

National Geography Bowl – Round 3 (MS)

First Quarter

(1) An ecoregion called the Santa Marta *páramo* occurs in this country at high altitude. This country is home to the most butterflies in the world in places such as the department of Quindío within the Paisa. This country's largest protected area is Serranía de Chiribiquete, and the oldest protected area in this country is home to caves formed by the Caquetá and Magdalena rivers. For ten points, name this only South American country with coasts on both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

ANSWER: Republic of **Colombia** (or República de **Colombia**)

(2) One island within this body of water was formerly known by names such as St. Andrew's Island and James Island and is located near Albreda. Saint Mary's Island lies within this body of water and hosts the capital of this its eponymous country. Kunta Kinteh Island is located within this river, which is represented by a thick, blue vertical line on the flag of the smallest country on the African mainland. For ten points, name this river that runs through one country's capital city, Banjul.

ANSWER: **Gambia** River (or River **Gambra**; or Fleuve **Gambie**)

(3) Joseph Nelson proposed a 1957 design for this item that consisted of 19 smaller stars forming a larger star in the middle of a white band. Amelia Hyde Center created the first of these things for the 1893 Centennial Exposition, and this item was criticized in right-wing media for its resemblance to a similar item used in Puntland. For ten points, name this Gopher State emblem that was changed in 2024 to feature an eight-pointed North Star on a field of two shades of blue, representing a state governed from Minneapolis.

ANSWER: **flag** of **Minnesota** (prompt on partial answer)

(4) The word for these features is derived from the name of the enclosed bay in which Venice is situated. These coastal features are often formed when coral reefs, barrier islands, or sandbars create shallow, sheltered bodies of water separated from the open ocean. Atolls are defined as ring-shaped coral reefs or islands that surround one of these features. For ten points, name these bodies of water that are separated from the sea by a narrow strip of land.

ANSWER: **lagoons** (accept **laguna**)

(5) Gerhard Marcks produced this city's most famous statue, depicting a rooster, cat, dog, and donkey standing on top of one another, a reference to a fairy tale in which the animals become musicians. This city, which lies on the Weser [[VAY-zur]] River, is joined with a port city on the North Sea. For ten points, identify this "Free Hanseatic" city which names the smallest and least-populated German state, enclosed by Lower Saxony.

ANSWER: **Bremen** (or Free Hanseatic City of **Bremen**; or **Breem**; or **Bräm**)

(6) The Cahow, a type of these animals that was thought extinct for 300 years, was rediscovered in Bermuda in 1951. 1153 species of these animals have been seen in the wild in the USA and Canada, and Colombia is thought to be home to more species of them than any other country. Endangered species of these animals include many species of honeycreepers in Hawaii. For ten points, name this class of animals, over 200 species of which can be found by enthusiasts in a single day in New Jersey during spring migration.

ANSWER: **Birds**

(7) This island's town of Cilaos is situated in a volcanic caldera, and recorded the world's greatest amount of rainfall in a single day. This island's Roland Garros Airport receives the world's longest non-stop domestic flight, and this island, which is part of the Mascarene archipelago, is one of the two places in the Eurozone in the Southern Hemisphere, alongside Mayotte. Southwest of Mauritius is, for ten points, what French island department in the Indian Ocean?

ANSWER: La **Réunion** (or La **Rénion**)

(8) This country's town of Si Racha lends its name to the popular hot sauce, and is situated on a northern inlet of its namesake gulf, which forms the westernmost part of the Pacific Ocean and includes the resort of Koh Samui. This country's narrow Isthmus of Kra is located between that gulf and the Andaman Sea, and includes the island of Phuket [[poo-KEH]]. For ten points, name this country bordering Laos and Malaysia, formerly called Siam.

ANSWER: Kingdom of **Thailand** (or Ratcha Anachak **Thai**; or Prathet **Thai**; accept **Siam** until mentioned)

(9) Israel Russell was the first person to report seeing this mountain, and Albert MacCarthy led the first mission to scale it, beginning in the town of McCarthy. This mountain includes peaks like Tudor and Saxon, and this mountain lies within Kluane National Park in the Saint Elias Mountains, which are part of the Pacific Coast Ranges. For ten points, identify this mountain in the Yukon territory, the second-highest mountain in North America and the highest mountain in Canada.

