hand. Yet even with today's tools, it would be hard to build one. Some statues have large red rocks sitting atop them. Balancing these stones must have been difficult—and dangerous.

### Machu Picchu in Peru

This stone city is at least 600 years old. For years, it lay forgotten high in the Andes Mountains. In 1911, human eyes viewed Machu Picchu once again. In an amazing feat, the stones in the walls fit together perfectly. No mortar was used. Even now, the blade of a knife cannot fit between most of these stones. These people knew that in an area subject to earthquakes, mortar-free construction was sturdier than that which used mortar. So what happened to these people? Why did they leave their city?



### Stonehenge in Great Britain

A series of giant stone slabs tower over farm fields. They stand in a set of circles. What was this place? Who built it? And why? The only thing we know for certain about Stonehenge is that it is thousands of years old. The amount of work involved is staggering. Did it act as a calendar, helping the people to identify the summer and winter solstices? Did the people use the stones as a reference point to watch the sun, stars, and moon? Were religious rites held here? Stonehenge is keeping its secrets.

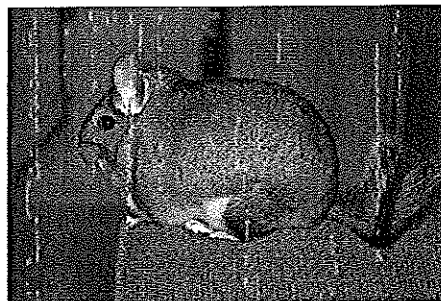
Explore these mysteries and more in *The World's Most Mysterious Places*.



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## Getting to Know Your Chinchilla

A chinchilla is a beautiful rodent originally from the Andes Mountains. It is covered in soft, thick fur. Unlike dogs and cats, which have been human companions for thousands of years, the chinchilla has only been **domesticated** for about eighty years. It is smart and has a strong will. However, with patient training, a chinchilla can learn to come out of its cage and respond to its name.



### Coming Out of the Cage

When you first get your chinchilla, try to ignore it for the first few days. Don't neglect it. But don't try to touch it. Keep the chinchilla's cage in a dark, quiet room with a dark hiding box. When you think that the chinchilla is comfortable with your presence, try putting your fingers into the cage. Next, feed treats from your fingers. The best treats are raisins. To make the raisins last, cut them into quarters. Only feed it one total raisin a day. More than that is not healthy.

When your chinchilla is comfortable with your hand, put treats higher up on your arm. The pet should hop right onto your arm. Never force your chinchilla to take its treat. Another good way to get your chinchilla out of its cage is to let it get comfortable with your hand so that you can slip your hand under its belly and lift it up. This prevents escaping out the cage door, too. If at any time your animal is uncomfortable, go back to the previous step. Remember, this takes time. Your chinchilla will not become tame overnight.

Know this: The worst way to get a chinchilla to come out is to chase it around the cage. This will make your chinchilla fearful. Then it will distrust you. Never chase it! Always wait for your pet to come to you.

### Handling Your Chinchilla

Chinchillas like gentle scratches behind the ears and under their chins. Never squeeze the chinchilla's rib area. Its bones are fragile. And never grab your chinchilla by its tail. You can easily break it. However, it is safe to hold onto the base of your chinchilla's tail while it sits in your lap or on your arm. The base is where the tail attaches to the body. If you are outdoors and afraid your chinchilla might escape, be sure you have a firm grip on the base of its tail.

Never set your pet down outside. This is true even in a fenced yard. Chinchillas are much smaller than they look. They can easily slip through the holes in a chain-link fence. They will find the one crack in the boards of your wooden fence. If your chinchilla gets loose outside, do not chase it. That may cause your chinchilla to run into the street or hide somewhere you cannot reach (such as under a shed). The best thing you can do is put its cage outside with the door open. Most chinchillas love their cages. It is where they feel safe. It will return to its cage on its own.

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