

National U.S. Geography Bee – Round 1

Regulation Tossups

(1) This city's tallest building is the JPMorgan Chase Tower, the 21st tallest building in the United States. This city was ravaged by Category Four Hurricane Harvey in September of 2017, and it hosts NASA's Johnson Space Center, which is home to the U.S. Astronaut Corps and International Space Station operations. For the point, identify this most populous city in Texas, named for the first president of the Republic of Texas.

ANSWER: **Houston**

(2) In the 1990s, Governor William Weld dove into this river fully clothed to promote its cleanup. Industrial pollution in this river, known by the indigenous name *Quinobequin*, was referenced in the Standells song "Dirty Water," which is often played after home team victories at Fenway Park. The John W. Weeks Bridge spans this waterway, connecting one city to Harvard University. For the point, name this main river of Boston, which is named for an English king who was beheaded.

ANSWER: **Charles** River (accept **Charles** the First)

(3) Though not located in New York, this river is formed by the confluence of the Mattaponi and Pamunkey rivers at West Point. The southern border of the Middle Peninsula is formed by this river, whose shores contain Werowocomoco, a town used as a capital by Chief Powhatan. This river, which bounds the Historic Triangle alongside the James River, flows north of Williamsburg. For the point, name this river which empties past an eponymous town where the final battle of the Revolutionary War took place.

ANSWER: **York** River (accept **Yorktown**)

(4) This mountain range was named for a geographic feature that has been submerged by the Bonneville Dam. This range, which is home to peaks such as the Three Sisters, Mount Jefferson, and Mount Adams, is separated by the Fraser River from the Coast Mountains. This mountain range names a hypothetical independent state that would display a Douglas fir on its flag. For the point, name this mountain range, which is divided by the Columbia River Gorge and dominates Oregon and Washington.

ANSWER: **Cascade** Range (or the **Cascades**; accept **Cascadia**)

(5) The Farmington Canal was alternatively named for this city and Northampton. The "Nine Square Plan" was used to design this city, which was part of a namesake colony founded by Theophilus Eaton and John Davenport. Cotton Mather made a large donation to an Ivy League university in this city that was founded in 1701 and is home to the Scroll and Key and Skull and Bones societies. Eli Yale lends his name to a university in, for the points, what Connecticut city?

ANSWER: **New Haven**

(6) One polity administered by this ethnic group contains the North American Pole of Inaccessibility, the furthest point in the U.S. from an ocean, and that polity is called Pine Ridge. This ethnic group names a city which lies at the furthest navigational point of the Missouri River, and that city is the largest of northwestern Iowa. The Standing Rock Reservation is inhabited by, for the point, what Native American tribe including the Lakota and Dakota subsets?

ANSWER: **Sioux** [[S00]] (or **Oceti Sakowin**; accept **Sioux** City)

(7) This body of water's eastern entrance is crossed by a ferry from Orient Point which passes by the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, separating it from a similar body of water named for Block Island. Pelham Bay and Little Neck Bay are inlets of this body of water, which includes ports such as New Rochelle and Bridgeport. This body of water merges with the East River in its westernmost extent. For the point, name this sound located north of the largest island in the contiguous United States.

ANSWER: **Long Island** Sound

(8) This river's tributaries include the Tongue River and the Powder River. This river isn't the Colorado, but it was painted by Thomas Moran at its "Grand Canyon," which is located near the Hayden Valley. This river, which ends near Lake Sakakawea in far western North Dakota, flows past Billings and the city of Custer. For the point, name this longest tributary of the Missouri River, which shares its name with a national park.

ANSWER: **Yellowstone** River

(9) This region's town of Zinc contains the compound of the head of the Ku Klux Klan and has partly led to the nearby Harrison being named 'America's most racist town.' This southern region, home to the Boston Mountains, is the most extensive highland region between the Rockies and Appalachians. This region, whose highest peak is Wahzhazhe Summit, includes the cities of Bentonville and Branson. For the point, name this highland region in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas.