ANSWER: Mount **Logan**

(10) This country's Red Lands region includes the towns of Bettembourg and Dudelange, and this country is geographically divided into the northern, rural Éislek and the denser, southern Guttland regions. The Moselle Valley includes the southeastern portion of this country, whose highest point is Kneiff, a hill in the Ardennes. The Court of Justice of the European Union is located in this banking hub, led by Grand Duke Henri. For ten points, name this small country bordering France, Germany, and Belgium.

ANSWER: Grand Duchy of **Luxembourg** (or Groussherzogtum **Lëtzebuerg**; or Grand-Duché de **Luxembourg**; or Großherzogtum **Luxemburg**)

Second Quarter

(1) An area of abandoned settlements called the "Dead Cities" in this country includes the Church of Saint Simeon Stylites. This country's northeast contains the autonomous Rojava region, and western Neo-Aramaic remains spoken in three villages of this country, home to Idlib and Latakia, which also has a flag with three red stars alongside green, white, and black stripes. For ten points, name this country, once ruled primarily by its Alawite minority from Damascus.

ANSWER: **Syria** (or **Syrian** Arab Republic; or Al Jumhuriyah al Arabiyah as **Suriyah**)

BONUS: Bashar al-Assad was recently overthrown as the president of Syria and was granted asylum in this non-Syrian city, home to the Bolshoi Theatre.

ANSWER: **Moscow** (or **Moskva**)

(2) Five Apollo mission astronauts were retrieved to this city's airport located in nearby Tafuna, and this city contains a statue of Charlie the Tuna outside the world's largest tuna cannery. This city lies on the world's rainiest harbor, which is overlooked by Matafao Peak and Rainmaker Mountain, and it also contains the Fono legislature in Fagatogo. This city lies on an isthmus on Tutuila, and it is the only U.S. territorial capital located in the Southern Hemisphere. For ten points, name this doubly-named capital city of American Samoa.

ANSWER: **Pago Pago** [[PAHNG-oh PAHNG-oh]]

BONUS: This capital of independent Samoa lies on Upolus island, which is separated by the Apolima Strait from Savai'i.

ANSWER: **Apia**

(3) A flooded ecoregion of this biome covers the Nile Delta proper, and a belt consisting of this ecosystem is the West African Sudan region, where the kob are found migrating. This biome, the name for which is sometimes used interchangeably with "glades" and "barrens," is the largest biome in southern Africa. The Serengeti is a notable example of, for ten points, what biome characterized by open grass lands and scattered shrubs?

ANSWER: **savannas** (accept Nile Delta flooded **savanna**; prompt on "grassland" before read)

BONUS: It's not a savanna but this biome is found in a great portion in southern South Africa. This form of shrubland, similar to a Mediterranean climate, is found in the Cape region, described by the term "fynbos," and also found in parts of California and southern Oregon.

ANSWER: **chaparrals** (prompt on "shrubland" before mentioned; prompt on "Mediterranean" before mentioned)

(4) The city of Akureyri lies at the southern end of one of these features named for the island of Hrísey, and a group of these features is named for mythical trolls. One "western" example of these features separates the Lofoten Archipelago from the rest of Nordland, and the cities of Stavanger and Bergen lie on these features. These features are responsible for giving a certain country the longest coastline in Europe. For ten points, name these features, narrow inlets carved by glaciers, which are common in Norway.

ANSWER: **fjords**

BONUS: Also lying on a fjord is this city on the eastern shore of the Labrador Sea, formerly known as Godthåb, which is geographically situated on the North American continent.

ANSWER: **Nuuk**

(5) This region's southern portion includes the town of Yangi Hissar, known for its knife production, as well as Hotan, which was a historic source of jade. This province also includes Kashgar in its far-west, the northern terminus of the Karakoram Highway, and it was the site of a terrorist attack perpetrated by the East Turkistan Islamic Movement. This region was historically divided into Dzungaria and the Tarim Basin. For ten points, name this region of northwestern China, home to the Uyghur [[WEE-goor]] people.

