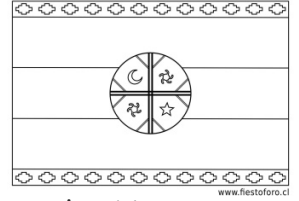


## We Tripantu



The Mapuche people follow their own ancestral calendar. For them the New Year begins with the winter solstice on the night of June 24. The harvest has ended and the earth must rest, prepare herself for the sowing of crops, and renew her fertility. It is a new cycle of life, and the indigenous cultures express their gratitude to Nature. The New Year festival of the Mapuche is the best known of all. It is called We Tripantu, meaning "the sun's new turn" or "the return of the sun." It is celebrated in the rural regions of southern Chile, right in the main square of the city of Temuco, and in Santiago, on Cerro Santa Lucía (Huelén).

### **Celebrations and music**

We Tripantu celebrations may officially begin with the winter solstice on the 21st of June but they well and truly kick off on the evening of the 23rd of June, where family members and the extended community gather together around a fire or stove to eat, drink and tell traditional stories. Folk music is played throughout the night on Mapuche instruments like the tructruca horn, the pifilca flute and the cultrún drum. As the first birds begin to sing around dawn, people head down to nearby rivers and streams to wash and cleanse away anything negative they've picked up throughout the year; disease, evil thoughts, bad spirits... it all gets washed away with the river, leaving bathers ready to be renewed by the young sun as it rises for the first time that year

Answer the following questions in your notebook

1. What is the meaning of "we tripantu"?
2. Why is it celebrated by the beginning of winter season?
3. When is it celebrated?
4. Write a short paragraph explaining what do you know about "we tripantu".

