

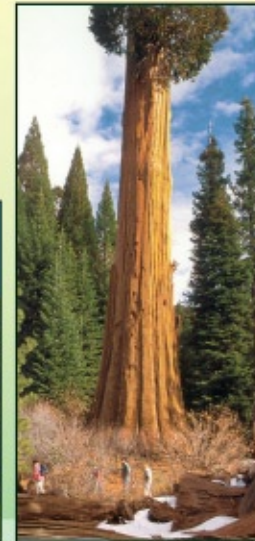
Giants of the Forest

Long before man walked on the earth, large forests of redwoods covered portions of Europe, Asia, and North America. Eventually, climate changes reduced these forests to only three small areas. One area is in China, where dawn redwoods still survive. The other two are here in California. Coast redwoods, the world's tallest trees, grow along the north coast and into southern Oregon. Inland, giant sequoias growing on Sierra Nevada slopes can live 3,000 years or more.

California's redwoods are regarded as natural wonders not only for how long they have been on earth, but also for their height, mass, and hardiness. With trunks as straight as columns and taller than a 25-story building, redwoods have a splendor that attracts visitors from around the world. To help perpetuate forests like this one, thousands of acres of redwoods are preserved within California's state and national parks.



The dawn redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, which is deciduous (meaning it loses its leaves each year), is found only in central China.



The giant sequoia, *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, is shorter but more massive—trunk diameters can exceed the width of a city street—making it the world's largest tree.



The coast redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*, is the world's tallest tree, growing to more than 350 feet.



This map shows the range of California's redwoods. The demand for lumber from our growing population has resulted in the loss of approximately 95 percent of the state's virgin redwood forests.



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