ANSWER: **Xinjiang** Uyghur Autonomous Region (or **XUAR**; accept **Chinese Turkistan**; accept **Eastern Turkistan**; prompt on Uyghur Autonomous Region alone until Uyghur is mentioned)

BONUS: The East Turkistan Islamic Movement also perpetrated an attack in Kunming in 2014, which lies in this southwestern Chinese region known for its tea production.

ANSWER: **Yunnan**

(6) One polity of this name is bordered by the oblasts of Kemerovo and Novosibirsk. A krai of this name is administered from Barnaul, and that krai borders a republic of the same name in Siberia. This name is most notably borne by a mountain range that connects with the Sayan Mountains and has its highest point at Belukha, which originates the Katun River. For ten points, identify this name shared by a Russian krai and republic, as well as a mountain range in Central Asia.

ANSWER: **Altai** (accept **Altai** Krai, **Altai** Republic, or **Altai** Mountains)

BONUS: This other Russian republic, with capital at Yakutsk, is the coldest inhabited place on Earth, where temperatures can drop as low as -76 degrees Fahrenheit.

ANSWER: **Sakha** Republic (accept **Yakutia**)

(7) This province's resort town of Kananaskis will host the 2025 G7 Summit. Separatism in this province gave rise to the Maverick Party, which was known for using the phrase "Wexit," and this province was also host to the 1988 Winter Olympics. The 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire in this province interrupted operations in its Athabasca oil sands, and wildfires in it also destroyed one third of the town of Jasper. For ten points, name this Canadian province known for its oil industry, governed from Edmonton.

ANSWER: **Alberta**

BONUS: This city with a colorful name is the third-largest city in Alberta, after Calgary and Edmonton.

ANSWER: **Red Deer**

(8) Two of the distinct parts of this natural landform are named their respective resemblances to a bridal veil and a horseshoe. This landform was formed approximately 12,000 years ago during the last Ice Age, as glacial meltwater carved through the escarpment that shares its name. The Welland Canal is used to bypass this system, which is located between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. For ten points, name this waterfall system on the U.S.-Canadian border between western New York and southern Ontario.

ANSWER: **Niagara** Falls

BONUS: This island, named for animals that were once herded there, separates the American Falls from the Horseshoe Falls.

ANSWER: **Goat** Island

Third Quarter

The categories are:

1. Washington, D.C.
2. Southern France
3. Asian Lakes
4. Transnational Cities

Washington, D.C.

Concerning the geography of Washington, D.C., name the...

- (1) Building on Pennsylvania Avenue in which the U.S. president resides.

ANSWER: **White House**

- (2) State governed from Annapolis, which includes the northern suburbs of D.C.

ANSWER: **Maryland**

- (3) Memorial on the National Mall, featuring a Daniel Chester French statue of the sixteenth president.

ANSWER: **Lincoln** Memorial

- (4) Building on the National Mall that houses the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

ANSWER: National **Archives** Building (or **Archives** One)

- (5) Private Jesuit university in western D.C., whose teams are called the Hoyas.

ANSWER: **Georgetown** University

- (6) Informal name for a section of Massachusetts Avenue, which includes the majority of diplomatic missions to the U.S.

ANSWER: **Embassy Row** (prompt on answers involving "embassies")

- (7) Private university in D.C., which is officially bi-lingual, using both English and ASL.

ANSWER: **Gallaudet** [[gal-uh-DET]] University (accept phonetic pronunciations)

- (8) River that flows into D.C. from Prince George's County, naming a neighborhood known for its swampy "Flats."

ANSWER: **Anacostia** River (accept **Anacostia** Flats)

Southern France

Concerning the geography of Southern France, name the...

- (1) Ocean it borders to the south, which also borders Spain and Portugal.

ANSWER: **Atlantic** Ocean

- (2) Food product whose Roquefort variety is produced in Southern France using sheep's milk.

ANSWER: **cheese**

- (3) Mountain range that extends into Switzerland and Italy and includes Mont Blanc.

ANSWER: Western **Alps** (accept French **Alps**)

- (4) Country's second-most populous city, which names the French national anthem.

ANSWER: **Marseille** [[mahr-SEH]] (accept phonetic pronunciations; anti-prompt on "La Marseillaise")

- (5) Territorial collectivity, the fourth-largest island in the Mediterranean, and birthplace of Napoleon.