ANSWER: **Ozark** Mountains (or **Ozark** Plateau; prompt on "Arkansas" before "Branson" is mentioned)

(10) This archipelago's dual islands of Ofu-Olosega can be traversed on foot at low tide and are partly protected by a national park honored by a U.S. quarter displaying a fruit bat. This archipelago's unpopulated Motu O Manu, or Rose Atoll, is the southernmost piece of land controlled by the United States. This archipelago's main islands include Tutuila, Upolu, and Savaii. For the point, name this Polynesian archipelago east of Fiji, which is home to Apia.

ANSWER: **Samoa** Islands (accept American **Samoa**)

(11) This region's southern section was formerly occupied by Tulare Lake, and all the rivers that fed it are now cut off from the ocean, except the Kings River. This valley, home to Chico and Yuba City, has its largest cities at Bakersfield and Fresno. This valley, which encompasses 18 counties such as Merced and San Joaquin [[WAH-keen]] counties, produces more than half the fruits and vegetables in the United States. For the point, name this valley of California between the Pacific coast and Sierra Nevada.

ANSWER: **Central** Valley (anti-prompt on "San Joaquin Valley" until "Chico" is mentioned; prompt on "California" before mentioned)

(12) One river with this name merges into the Shiawassee River, which later forms the Saginaw River and bisects the original assembly plant of Chevrolet. Another river with this name flows under Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport before merging with the Chattahoochee at the Georgia-Florida border. The lead-contaminated waters of a river with this name led to a state of emergency for Genesee County. For the point, identify this name for the river that was the source of a "water crisis" for a city in Michigan.

ANSWER: **Flint** River (accept **Flint** Water Crisis)

(13) This neighborhood's Sugar Hill contains the historic James Bailey House, and this neighborhood's St. Nicholas Park contains the restored home of Alexander Hamilton. This neighborhood, named after the capital of North Holland, is the site where the jazz song "Stompin' at the Savoy" originated. Malcolm X Boulevard meets 125th Street in this neighborhood, which is home to the Apollo Theatre. For the point, name this neighborhood in Upper Manhattan, the site of a 1920s "Renaissance."

ANSWER: **Harlem** (accept **Harlem** Renaissance)

(14) This dish gained prominence following its addition to the dining room of the U.S. Senate after Allen Ellender's passing. A meatless variety of this dish known as its version "of greens" is popular during Lent. This dish features celery, onions, and bell peppers, which make up the "Holy Trinity" of Creole cooking, as well as shellfish or another type of meat. Thought to have obtained its name from an African word for okra, for the point, what stew is the state dish of Louisiana?

ANSWER: **gumbo** (accept **gumbo** of greens)

(15) Members of this religious group run a complex that includes an orchard and a grain silo at Welfare Square. A holy site that is sacred to members of this religious group called Temple Lot is situated in the city of Independence, Missouri. A beehive on one state's flag represents members of this religious group, which inspired the name of the proposed State of Deseret. For the point, name this religious group that is most predominant in Utah.

ANSWER: **Mormons** (or The Church of Jesus Christ of **Latter-day Saints**; or **LDS**)

(16) This desert includes a subsection known as the Lechuguilla Desert, which is almost entirely contained within the Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range. A toad named for this desert is known for its use as a psychedelic, and this desert also houses the organ pipe cactus. This desert, which is the only one in North America to border an ocean, names a state bordering Chihuahua and Baja California. For the point, name this desert split between northwestern Mexico and Arizona.

ANSWER: **Sonoran** Desert (accept **Sonoran** Desert toad)

(17) About 18 miles from this city is Tybee Island, which was where the first Days Inn opened in 1970. The Owens-Thomas House is part of this city's Telfair Museums, the oldest public art museum in the South. This city hosted sailing competitions in the nearby Wassaw Sound during the 1996 Summer Olympics, which were based in another city in the same state. The Ogeechee River forms the southern limit of, for the point, what coastal Georgia city separated from South Carolina by a same-named river?

ANSWER: **Savannah** (accept **Savannah** River)

(18) This river's tributaries include the Big Lost and Little Lost rivers, which don't flow directly into it, but rather feed an underground aquifer near the Salmon-Challis National Forest. This river's mouth lies at the "Tri-Cities" metropolitan area, which includes Kennewick. This river in the northwestern U.S. flows through the Jackson Hole Valley and Grand Teton National Park. Forming the eastern boundaries of Oregon and Washington, for the point, what is this river with a reptilian name?

