

National Geography Bowl – Round 7 (MS)

First Quarter

(1) Construction of the Lar Dam near this mountain threatened the habitat of the Lafiti Viper. According to Ferdowsi, a three-headed dragon and the tyrant Zakhāk are chained to this mountain, which is central to Zoroastrian mythology. After Mount Everest, this extinct stratovolcano in the Mazandaran province is the highest volcano and second-most prominent mountain in Asia. For ten points, name this mountain in the Alborz range, the highest in Iran.

ANSWER: Mount **Damavand**

(2) This river rises in the West Beskid range of the Carpathians before passing through cities like Toruń. The world's largest Gothic castle, Malbork Castle, stands near this river's delta region, and this waterway passes through its namesake lagoon before emptying into the Baltic Sea. The confluence of this river with the Sola was the site of the Auschwitz concentration camp. For ten points, name this river which flows through Kraków and Warsaw, the longest river in Poland.

ANSWER: **Vistula** River

(3) This Canadian national park encompasses part of the largest intact boreal forest in the world and protects the world's largest inland freshwater delta. This park lies within a region traditionally inhabited by the Cree and Dene First Nations and includes portions of the Athabasca and Peace Rivers. For ten points, name this largest national park in Canada, located in northeastern Alberta and southern Northwest Territories and named for a type of bison.

ANSWER: **Wood Buffalo** National Park

(4) Henry Pratt Fairchild closely associated this phenomenon with the American "melting pot" theory. One specific example of this general process occurred in the United States and Canada, where native communities were forced to send their children to boarding schools that promoted English language use. For ten points, name this demographic process in which a minority group or culture comes to resemble a society's majority group and/or fully adopts the beliefs and values of that group.

ANSWER: cultural **assimilation** (accept forms of the word; prompt on synonyms like "blending in" or "integration")

(5) This term has been used in reference to one-half of a raft operated by Leicester [Lester] Hemingway, who attempted to establish the micronation of the Republic of New Atlantis near Jamaica under the 1856 Guano Islands Act. Jeremiah Heaton tried to establish the Kingdom of North Sudan at Bir Tawil under the umbrella of this term, which currently applies to the world's largest unclaimed territory, Marie Byrd Land. For ten points, identify this Latin term that translates to "nobody's land."

ANSWER: **terra nullius** (accept **nobody's land** or **no man's land** before "nobody's"; accept descriptive answers before "Latin" is mentioned; prompt on "unclaimed")

(6) The Beaufort Dyke, a deep underwater trench, lies within this sea. The Solway Firth forms the northern boundary of this body of water, while it connects to the Celtic Sea through St. George's Channel in the south. This body of water contains Anglesey Island and the Isle of Man, and this sea is crossed by numerous ferry routes connecting cities like Dublin and Liverpool. For ten points, name this body of water that separates Great Britain from a namesake emerald isle.

ANSWER: **Irish** Sea (or Muir **Éireann**; or Y Keayn **Yernagh**)

(7) Settlement in this region was the subject of the propaganda film *Seekers of Happiness*. The western end of the Bureya Range is located in this region, including its highest point, Mount Studencheskaya. This region is governed from Birobidzhan, and this region, which was established as the sole Autonomous Oblast in the 1993 constitution of Russia, has a minority that speaks Yiddish. For ten points, name this territory in Siberia, established as a home for an ethnoreligious minority.

ANSWER: **Jewish** Autonomous Oblast (or **IAO**)

(8) A town named for these features was the origin of the Assemblies of God, and was the original site of Spring Training for Major League Baseball. Men play chess at one of these features called Széchenyi [[set-SHEN-yee]] in Budapest. In Japan, these features are called *onsen*, and are sometimes used by macaques. Bacteria cause the vivid colors of a "Grand Prismatic" example of, for ten points, what heated bodies of water which name an Arkansas national park?

ANSWER: **hot springs** (accept **geothermal vents**, **hydrothermal springs**, **thermal spas**, or other similar answers; prompt on "spas" or "springs" alone)

(9) Overfishing in this body of water has led to the population decline of fishes such as the bigeye, forktail, sleek lates. This body of water, which hosts over 250 cichlid species, is drained by the Lukuga River. This body of water only trails Lake Baikal as the second-largest freshwater lake by volume and the second-deepest lake. For ten points, name this African Great Lake whose majority is shared between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania.

ANSWER: Lake **Tanganyika**

(10) Most of this country's land area is located in its Tutong and oil-producing Belait Districts, while its namesake river empties into the sea south of Murara. The Sultan Omar Saifuddien Bridge connects this country's Temburong District to the rest of it, even though the two parts are on the same landmass. The Limbang district divides this small Muslim country and was ceded to Sarawak, which is now a Malaysian State. For ten points, name this monarchy, the smallest country on Borneo.

ANSWER: **Brunei** Darussalam (or Negara **Brunei** Darussalam)

Second Quarter

(1) This mountain range's northern section includes the Sudwala Caves, which were used to store ammunition outside of the city of Mbombela, or Nelspruit. This mountain range contains the Afriski resort in the Maloti Mountains, as well Tiffindell Ski Resort, which are the only two ski resorts in sub-Saharan Africa. This mountain range, the eastern portion of the Great Escarpment, bounds the Highveld and extends north into Limpopo, and it also is situated in Eastern Cape. For ten points, name this mountain range in Lesotho and South Africa.