ANSWER: **Corsica** (or **Corse**)

- (6) River that divides into its Great and Little divisions at Arles [[AHRL]].

ANSWER: **Rhône** River (accept Great **Rhône** or Little **Rhône**)

- (7) Largest department in Nouvelle-Aquitaine, home to Bordeaux [[bohr-DOH]] and loosely connected to certain revolutionaries.

ANSWER: **Gironde** [[zhee-ROHND]] (accept phonetic pronunciations; accept **Girondins** or **Girondists**)

- (8) Tomato salad prepared with eggs and tuna and named for a city on the border near Monaco.

ANSWER: Salade **Nicoise** [[nee-SWAHZ]] (prompt on "Nice")

Asian Lakes

Concerning lakes in Asia, name the...

- (1) Mineral consisting mostly of sodium chloride and found in the Dead Sea, which makes its water more saline than ocean water.

ANSWER: **salt**

- (2) Pinniped relative of sea lions and walruses, the only exclusively freshwater example of which lives in Lake Baikal.

ANSWER: **seal**

- (3) Largest lake in the world, located between Iran and Russia and named a "sea."

ANSWER: **Caspian** Sea

- (4) Rapidly drying Central Asian lake on the border of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

ANSWER: **Aral** Sea

- (5) Plateau outside of Lhasa, which is home to sacred lakes including Yamdrok Tso.

ANSWER: Qinghai-**Tibetan** Plateau (or **Qing-Zang** Plateau)

- (6) Lake near Skardu, Pakistan, which shares its common name with a legendary Himalayan paradise.

ANSWER: **Shangrila** Lake (or **Lower Kachura** Lake)

- (7) Largest freshwater lake in Japan, named for its resemblance to a plucked string instrument.

ANSWER: Lake **Biwa**-ko

- (8) Largest lake in Indonesia, found in the caldera of its eponymous supervolcano in northern Sumatra.

ANSWER: Lake **Toba**

Transnational Cities

Concerning cities and metropolitan areas that span multiple countries, name the...

(1) Country containing the cities of Juarez and Tijuana [[tee-HWAH-nah]], along the southern border of the United States.

ANSWER: **Mexico** (or **United Mexican States**; or **Estados Unidos Mexicanos**)

(2) City lying across from Windsor, Canada; the largest city in Michigan.

ANSWER: **Detroit**

(3) Independent city-state with a metro area covering much of southern Malaysia.

ANSWER: Republic of **Singapore**

(4) African river that separates Kinshasa and Brazzaville, the capitals of two countries named for this river.

ANSWER: **Congo** River (accept Democratic Republic of the **Congo**; accept Republic of the **Congo**; do NOT accept or prompt on "Zaire")

(5) Largest city in Nigeria, with a megalopolis spanning four countries.

ANSWER: **Lagos**

(6) Second-largest city in Italy, the suburbs of which spill into the Swiss canton of Ticino [[tih-CHEE-noh]].

ANSWER: **Milan**

(7) National capital often considered part of a "Twin City" metro area with Vienna, some 35 mile to its west.

ANSWER: **Bratislava** (accept Vienna-**Bratislava** metropolitan area in either order)

(8) City in the smallest Swiss canton, the metro area of which includes Alsace in France and Baden-Württemberg in Germany.

ANSWER: **Basel**

Fourth Quarter

(1) **This gulf's port of Iask often records the world's highest heat indices. The exclave of Khor Fakkan and the city of Chabahar are other ports on this gulf, which contains the western shore of (+) Makran. Gwadar is located near the entrance to this gulf, which also contains the shoreline of Fujairah and Balochistan, and oil tankers have suffered from naval attacks in this gulf, which is bounded by the Musandam Peninsula. (*)** For ten points, name this gulf which contains the port of Muscat in a namesake country.

ANSWER: Gulf of **Oman** (accept Gulf of **Makran** until mentioned)

(2) **This island contains Mount Odin, which rises over 2,100 meters within the Penny Ice Cap. The Barnes Ice Cap covers a large portion of this island's northern interior. The Cumberland Sound (+) indents this island's southeastern coast, while the Foxe Basin separates it from the mainland to the west. This landmass is home to Auyuittuq National Park and (*)** Iqaluit, the capital of its territory. For ten points, name this largest island in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago and the fifth-largest island in the world.

