

National U.S. Geography Bee - Finals

Regulation Tossups

(1) **This island comprises the bulk of Dukes County, excluding the Elizabeth Islands that separate it from Cape Cod. Barack Obama hosted a controversial 60th birthday party in this island's city of (+) Edgartown, where a peninsula called Chappaquiddick was the site of a car accident caused by Ted Kennedy. (*)** For the points, name this Massachusetts island west of Nantucket and south of Cape Cod, whose name hints towards its wine industry.

ANSWER: **Martha's Vineyard** (prompt on partial answers)

(2) **A park situated on the Knik Arm is dedicated to this disaster, which completely destroyed the village of Chenega. This disaster also generated a tsunami which killed ten people in Crescent City in northern California, and the city of (+) Valdez was relocated after this disaster, which forced the rebuilding of the Seward Highway. This disaster originated from a mega thrust on the (*) Aleutian Trench. For the points, name this strongest earthquake in U.S. history, which severely damaged Anchorage.**

ANSWER: **1964 Alaska** earthquake (or **Good Friday** earthquake; prompt on "earthquake")

(3) **This national park's Schoodic Peninsula is its largest section on the continental mainland of the U.S., and this park's Cadillac Mountain is the highest peak on the nation's Atlantic coastline. This national park was formerly known as (+) Sieur de Monts National Monument. This national park on Mount Desert Island surrounds Bar Harbor and is the site of the earliest (*) sunrise in the continental United States. For the points, name this only national park in Maine.**

ANSWER: **Acadia** National Park

(4) **This river is home to an annual sailing race called the Mug Race, which occurs between the Memorial and Buckman Bridges. Blount Island is located on this river, which is fed by its largest tributary, the (+) Ocklawaha River. The source of this river is Lake Hell 'n Blazes, and the middle basin of this river contains Lake Jesup. This river flows past cities such as Deltona and Sanford and has its source near (*) Vero Beach. For the points, identify this longest river in Florida.**

ANSWER: **St. Johns** River (or Río **San Juan** [[WAN]])

(5) **This town's Great Captain Island is said to contain treasure from Captain Kidd, and the Mianus River Bridge in this town, which collapsed in 1983, now carries I-95. This town is known for its hedge funds, such as AQR Capital, (+) as it is part of the affluent "Gold Coast" region. This town within Fairfield County is sandwiched between Stamford and Westchester County, and it is the end of a panhandle forming the (*) westernmost extent of New England. For the points, name this southernmost town of Connecticut, which is named for a London borough.**

ANSWER: **Greenwich** [[GREH-nitch]]

(6) **One of these features called Muirfield was named for a ship that accidentally struck it. The USS San Francisco also suffered damage near Guam after crashing into one of these features, flat-topped versions of which are called (+) guyots. One of these features named Lō'īhi will become the ninth member of the Hawaiian archipelago, which forms a chain with a collection of these features named Emperor. (*)** For the points, name these features that rise from the ocean floor but do not breach the surface, often formed from volcanoes.

ANSWER: **seamounts** (prompt on "underwater plateaus;" prompt on "underwater volcanoes" before "volcanoes" is mentioned)

(7) **One polity recognizes this ethnic group's language as co-official with Carolinian, and this ethnic group is known for its latte [[LAH-tee]] stones. This ethnic group is known for its red rice produced from the seeds of the achiote tree, and they inhabit islands such as (+) Rota and Tinian. This ethnic group inhabits an archipelago termed the "Islands of Thieves" by the Spanish, and they form the largest Micronesian ethnic group in the (*) United States. For the points, name this ethnic group which inhabits Guam and the Mariana Islands.**

ANSWER: **Chamorro** people (or **Chamoru**)

(8) **The Robert O. Norris Bridge spans this river's mouth, connecting Middlesex and Lancaster Counties. The Corrotoman River is a tributary of this river, which passes near the Civil War battle sites of Chancellorsville (+) and Fredericksburg. Ferry Farm, the childhood home of George Washington, overlooks this river, which an apocryphal legend says Washington threw a silver dollar across. (*)** For the points, name this river in Virginia, which separates the Commonwealth's Middle Peninsula from the Northern Neck.

ANSWER: **Rappahannock** River

(9) **This archipelago's smaller member is indigenously named "Inaliq," meaning "the one over there," and lies 20 miles west of Cape Prince of Wales. This archipelago's two portions are often nicknamed "Tomorrow Island" and (+) "Yesterday Island," and are said to be bisected by the "Ice Curtain." This archipelago lies at the southernmost extent of the Chukchi Sea. (*)** The International Date Line runs through, for the points, what archipelago in the Bering Strait, which consists of a pair of islands split between Alaska and Russia?

