

National Geography Bowl – Round 8 (IS)

First Quarter

(1) This river forms where the Ping and Nan rivers merge in Nakhon Sawan province. One of the tributaries of this river has a name literally meaning "pier of Chinese," and that tributary is the Tha Chin River. Crossed by the Rama the Ninth bridge, for ten points, name this river that flows through Bangkok into the Gulf of Thailand.

ANSWER: **Chao Phraya** River

(2) The first mountain cog railway was built in this mountain range, whose highest peak awards bumper stickers to cars that reach the summit via its namesake Auto Road. Franconia Notch, a prominent pass in this mountain range, was once home to the Old Man of the Mountain. The Presidential Range, including Mount Adams and Mount Washington, is part of, for ten points, what subrange of the Appalachian Mountains in New Hampshire?

ANSWER: **White** Mountains (prompt on "Appalachian Mountains" before mentioned)

(3) This country contains the 16th century Agadez Mosque, the tallest mud-brick structure in the world. This country's airspace was closed for over a month in the summer of 2023 due to a coup, and it formed the Alliance of Sahel States with Mali and Burkina Faso to protect against ECOWAS retaliation. For ten points, name this country where Mohamed Bazoum was deposed in Niamey.

ANSWER: **Niger** [[NEE-zhehr]] (or Republic of the **Niger**)

(4) These landforms are built from till, and, unlike outwash plains, they are not sorted by meltwater. Terminal types of these features form at the furthest extent of a glacier, while lateral ones occur along the sides. Examples of these features include the Oak Ridges in Ontario and one near Valparaiso, Indiana. For ten points, name these glacially deposited ridges of debris.

ANSWER: **moraines** (accept terminal **moraine**; accept lateral **moraine**)

(5) The Hu Line ends at this river's settlement of Heihe, across an international border from Blagoveshchensk that was settled by the Treaty of Aigun. This river's alternative name, Heilong Jiang, translates to "Black Dragon River," and this river empties into the Pacific near Sakhalin Island. For ten points, name this river which forms much of the China-Russia boundary.

ANSWER: **Amur** River (accept **Heilong Jiang** until mentioned)

(6) A natural wonder on this river has an indigenous name meaning "The Smoke that Thunders." The Cahora Bassa Dam and the Kariba Dam create hydroelectric power along this river, which receives outflow from the Shire [[SHEE-reh]] River and Lake Malawi. The longest east-flowing river in Africa is, for ten points, what river that forms Victoria Falls on the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe?

ANSWER: **Zambezi** River

(7) This strait is named after a governor of Madras who served from 1755 to 1763. This strait is separated from the Gulf of Mannar by a chain of limestone shoals called Adam's Bridge, and this strait receives water from rivers like the Vaigai. For ten points, name this strait which delimits the maritime border between northern Sri Lanka from southern India.

ANSWER: **Palk** Strait

(8) *Specific term required.* Neuilly [[new-YEE]]-sur-Seine is one of the wealthier examples of these communities. Many of these communities consist of prefabricated housing blocks from the 1970s, and one of these communities was the site of the 2023 Nahel Merzouk riots. For ten points, give this French term for suburban communities, whose poorer versions tend to be disproportionately populated by immigrant populations on the northern edges of Paris.

ANSWER: **banlieues** [[bahn-LOO]] (prompt on "suburbs" until mentioned; prompt on "ghettos," "neighborhoods," or equivalents)

(9) This currency's name was coined from its country's name by Obafemi Awolowo, who was depicted on one of its notes, along with Zuma Rock. Offshore oil rigs and Fulani milkmaids are also included on the notes of this currency, another denomination of which displays members of the Hausa, Igbo, and Yoruba ethnic groups. For ten points, name this currency used in Nigeria.

ANSWER: Nigerian **naira**

(10) This river, which passes by Orsk and Orenburg, was home to a population of Yaik Cossacks, who pioneered a method of ice fishing for sturgeon. When it reaches its mouth south of Atyrau, this river lies at Europe's lowest point and forms its eastern boundary. For ten points, name this Russian River that shares its name with a transcontinental mountain range.

ANSWER: **Ural** River (accept **Yaik** River before mentioned)

Second Quarter

(1) The Zangezur corridor across Syunik Province has been proposed to connect this region to the rest of its country. The Aras River defines this region's southern border with Iran and forms its extremely short border with Turkey. Behind Kaliningrad, this region was the largest exclave in the USSR. For ten points, name this exclave administered as the southwestern-most part of Azerbaijan.

ANSWER: **Nakhchivan** Autonomous Republic

BONUS: The Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic lies north of this shrinking salt lake near Tabriz in northwestern Iran, which was once the largest in the Middle East.