ANSWER: **Snake** River

(19) This city's Elmwood Village borders its Burchfield Penney Art Center, dedicated to painter Charles E. Burchfield. This city's philharmonic plays at its Eero Saarinen-designed Kleinhans Music Hall. This city, whose suburbs include Tonawanda and West Seneca, houses Louis Sullivan's Guaranty Building and the McKinley Monument near the site of William McKinley's assassination. Located on the eastern end of Lake Erie, for the point, what city at the head of the Niagara River is the largest in western New York?

ANSWER: **Buffalo**

(20) This park's circular Hirshhorn Museum and Freer Gallery of Art bound the namesake "castle" of an institution that controls the world's largest museum complex. A space that is now occupied by the world's tallest obelisk was planned as the western terminus of this park by Pierre Charles L'Enfant. This park, home to the Henry Bacon-designed Reflecting Pool, is bounded by The Ellipse and the Federal Triangle. For the point, name this park which stretches from the Lincoln Memorial to the U.S. Capitol.

ANSWER: **National Mall**

(21) One of these features named for Rose de Freycinet is the southernmost piece of land controlled by the United States. Another of these features called Johnston was used to dispose of chemical weapons, and one called Wake is disputed between the U.S. and Marshall Islands. Many of the United States Minor Outlying Islands are composed of these features, as are most of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. For the points, name these ring-shaped coral reefs, exemplified by Midway and Bikini.

ANSWER: **atolls** (prompt on "island")

(22) This city's former Modis Building is a skyscraper built on a pyramidal base, and this city's Southbank neighborhood contains the octopus-like Treaty Oak. This city, which is the largest city proper in the Southeastern United States, houses the TIAA Bank Field, which hosts the annual Gator Bowl game. This city, located in its state's far northeast, is located north of Saint Augustine and east of Tallahassee. For the point, name this most-populous city in Florida.

ANSWER: **Jacksonville**

(23) Janet Airlines shuttles employees of this facility from Harry Reid International Airport. Rachel is the closest town to this facility, which is officially known as Homey Airport, or Groom Lake. This remote facility, the subject of a viral Facebook event where it was "raided" in 2019, is accessible via the Extraterrestrial Highway. For the point, name this secretive facility of the United States Air Force in rural Nevada, known for its UFO sightings.

ANSWER: **Area 51** (accept **Homey Airport** or **Groom Lake** before mentioned)

(24) This city was the site of a 1981 walkway collapse at its Hyatt Regency which killed 114 people, and that hotel in this city has been rebranded as the Sheraton at Crown Center, an area home to Headquarters of Hallmark Cards. This city's Egyptian Revival Liberty Tower overlooks the National World War One Museum. This city's State Line Road notably runs through the border between Jackson and Johnson Counties, each in separate states. For the point, name this most-populous city in Missouri.

ANSWER: **Kansas City** (or **KC**)

(25) These landforms are the namesake of a county in western Colorado which has its seat at Grand Junction. A national park named for its "verde," or "green" examples, contains many cliff-dwellings in southwestern Colorado. These landforms, found on the Llano Estacado, take their name from a Spanish word meaning "table." For the point, identify these flat-topped mountains which are common in deserts, and which name the second-largest city of the Phoenix metro area.

ANSWER: **mesas** (accept **Mesa** County, **Mesa** Verde National Park, or **Mesa**, Arizona)

(26) This state is home to botanical tributes to *The Magic Treehouse* and *Winnie the Pooh* at Bookworm Gardens. Feature on this state's namesake river are separated by the Kilbourn Dam and include Witches Gulch. This state's namesake "Dells" were left unscathed by a glaciation that once covered North America, and this state's Lake Winnebago is partly fed by the Fox River. Racine and Waukesha are the largest counties of, for the point, what U.S. state that has its capital at Madison?