ANSWER: **Diomede** Islands (or the **Diomedes**; accept **Gvozdev** Islands)

(10) **This community has the highest concentration of veteran residents outside of a U.S. military base. Though not in South Carolina, this community's growth is responsible for the rightward shift in voting patterns in (+) Sumter County, and this community, home to the largest indoor pickleball stadium in Florida, lies 20 miles south of Ocala and forms the northwestern-most part of the (*) Orlando metropolitan area. For the points, name this largest retirement community in the world, situated in Central Florida.**

ANSWER: The **Villages**

(11) **This river has its mouth near Prophetstown State Park. This river, which derives its name from a Miami-Illinois word for "buffalo fish," (+) is the eponymous river of a county governed from Lafayette. This river's shores were the site of a battle during Tecumseh's War, which gave fame to a man who would later use its name in a slogan that also referenced (*) John Tyler.** For the points, name this river in Indiana, which lent its name to a nickname used by William Henry Harrison.

ANSWER: **Tippecanoe** River (accept **Tippecanoe** County, Battle of Tippecanoe, or "**Tippecanoe** and Tyler Too")

(12) **This island's town of Princeville contains the Queen's Bath tide pool, which formed from a collapsed lava tube, and this island also contains the "Jurassic Falls" used in the 1993 dinosaur movie. This island, home to thousands of feral chickens called moa, (+) includes the Nā Pali Coast and the so called "Grand Canyon of the Pacific," Waimea. Lihue is the seat of this island's namesake county, the westernmost in the US, which also contains (*) Niihau.** For the points, name this fourth-largest Hawaiian Island.

ANSWER: **Kaua'i**

(13) **This park administers the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site near the town of Wall. Red Shirt Table is the highest peak in this park, which protects endangered species such as the (+) whooping crane and the black-footed ferret. This park preserves the largest undisturbed mixed grass prairie in the U.S., and the South Unit of this park is co-managed by the Oglala (*) Lakota tribe.** Rapid City is the closest city to, for the points, what national park in South Dakota?

ANSWER: **Badlands** National Park

(14) **This county was the most populous to vote for Donald Trump in 2020, and most of its governmental facilities are situated in Hauppauge. Riverhead is this county's seat and lies at the western end of (+) Peconic Bay, which separates two "forks." This county's town of Sagaponack contains the most expensive ZIP code on the East Coast. Fire Island, (*) Montauk, and the Hamptons are administered by,** for the points, what easternmost county of New York, which encompasses the majority of Long Island?

ANSWER: **Suffolk** County

(15) **This region derives its name from a Mikasuki word meaning "bubbling water." This region, protected by the largest National Wildlife Refuge on the East Coast, is the source of the St. Marys River (+) and the Suwannee River. The 2007 Bugaboo Fire in this region blanketed the city of Jacksonville in smoke, and this region was the subject of a proposed titanium mine opposed by Senator Jon Ossoff. The largest blackwater swamp in North America is formed by, (*)** for the points, what swamp, situated on the border between Florida and Georgia?

ANSWER: **Okefenokee** Swamp

(16) **This island includes landmarks such as British Landing, Arch Rock, and Devil's Kitchen, which made it the site of the second national park in the U.S. This island, which is accessible via ferry from St Ignace, contains (+) M-185, the only state highway in the U.S. which bans motor vehicles. This island, known for its fudge, is nicknamed the (*) "jewel of the Great Lakes" and sits at the western end of Lake Huron. For the points, identify this vacation island, which is named for a strait which is named for a strait that connects to Lake Michigan.**

ANSWER: **Mackinac** [[MAH-kih-NAW]] Island (or Straits of **Mackinac**)

(17) **This river, whose tributaries include the Teanaway and Naches Rivers, forms a valley where the majority of American hops are grown. According to Lewis and Clark, the local Sahaptin people called this river Tâpe têt. (+) The mouth of this river and the Snake River are located adjacent to Pasco, Richland, and Kennewick: the Tri-Cities. (*) For the points, name this tributary of the Columbia River which shares its name with a city in south-central Washington.**

ANSWER: **Yakima** River (accept **Tâpe têt** before mentioned)

(18) **This city is home to the longest-standing mosque in North America, which was built in 1932, and this city is nicknamed the "City of Five Seasons." Historically, this city has had a large (+) Czech immigrant population and is home to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. This city's Museum of Art owns the largest collection of (*) Grant Wood paintings in the world and is the site of the artist's boyhood home. For the points, name this city, the second-most populous in Iowa.**

ANSWER: **Cedar Rapids**

(19) **This city hosts Black Bike Week, the largest African-American motorcycle rally in the U.S. This city contains attractions like Barefoot Landing and Broadway by the Beach. This city, which forms an urban area with Surfside Beach (+) and Pawleys Island, is the centerpiece of the Grand Strand. This city, nicknamed the "Redneck Riviera," lies about halfway (*) between Wilmington and Charleston. For the points, name this resort city on the northern coast of South Carolina.**