ANSWER: Lake **Urmia**

(2) This substance covers large areas of the North China Plain and the American Midwest and forms steep, vertical cliffs which can be prone to erosion and landslides. China's Yellow River is so named because it contains large amounts of this material as sediment. For ten points, identify this windblown silt with a name derived from German.

ANSWER: **loess** (prompt on "dirt," "soil," or equivalent)

BONUS: Loess deposits in this U.S. state form bluffs along the eastern edge of the Missouri and Platte Rivers and contribute to the fertile soils of its western farmland.

ANSWER: **Nebraska**

(3) This state contains Tecomán, which is nicknamed the "lime capital of the world." This state, which administers the remote Revillagigedo Islands, has Manzanillo as its largest city. This state is the smallest in Mexico by population, and it is the smallest by area which is not landlocked. For ten points, name this Mexican state sandwiched between Michoacán and Jalisco on the Pacific Ocean.

ANSWER: **Colima** (or Free and Sovereign State of **Colima**)

BONUS: By area, Colima is almost the exact same size as this other state of Mexico, which was named for its hot springs and calls its residents hidrocálidos.

ANSWER: **Aguascalientes**

(4) A planned stadium named for this company in the city of Khobar is set to host some matches of the 2034 FIFA World Cup. This company completely owns and operates the Ghawar Field in Eastern Province, and by revenue, it is the largest company outside of China or the U.S.A. For ten points, name this national oil company owned by Saudi Arabia.

ANSWER: Saudi **Aramco**

BONUS: The 2034 FIFA World Cup will also include matches hosted in this planned city in Saudi Arabia's far northwest, including a 110-mile-long city called "the Line."

ANSWER: **NEOM**

(5) This territory's largest island includes the highest point under its country sovereignty at Mawson Peak. Though completely uninhabited, this territory gained media attention in 2025 for being targeted by a series of tariffs implemented by the United States. Located southeast of the Kerguelen Islands, for ten points, what remote territory of two sub-Antarctic islands in the southern Indian Ocean is administered by Australia?

ANSWER: Territory of **Heard** Island and **McDonald** Islands (or **HIMI**)

BONUS: The Heard and McDonald Islands are one of the homes of this most numerous species of crested penguin, which was first seen by Europeans in the Falklands and was named for its yellow crest.

ANSWER: **macaroni** penguin (or ***Eudyptes chrysolophus***)

(6) The world's longest slackline was crossed between two pylons on either side of this strait in Torre Faro and Villa San Giovanni. This strait is the site of a city often called Reggio. The government of Silvio Berlusconi supported building the world's longest suspension bridge over this strait, which bounds Calabria at the southern end of the Tyrrhenian Sea. For ten points, name this strait between the Italian peninsula and Sicily.

ANSWER: Strait of **Messina**

BONUS: Messina is the third-largest city in Sicily after this city, located to its south, overlooked by Mount Etna on the Ionian Sea.

ANSWER: **Catania** (accept phonetic pronunciations)

(7) The *Jaffar Express* train service, which travels from this city, was hijacked in 2025 by terrorists in the nearby Bolan Pass. This city is the center of its country's Brahui and Hazara communities, and it lies across the Durand Line from Kandahar. Located roughly halfway between Gwadar and Peshawar, for ten points, what capital and largest city of Balochistan is the largest city of north-western Pakistan?

ANSWER: **Quetta**

BONUS: Behind Kandahar in population, this city is the third-largest in Afghanistan, lying in its far northwest, and this city is known for its Tajik population.

ANSWER: **Herat**

(8) Bitola lies near the shores of this lake, which is separated from a smaller neighbor by an isthmus visited by Zoran Zaev and Alexis Tsipras in 2018. This lake is also separated by the mountain of Galičica from Lake Ohrid, and this lake was the site of an agreement which added the word "North" to one country's name. One the southernmost point of Yugoslavia, for ten points, what lake is split between North Macedonia, Greece, and Albania?

ANSWER: Lake **Prespa** (or Great **Prespa** Lake; accept **Prespa** Agreement)

BONUS: Lake Prespa is partially enclosed by Western Macedonia, which is separated by the Pindus Mountains by this rugged western Greek region.

ANSWER: **Epirus** (or **Ípiros**)

Third Quarter

The categories are:

1. US Places with Bird Names
2. Judaism in Europe
3. Holy Sites in Asia
4. Central America

US Places with Bird Names

Concerning places in the U.S. with bird names, name the...

(1) National bird of the U.S. which names a river that, in turn, names an Alaskan city

ANSWER: bald **eagle** (accept **Eagle** River)

(2) U.S. state in which the unincorporated community Bird-in-Hand is found west of Philadelphia.

ANSWER: **Pennsylvania**

(3) Mythical bird that burns and is born again, naming a state capital.

ANSWER: **phoenix**

(4) Sandy islands in southern Florida, including examples named Duck, Little Duck, and Largo.

