

General José de San Martín reportedly chose the colors of the Peruvian flag during a battle for independence. According to legend, he got the idea for the flag's colors when he saw red-winged, white-breasted flamingos called parihuanas. Red stands for the blood shed for independence, and white symbolizes peace. The vicuña, a cousin to the llama and alpaca that has been valued since the time of the Inca, is featured on the flag.