ANSWER: **Myrtle Beach**

(20) **This city is home to Hayden Butte [[BYOOT]], where a massive painted letter "A" has served as a backdrop to the Fiesta Bowl. The first pedestrian death from a self-driving vehicle occurred in this city in 2018, (+) and police officers refused to save Sean Bickings, a man who drowned in a lake on the Salt River, in this city in 2022. Scottsdale, Chandler, and Mesa also border this city, which houses Sun Devil Stadium. Home to (*) Arizona State University, for the points, what is this major suburb east of Phoenix?**

ANSWER: **Tempe** [[TEM-pee]] (or **Oidbad**)

(21) **A 1913 flood in this city led to the construction of the nearby Huffman Dam. Along with Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Seattle, this is the smallest of the four U.S. cities with active trolleybus systems. (+)** Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is located east of this city, which was the site of an agreement signed by Alija Izetbegović [[ah-LEE-yuh ee-zet-BEH-goh-VITCH]] and Slobodan Milošević [[mee-LOSH-seh-VITCH]]. (*) For the points, name this Ohio city in the Miami Valley which names a 1995 set of Accords that formally ended the Bosnian War.

ANSWER: **Dayton** (accept **Dayton** Accords)

(22) **This lake, which includes ports such as Metairie, Eden Isle, and Mandeville, is fed by Lake Borgne [[BORN]]. The outflow of this lake includes the Rigolets Strait, which is visible from the I-Ten Twin Span Bridge and the (+)** Bonnet Carré Spillway, which was built after 1927 floods. This lake, which is crossed by the longest continuous bridge over water in the world, was bounded by levees protecting the Lower Ninth Ward until they broke during (*) Hurricane Katrina. For the points, name this lake north of New Orleans.

ANSWER: Lake **Pontchartrain** (or Lac **Pontchartrain**)

(23) **This event takes a "southern" route via Eagle Island and Anvik during odd years, and a northern route through Galena in even years, while its "last dash" starts at Unalakleet along the Norton Sound. (+)** This event's "restart" occurs at Willow in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough ever since it was relocated north from Wasilla. This event follows the same route taken by a "serum run" which occurred in 1925 from the port of Seward, and this event has its (*) eastern terminus in Nome. For the points, name this sled dog race held in early March, which traverses Alaska.

ANSWER: **Iditarod** Trail Sled Dog Race

(24) **Lake Wallenpaupack is a kettle lake found in this mountain range, whose topography also includes Nesquehoning Creek and the Broad Mountain subrange. This range contains a ski resort at (+)** Camelback Mountain and hosts an annual NASCAR race at Long Pond. This range's upland area includes the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and is part of Monroe, Pike, and Wayne Counties. (*) Big Pine Hill is the highest peak of, for the points, what mountainous region of Northeastern Pennsylvania?

ANSWER: **Pocono** Mountains (or the **Poconos**)

(25) **This national park's Swift Run Gap was crossed by the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe Expedition and Stonewall Jackson's "Foot Calvary." This national park's Rapidan Camp was built by Herbert Hoover. (+)** and Harry Byrd built a shelter on Hawksbill Mountain, the highest peak of this national park, which can be accessed from the Skyline Drive. This park in the Blue Ridge Mountains protects the (*) longest tributary of the Potomac. For the points, name this only national park in Virginia.

ANSWER: **Shenandoah** National Park

(26) **Pulitzer Prize-winning author John McPhee wrote a 1967 ecological and historical book about this region, whose highest point is Apple Pie Hill. An early 20th century eugenics study focused on the "feeble-minded" (+) Kallikak family of this region, which includes the Bass River State Forrest, as well as the (*) Wharton State Forrest.** For the points, name this sparsely populated, forested region of southern New Jersey, whose relative isolation gave rise to several folk legends, including that of the Jersey Devil.

ANSWER: **Pine Barrens** (or **Pinelands**; or **Pineys**; prompt on New Jersey until mentioned)

(27) **This valley receives the Chino Canyon, which is ascended by the world's largest rotating aerial tramway to San Jacinto Peak. The Empire Polo club is located in this valley's settlement of (+) Indio, nicknamed "City of Festivals." This valley is connected to the San Gabriel Valley via the San Gorgonio Pass and contains the resort of Palm Springs, (*) west of Joshua Tree National Park.** For the points, name this valley which hosts a namesake music festival east of Los Angeles.

ANSWER: **Coachella** Valley (accept **Coachella** Valley Music and Arts Festival; accept Great **Palm Springs** until mentioned)

(28) **This landform includes subpeaks such as The Chin, The Nose, and The Adam's Apple, and this landform's ridgeline resembles a human face when viewed from the east. This mountain can be viewed from the nearby Camel's Hump, (+) and the eastern slopes of this mountain drain toward the Lamoille River. A ridge trail across this mountain serves as the highest point on one state's section (*) of the Long Trail.** For the points, name this glaciated mountain located near Stowe, the tallest mountain in Vermont.