ANSWER: **keys** (or **cay**; accept Florida **Keys**; accept Duck **Key**, Little Duck **Key**, or **Key** Largo)

(5) U.S. state that is home to Bird City, which is closer to Colorado to its west than it is to Dodge City.

ANSWER: **Kansas**

(6) Region that is home to the town of Kitty Hawk on Bodie Island.

ANSWER: **Outer Banks** (or **OBX**; prompt on "North Carolina")

(7) Bird that names a "Forge" in Tennessee, as well as four rivers in Michigan.

ANSWER: **pigeon** (accept **Pigeon** Forge; accept **Pigeon** River)

(8) Bird of prey, also known as a sea hawk, which names a Florida town in the Bradenton-Sarasota statistical area.

ANSWER: **osprey**

Judaism in Europe

Concerning Jewish residents and the geography of Europe, name the...

(1) Type of institution that displays historical artifacts to the public, such as Theodore Herzl's birthplace in Budapest.

ANSWER: **museum** (accept Jewish **Museum**)

(2) Capital of the Netherlands, where the Anne Frank House can be visited.

ANSWER: **Amsterdam**

(3) Country, led from Warsaw, in which the Nazis killed nearly one million Jewish people at Auschwitz.

ANSWER: Republic of **Poland** (or Rzeczpospolita **Polska**)

(4) Eastern European peninsula that names an 1850s war, during which many Jewish people served in the Russian navy at Sevastopol.

ANSWER: **Crimean** Peninsula (accept **Crimean** War)

(5) Islands, including Jersey and Guernsey, from which the three Jewish-British victims of the Holocaust were taken.

ANSWER: **Channel** Islands

(6) Subgroup of Jewish people who migrated to Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages and traditionally speak Yiddish.

ANSWER: **Ashkenazic** Jews (or **Ashkenazim**)

(7) Modern country in which the cities of Vitebsk, Mogilev, and Pinsk had a ten percent Jewish population prior to the Holocaust.

ANSWER: Republic of **Belarus** (or Respublika **Byelarus'**; or Respublika **Belarus'**)

(8) "Jerusalem of the North," a city in which Gediminas's Tower memorializes a grand duke who invited Jewish settlement.

ANSWER: **Vilnius**

Holy Sites in Asia

Concerning holy sites from various religions in Asia, name the...

(1) Country in which Jerusalem is the site of the Dome of the Rock.

ANSWER: State of **Israel** (or Medīnat **Yisra'el**)

(2) Asian peninsula that names North and South countries, in which mountains are often deemed sacred by *mudang*, or shamans.

ANSWER: **Korean** Peninsula (accept North **Korea**; accept South **Korea**)

(3) Sacred river of India, the delta of which covers most of Bangladesh.

ANSWER: **Ganges** (or **Padma**; or **Ganga**)

(4) City in Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Muhammad and the destination of the Hajj.

ANSWER: **Mecca** (or **Makkah** al-Mukarramah)

(5) Landlocked modern country that is home to the city of Lumbini and the birthplace of the Buddha, just north of Uttar Pradesh.

ANSWER: Federal Democratic Republic of **Nepal**

(6) Second-largest city in Punjab, home to the Golden Temple, one of the holiest sites in the Sikh faith.

ANSWER: **Amritsar** (accept **Rāmdāspur**; accept **Ambarsar**)

(7) Mountain across the valley of Nablus from Mount Ebal, which is considered the holiest site for Israelite Samaritans.

ANSWER: Mount **Gerizim**

(8) City in which the Oura Church, also called the Basilica of the 26 Holy Martyrs, is the oldest in its country.

ANSWER: **Nagasaki**

Central America

Concerning the geography of Central America, name the...

(1) Type of artificial waterway that cuts through Panama.

ANSWER: **canal** (accept Panama **Canal**)

(2) Sea that makes up the eastern coast of Central America, home to the islands of Jamaica and Hispaniola.

ANSWER: **Caribbean** Sea

(3) Spotted big cat, the largest in the Americas, melanistic individuals of which are called "black panthers."

ANSWER: **jaguar**

(4) Most populous Central American country, where a namesake capital is the largest city in the region.

ANSWER: Republic of **Guatemala** (or Republica de **Guatemala**; accept **Guatemala** City)

(5) Largest freshwater lake in the region, named for its home country and home to the port city of Granada.

ANSWER: Lake **Nicaragua** (or **Cocibolba**)

(6) Swampy region of Panama that is nearly impassable and creates the only gap in the Pan-American Highway.

ANSWER: **Darién** Gap

(7) 400-foot-deep circular tourist attraction off the shore of Belize, at the center of Lighthouse Reef.

ANSWER: **Great Blue Hole**

(8) Highest peak in Central America, a stratovolcano in the Sierra Madre de Chiapas range.