ANSWER: **Baffin** Island (or **Qikiqtaaluk**)

(3) **One of these facilities located near Shahrud was revealed via satellite imagery to have been partially built by Iran. Another of these facilities is located near Kourou in French Guiana and transported a machine named for James (+) Webb on an Ariane Five. Baikonur is one of these facilities located in Kazakhstan, and the U.S. has several of these facilities, including one near Boca Chica and another at (*)** Cape Canaveral. For ten points, give the general term for these facilities where rockets are launched into space.

ANSWER: **spaceports** (or **cosmodromes**; accept answers about facilities for **launching** rockets into **space** before it is mentioned)

(4) **This city's Gold Reef City is the site of a living museum and amusement park, and skyscrapers in this city include the Sentech Tower and Carlton Centre. A stadium in this city nicknamed "The Calabash" for its resemblance to a gourd is the largest in (+) Africa and hosted the final of the 2010 World Cup. The Tutu House and Mandela House are located in this city's Soweto Township. Located in Witwatersrand Hills, the capital of (*)** Gauteng Province is, for ten points, what most populous city of South Africa?

ANSWER: **Johannesburg**

(5) **These entities often have flanks built by pāhoehoe and a'ā lava flows, and tend to have summit calderas formed by the collapse of emptied magma chambers. (+) These landforms are the dominant example of their kind in both Icelandic rift zones and Hawaiian hotspots. Unlike the differing "strato-" version, these entities are very rarely (*)** explosive in nature. For ten points, Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa are examples of what massive, gently sloping volcanoes named for their resemblance to large armor implements?

ANSWER: **shield** volcanoes (prompt on "volcanoes" or "mountains")

(6) **The Llobregat [[YOH-breh-gah]] River flows to the west of this region's capital city, and the Segre River flows through its city of Lleida [[YEH-duh]], as well is its exclave of Llivia [[YIH-vee-uh]]. One town in this region is (+) Urgell, where the Prince-Bishop of neighboring Andorra resides. This Iberian region is divided into four provinces, among them Girona and Tarragona, while its largest province is governed from a namesake city in whose hills the (*) Parc Guell is located. For ten points, name this autonomous Spanish region on the Mediterranean coast.**

ANSWER: **Catalonia** (or **Catalunya**; or **Cataluna**; or **Catalonha**)

(7) **This city's metropolitan area includes the Dandenong Ranges to the east and the Mornington Peninsula to the south. The largest sports stadium in the Southern Hemisphere is found in this city's neighborhood of (+) Yarra Park. A key feature of this city's geographical location is its proximity to the Bass Strait, which lies across from the city's southeastern coastline. Geelong, Carlton, and (*) Richmond are all suburbs of, for ten points, what city which replaced Sydney as its country's largest in population in 2022?**

ANSWER: **Melbourne**

(8) **This region, which lies in the rain shadow of the Altai Mountains, is divided by features like the Hexi Corridor and the Yin Mountains. This place supports (+) nomadic pastoralism and species like the Bactrian camel and Przewalski's horse, the world's smallest horst, and its name means "waterless place" in the Mongol language. It stretches across parts of Inner (*) Mongolia and is one of the largest cold deserts in the world. For ten points, name this vast desert located in northern China.**

ANSWER: **Gobi** Desert

Extra Question

(1) **These animals were blamed for causing the extinction of the Lyall's wren on New Zealand's Stephens Island, and they are also known for having large populations on Japanese islands such as (+) Tashirojima. One breed of these animals originating from the Isle of Man are known for their lack of a tail, and Turkish breeds of them include the Angora and Van examples. Exemplified by the (*) Siamese and Persian breeds are, for ten points, what domesticated, feline animals?**

ANSWER: **cats** (or *Felis catus*)

BONUS: This series of fortifications once protected the northern border of Imperial China, and while it can't be seen by the naked eye from the moon, it has been photographed from the International Space Station.

ANSWER: **Great Wall** of China