



# National Geography Bee

## 2023-2024 Regional Finals Study Guide – Blue Question Set

**Instructions:** This study guide should be your first resource in preparing for the International Geography Bee Regional Finals on the Blue Question Set. Most of the facts below are found at some point in the 120 questions that compose the Blue Question Set. Thus we have selected these facts for this study guide to help make your preparation easier and more efficient. Remember that the questions are all short paragraphs on a particular topic, so if a topic is referenced below, then it is a good idea to learn a bit more about it on your own than what is listed here (since additional facts about a topic will also be referenced in the question). It is also helpful to read the introduction of a Wikipedia page on a topic to gain additional historical context about why it is significant. Please also use the National Capitals Study Guide and our past question sets (especially International Geography Bee Regional Finals questions from past years) which are both found [here](#). Many of the topics that are found in past years' questions will again be found in the questions at this year's Regional Finals, and at the National Championships too. Good luck!

### African Geography

1. [Cote d'Ivoire \(Ivory Coast\)](#), is a western African country whose largest city is Abidjan and whose capital, Yamoussoukro, is home to the world's largest Roman Catholic cathedral. It is bordered by Ghana and Liberia.
2. The [Maghreb](#) is a region of northwest Africa that includes Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. The region was once called the Barbary States.
3. [Lesotho](#) is an African kingdom completely surrounded by South Africa. With capital at Maseru and dominated by the Basuto people, it has the highest low point of any nation.
4. [Kenya](#) is an east African nation that includes the major cities of Nairobi (the capital) and Mombasa, a major port city.
5. [Namibia](#), once known as German South West Africa, has its capital at Windhoek and is the site of the Caprivi Strip.

### European Geography

1. The [Vistula River](#) is a river entirely contained in Poland that extends north of the Carpathians to the port of Gdansk on the Baltic Sea.
2. [Norway](#) is a Scandinavian country known for its fjords, short channels from the sea cut by the movement of glaciers. Its capital is Oslo, and it contains mainland Europe's northernmost point.
3. The [Danube River](#), the second longest in Europe, flows past four European capital cities - Bratislava, Budapest, Belgrade and Vienna.
4. [Lithuania](#) is one of the three Baltic republics, governed from Vilnius. The Neman River forms its border with the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad.
5. The subdivisions of the nation of [Switzerland](#) are called cantons, examples of which are Schaffhausen and Valais.
6. [Dubrovnik](#), formerly called Ragusa, is a Croatian city popular with tourists that is nicknamed the "Pearl of the Adriatic".
7. [The Little Mermaid](#) statue, based on the Hans Christian Andersen story, is found in [Copenhagen](#), the capital of Denmark.
8. [Monaco](#), the world's second-smallest nation in area at 1 square mile, is a principality completely surrounded by the French Riviera. Its hereditary prince, currently Albert II, is a member of the Grimaldi family.

### Latin American and Caribbean Geography

1. The cities of Punta Cana and Santo Domingo are located in the [Dominican Republic](#), which shares the island of Hispaniola with the nation of Haiti.
2. [Rio de Janeiro](#) is the former capital and second-largest city in Brazil. The host of the 2016 Summer Olympics, it is home to Copacabana Beach and Corcovado Peak.
3. [Belize](#) is a Central American nation with capital at Belmopan. The only nation on the American continent whose sole official language is English, it is home to the world's second-largest barrier reef, the Great Blue Hole.

4. [Puerto Vallarta](#) is a Mexican resort city on the Pacific Ocean, in the northwest corner of the state of Jalisco.
5. [Tijuana](#), the second-largest city in Mexico, is located in the state of Baja California directly on the border with the U.S. across from San Diego.

### Oceania Geography

1. [Papua New Guinea](#), with capital at Port Moresby, is the world's most linguistically diverse nation. Its national animal is the bird of paradise, which is depicted on its flag.
2. Australia's largest state in area and the second-largest subnational division in any country, [Western Australia](#) has its capital at Perth, which is the world's most isolated city with a population of over one million people.
3. [Ross Island](#) is an Antarctic Island that contains Mount Erebus and Vinson Massif, Antarctica's tallest mountain, as well as a U.S. research base at McMurdo Station. It is surrounded by its namesake ice shelf.

### US and Canadian Geography

1. [Texas](#) is the second-largest U.S. state in both area and population. Known as the "Lone Star State" and with capital at Austin, it has the contiguous United States' only completely independent power grid.
2. [Orange County](#) is a southern California county located between Los Angeles and San Diego. Its largest city, Anaheim, is the home of Disneyland.
3. [Kentucky](#) contains the largest gold depository in the United States at Fort Knox, and the cities of Bowling Green, Lexington, and Louisville.
4. The state of [Montana](#) has its capital at Helena. The fourth-largest U.S. state in area, it is home to the Crow and Blackfoot Native American reservations.
5. The [Appalachian Mountains](#) run from the province of Newfoundland in Canada to central Alabama. They follow the path of the famed Appalachian Trail, and contain Mount Mitchell, the highest U.S. point east of the Mississippi River.
6. [Las Vegas](#) is the largest city in Nevada and the fastest-growing city in the United States. Its famous, casino-filled [Strip](#) is actually located outside of the city limits in the community of Paradise, but it is still the world's second-largest gambling hub, second only to Macau.
7. [Prince Edward Island](#) is the smallest but most densely populated Canadian province. With capital at Charlottetown, it is connected to the mainland by the Confederation Bridge.
8. The [Mackenzie River](#) is the longest river in Canada and is located entirely within the boundaries of the Northwest Territories. With the Slave, Peace and Finlay Rivers, it has North America's second-largest drainage basin.
9. [San Jose](#) is the largest city in the California Bay Area and is considered the central city of Silicon Valley. It has the highest percentage of billionaires per capita of any U.S. city.
10. The only borough of New York City located on the U.S. mainland, the [Bronx](#) is known for its famous zoo and for being the site of Yankee Stadium.
11. [Shenandoah National Park](#) is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains in the state of Virginia. Its tallest mountain, at 4,051 feet, is Hawksbill Mountain.
12. [Arizona](#) is a southwestern U.S. state, whose capital, Phoenix, is the largest U.S. state capital in population. Other major cities in the state include Flagstaff, Tucson, Yuma, and Lake Havasu City, the last of which is the current location of the original London Bridge.

### Asian Geography

1. The [Great Wall of China](#) is a series of fortifications built during the Qin dynasty and updated during the Ming dynasty.
2. [Mecca](#) is a Saudi Arabian city that is considered to be the holiest city of the Islamic religion. The site of the Masjid al-Haram, it is the destination of the *hajj*, the mandatory pilgrimage that all Muslims must make once in their life if able.
3. [Sri Lanka](#), formerly known as Ceylon, is an island nation located off the coast on India, separated from India by the Palk Strait. The Sinhalese and Tamil peoples form the vast majority of its population.
4. [Petra](#), a Jordanian city known as the "Rose City", was the ancient capital of the Nabatean Empire and is known for its still-extant rock-cut architecture.