ANSWER: Mount **Mansfield**

(29) **This bridge carries I-278 onto the Gowanus Expressway, and it also marks the start line of the world's largest marathon. This bridge, the southwestern-most bridge operated by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, (+) is the longest suspension bridge in the Americas and crosses a strait called the Narrows. A misspelling of this bridge's namesake was only fixed in 2018 after an extra (*) "Z" was added, and this bridge traverses New York Bay.** For the points, name this bridge that links Staten Island to Brooklyn and is named for an Italian explorer.

ANSWER: **Verrazzano**-Narrows Bridge

(30) **In addition to the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center, this place features a Mark and George Lundeen statue of Apollo 13 astronaut Jack Swigert. Mayor Wellington Webb authorized the construction of this place, (+) which replaced another location that became the Stapleton neighborhood. Artwork at this location such as the mural "In Peace and Harmony With Nature," as well as a blue mustang statue with (*) glowing red eyes have spawned multiple conspiracy theories.** For the points, name this major aviation hub at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, the main base of Frontier Airlines.

ANSWER: **Denver** International **Airport** (prompt on partial answers; accept **DEN**)

(31) **Conanicut Island divides this non-New York bay into eastern and western passages, which are connected to the mainland via the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge. This bay extends to the city of Fall River, which lies on (+) an arm known as Mount Hope Bay, across from the city of Bristol. This bay lies to the north of Block Island, and this bay's dominance of its state's geography has led that state to be nicknamed the "Ocean State." (*) Warwick and Newport are on the shores of, for the points, what major bay of Rhode Island?**

ANSWER: **Narragansett** Bay

(32) **This waterway is impounded by the Kinzua Dam, which forms a reservoir known as Lake Perfidy to the Seneca, and this waterway yields the Mississippi River watershed's northeastern-most drainage. At Point State Park, within the largest city in (+) Appalachia, this waterway meets another, nicknamed "the Mon," and both merge with the (*) Ohio River. For the points, identify this waterway which, alongside the Monongahela and Ohio, inspired the name of the former Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh.**

ANSWER: **Allegheny** River

(33) **This geographic feature is located near the community of Burnsville in Yancey County. This tallest peak in Pisgah National Forest (+) is named after a flagship university professor who fell to his death while summiting it in 1857. This peak is the namesake of the first state park in the American Southeast, as well as the first in (*) North Carolina. For the points, identify this highest peak in the United States located east of the Mississippi.**

ANSWER: Mount **Mitchell**

(34) **The Chisos Mountains can be found entirely within this national park, which takes up a significant portion of Brewster County. The Lost Mine Trail offers views of this park, which is located near the ghost town Terlingua. Santa Elena (+) is among the canyons which form the border of this national park, which also borders the Maderas del Carmen in a non-U.S. country. Found entirely within Texas, (*) for the points, what is this national park that is named for a feature of the Rio Grande?**

ANSWER: **Big Bend** National Park

(35) **This feature, which is named for the seat of Keith County, Nebraska, was first recorded by USGS geologist Nelson Darton. Withdrawals from this feature led to the cancellation of the artificial Optima Lake along the (+) Beaver River in Oklahoma. Center pivot irrigation from this feature, which is in eight states, led to the revitalization of agriculture in one region in the decades (*) following the Dust Bowl. For the points, name this major source of groundwater for much of the Great Plains.**

ANSWER: **Ogallala** Aquifer (accept **Ogallala** Formation)

Extra Questions

(1) **This state's town of Picher was abandoned after massive piles of waste from lead-zinc mining, called chat, accumulated near the land of the Quapaw Nation. This state's westernmost portion was created by the (+) Missouri Compromise and was formerly called the Public Land Strip. This state was once known as the Indian Territory, and it contains the reservations of the (*) Cherokee and Seminole people. For the points, name this state home to Tulsa in the southern Great Plains.**

ANSWER: **Oklahoma**

(2) **America's tallest ferris wheel, the High Roller, opened in this metropolitan area, where the Sphere is known for its massive wraparound LED screen. (+) This metropolitan area's primary airport was recently renamed from honoring Pat McCarran to Senator Harry Reid. In 2025, a Cybertruck exploded at the entrance to the (*) Trump International Hotel in this metropolitan area, the site of the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history at the Mandalay Bay resort. For the points, name this metropolitan area known for its gambling industry in southern Nevada.**

ANSWER: Las **Vegas** (accept nicknames like **Sin City**, **City of Lights**, and the **Entertainment Capital of the World**)