ANSWER: Volcán **Tajumulco** [[tah-hah-MOOL-koh]] (accept phonetic pronunciations)

Fourth Quarter

(1) **This city and its surrounding areas were originally inhabited by the indigenous Kurna [[KAW-rna]] people. This city is home to the Tarndanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute. This city is named after the (+) wife of King Henry the Fourth of England, and it is located on the Gulf St Vincent, surrounded by the (*) Mount Lofty Ranges.** For ten points, name this fifth-most populous city of Australia, the capital of South Australia.

ANSWER: **Adelaide**

(2) **One national park known for protecting these animals features two active volcanoes, Mount Nyiragongo and Mount Nyamuragira. The oldest national park in Africa protects these animals (+) and is shaped by its proximity to Lake Edward and its namesake mountain range. (*)** For ten points, identify these animals that, along with okapis, are notably preserved at Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

ANSWER: mountain **gorilla**

(3) **Buildings in this city include the Grand Hotel and the Afro-American University of Central Africa. Progress on this capital of the Djibloho province stalled after the end of an oil boom, despite the efforts of Teodoro Obiang. (+) This city was selected for its position on Rio Muni rather than the island of (*) Bioko.** For ten points, name this planned city that will replace Malabo as the capital of Equatorial Guinea.

ANSWER: **Ciudad de la Paz** (accept Djibloho – **Ciudad de la Paz**; accept **Oyala**)

(4) **This state's Tawang Monastery is the world's second-largest monastery, and was the initial site of the Dalai Lama's refuge before he fled to Tezpur. This state is the largest of the (+) Seven Sisters, and the Brahmaputra widens at the southern border of this state between Myanmar and (*) Bhutan. Itanagar is the capital of, for ten points, what state in far-northeastern India, claimed by China as "South Tibet?"**

ANSWER: **Arunachal** Pradesh

(5) **One mountain range on this landmass includes the Queen Alexandra Range, Prince Olav Mountains, and the Supporters Range. That mountain range on this (+) landmass has its eastern end in Victoria Land, and it also includes the Queen Maud Mountains. This landmass, which is home to the Filchner–Ronne (*) Ice Shelf, contains one end of a mountain range that can be ascended by a traverse from McMurdo Station.** For ten points, name this landmass, the least-populated continent on Earth.

ANSWER: **Antarctica**

(6) **In ocean currents, this phenomenon leads to the Ekman spiral, which causes surface waters to move at an angle to the wind. This phenomenon explains the subtropical jet stream and the (+) Humboldt current's upwelling zone. This phenomenon causes objects to move rightward in the (*) Northern Hemisphere and leftward in the Southern Hemisphere.** For ten points, name this fictitious force caused by the rotation of the Earth.

ANSWER: **Coriolis** effect (or **Coriolis** force)

(7) **Located along the Antrim Plateau, this site was formed by an ancient volcanic eruption around 60 million years ago, when the cooling of lava created this formation's (+) distinctive columnar jointing. This geological formation consists of approximately 40,000 interlocking basalt columns, most of which are (*) hexagonal in shape.** For ten points, name this natural wonder on the northern coast of Ireland, often associated with legends of Finn MacCool.

ANSWER: **Giant's Causeway** (accept **Clochán an Aifir**)

(8) **Massive deposits of this material were historically mined at Cerro Rico, and the settlement of Virginia City was founded as a boomtown after this resource's (+) discovery. This metal gives its name to Nevada's official state nickname, and it is found in places such as Comstock Lode and (*) Potosi.** For ten points, identify this precious metal, the Latin term for which is the namesake of Argentina.

ANSWER: **silver** (accept **Ag**; accept **Silver** State)

Extra Questions

(1) **The primary feature of one park in this U.S. state was formed by runoff from the Sawatch Range cutting through volcanic rock. That park in this state has its primary entrances near Jackson and (+) Montrose, and it received its name for getting less than an hour of (*) sunlight a day.** For ten points, name this U.S. state that is home to Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, almost 300 miles southwest of Denver.

ANSWER: **Colorado**

BONUS: This Southeast Asian kingdom on the Gulf of Thailand is home to the cities of Siem Reap and Battambang, as well as a mostly Khmer population of 17 million.

ANSWER: Kingdom of **Cambodia** (or Preahreacheanachakr **Kampuchea**)

(2) **This sea, which receives the Pasig River and the Red River, includes ports such as Da Nang. This sea is the site of the controversial (+) "nine-dash line," which one country uses to claim the Spratly Islands, and this sea is home to the island of Hainan. This sea, into which the Indochina (*)** Peninsula juts, contains the Mekong Delta. For ten points, name this sea situated between the Philippines, Vietnam, and a namesake Asian country.

ANSWER: **South China** Sea

BONUS: This ancient city, constructed as an estate by Pachacuti, overlooks the "Sacred Valley" and is situated in the southeastern part of Peru.

ANSWER: **Machu Picchu**