ANSWER: **Wisconsin**

(27) A two-story example of these locations in Chicago displayed rock and roll memorabilia on its walls before getting an eco-friendly remodel in 2017. The largest of these locations is found just off International Drive in Orlando. Downey, California contains the oldest of these locations still in operation, while the first of these locations was in San Bernardino. For the point, name these fast-food restaurants that are known worldwide for their golden arches.

ANSWER: **McDonald's**

(28) A strike in this state ended with the death of Tom Manning, and Margaret Rozsa was a female prohibition inspector in this state. In 1917, this state was the site of a catastrophe that killed 168 miners when a shaft was accidentally lit on fire in the Speculator Mine disaster. This state contained a former mine operated by Anaconda Copper called the Berkeley Pit. For the point, name this Big Sky state that contains cities like Butte [[BYOOT]] and Helena.

ANSWER: **Montana**

(29) A bridge named for this city boasts that "what [it] makes, the world takes." This city, the seat of Mercer County, contains the Old Barracks Museum, which was built in 1758 and used to house members of the British Army during the French and Indian War. One suburb of this city was where Hessian Troops were defeated by George Washington after he crossed into Pennsylvania. For the point, name this former capital city of the United States, currently the capital of New Jersey.

ANSWER: **Trenton**

(30) This state's southern portion is often nicknamed "Little Egypt," including cities such as Carbondale and Cairo [[KAY-roh]], at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. This state's Cook County is the U.S.' second most populous and is home to the "Magnificent Mile" on Michigan Avenue. This state's most populous city shares its name with a river that is notably dyed green every St. Patrick's Day. For the point, name this state governed from Springfield, home to Chicago.

ANSWER: **Illinois**

(31) Tobacco baron Lewis Ginter planned the development of this city's historic Jefferson Hotel, which was designed in the Spanish Baroque style by Carrère and Hastings. This city's first Black architect, Charles Thaddeus Russell, designed the headquarters of the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank, the oldest surviving African American Bank. In this city, Governor Ralph Northam orchestrated the removal of Confederate statues on Monument Avenue. For the point, identify this capital city of Virginia.

ANSWER: **Richmond**

(32) This state's town of Dixville Notch is usually the first place in the U.S. to report results of the presidential election and is located near the city of Berlin. This state's ocean coastline stretches from Seabrook to Portsmouth and is the shortest of any state. This state's population is concentrated in the Merrimack Valley, in cities such as Franklin and Manchester. For the point, name this state in New England which is located directly east of Vermont.

ANSWER: **New Hampshire**

(33) This facility, which is accessed via Leeward Point Field, is bisected by a body of water that includes Mohomilla Bay and Hospital Cay. This facility is surrounded by a "Cactus Curtain" of prickly pears planted in the 1960s, and this facility's surroundings also include the largest minefield in the Western Hemisphere. This facility's Camp Delta is used as a detention center, and this facility is nicknamed "Gitmo." For the points, name this American military base situated in southeastern Cuba.

ANSWER: **Guantanamo** Bay (accept **Gitmo** until mentioned)

(34) The National Road ran from this state to St. Louis, and a railroad line originating in this state was the first to reach the Ohio River from the east coast. A riot between Copperhead Democrats and militia troops in this state's largest city is often cited as the first bloodshed of the American Civil War. For the points, name this state, founded by the Calvert family and named to honor the wife of Charles the First.

ANSWER: **Maryland**

(35) The Gateway Geyser which was built to parallel this monument is the tallest fountain in the U.S., and this monument is protected by the smallest national park in the United States. This tallest monument in the United States was designed by Eero Saarinen and built to honor the westward expansion of the United States on the Mississippi River. For the points, name this massive, curved steel monument overlooking St. Louis.

ANSWER: **Gateway Arch** (accept **Gateway Arch** National Park)

Extra Question

(1) TSMC recently built the largest chip fabrication plant in the United States in this county, where "Squaw Peak" was renamed Piestewa Peak after an Iraq War veteran. This county was the most populous in the U.S. to vote for Donald Trump in 2024, and it formerly had Joe Arpaio as its sheriff. At the State Farm Stadium, this non-California county's metropolitan area hosted the 2023 Super Bowl in Glendale. For the point, name this county home to Phoenix, the most populous in Arizona.

ANSWER: **Maricopa** County