ANSWER: **Drakensberge** Mountains (or **Maluti** Mountains; accept **uKhahlamba**)

BONUS: The Drakensberg Mountains also dominate KwaZulu-Natal, which has its capital at this city, named in honor of a Voortrekker.

ANSWER: **Pietermaritzburg**

(2) This geographic feature was captured in Operation Meghdoot, making it the world's highest battlefield. The Saltoro Mountains are situated to the southwest of this geographic feature, which begins at the Indira Col and is disputed between Gilgit Baltistan and Ladakh. This second-longest non-polar glacier in the world lies in the eastern part of the Karakoram Mountains, and it marks the western end of the Line of Control. For ten points, name this glacier disputed between India and Pakistan in the Kashmir Region.

ANSWER: **Siachen** Glacier

BONUS: The world's longest non-polar glacier is the Vanch-Yakh Glacier, which lies in the eastern part of this Tajik Mountain range nicknamed the "Roof of the World."

ANSWER: **Pamir** Mountains

(3) This activity created a wooded area called the "Lost 40," which was spared from a late-1800s logging boom. Another entity created as the result of this activity is located just outside the Twelve Mile Circle and was contested until 1921. The Delaware Wedge was created by this activity, which also erroneously added 942 square miles to Texas. For ten points, identify this activity which determines distances between land points for purposes of government, maps, and dispute resolution.

ANSWER: land **surveying**

BONUS: In 1925, the U.S. Supreme Court had to settle a conflict caused by a surveying error which put this landmark 1,821 feet away from the actual site it is supposed to define.

ANSWER: **Four Corners** Monument

(4) This river is formed at the confluence of the Naryn and Kara rivers, and its waters originate in the Tian Shan on China's western fringe. One city on this river is Khujand, founded by Alexander the Great near the northeastern limit of his conquests. This river passes south of Tashkent before entering southern Kazakhstan, where it empties into an endorheic lake. For ten points, name this northerly of two rivers, the other being the Amu, that feed the Aral Sea.

ANSWER: **Syr** Darya (accept **Jaxartes**)

BONUS: The Syr Darya originates in this fertile valley which crosses Uzbekistan, southern Kyrgyzstan, and northern Tajikistan, and once served as a trade route between Greece and China.

ANSWER: **Fergana** Valley

(5) This city's tallest buildings include the Zhongyuan Tower and its Greenland Plaza, nicknamed the "Big Corn." BYD Auto is set to build the world's largest EV factory in this city, which forms the Central Plain Economic Zone with nearby Kaifeng. Mount Song overlooks this city, which contains the world's largest cellphone manufacturing plant, nicknamed "Foxconn City." The largest city on the Yellow River, for ten points, what is this capital of Henan Province, located in central China?

ANSWER: **Zhengzhou** [[ZHUNG-JOH]] (accept phonetic pronunciations)

BONUS: Foxconn attracted controversy for the high rate of suicides in this city in Guangdong, home to the headquarters of DJI and the Ping An Finance Centre.

ANSWER: **Shenzhen**

(6) This country's Tigres Island was made an island in the 1960s after the Atlantic Ocean broke through an isthmus, lying off the coast of its Iona National Park. This country is home to Moçâmedes Desert, and it is one of two countries in which the gargantuan *welwitschia* plant is endemic. This country is bounded by the Cunene River and contains the northern part of Southern Africa's only true desert. For ten points, name this country whose far south-west contains the northernmost extent of the Namib Desert.

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

BONUS: The region between the Namib Desert and the Kaokoveld to the north is roughly at the latitude of this bay and its namesake city, the second-largest city in Namibia.

ANSWER: **Walvis** Bay

(7) The world's second-tallest building, the Merdeka 118, was completed in this country in 2023, and the 2013 Lahad Datu standoff triggered the creation of its Eastern Sabah Security Command. A flight from this country disappeared in the southern Indian Ocean in 2014, and in the late 1990s, this country relocated its federal government to a city in the southern Klang Valley. For ten points, name this Southeast Asian country which hosts most of its administration in Putrajaya.

ANSWER: **Malaysia**

BONUS: Indonesia is planning to replace Jakarta as a capital city with this city, situated in the eastern portion of Borneo.

ANSWER: **Nusantara**

(8) Collins Avenue is the main thoroughfare of this city, which is bounded to its south by Government Cut, separating it from Fisher Island, and it borders Surfside to the north. This city, named after a nearby, much larger city, contains the world's highest concentration of Art Deco buildings, and it is connected to the mainland via the MacArthur Causeway and Venetian Causeway, which cross Biscayne Bay. For ten points, name this resort city situated on a barrier island across from its mother city, which is the largest city in South Florida.

ANSWER: **Miami Beach** (prompt on "Miami")

BONUS: Biscayne Bay also borders a portion of this city, home to the campus of the University of Miami. This wealthy city also contains the iconic Douglas Entrance and the flagship Books and Books store.

ANSWER: **Coral Gables**

Third Quarter

The categories are:

1. U.S. Deserts
2. European Lakes
3. South Asia
4. The Poles

U.S. Deserts

Concerning desert regions of the United States, name the...

- (1) Long, slithery reptiles that name a river flowing through the Oregon high desert.

ANSWER: **snake** (accept **Snake** River)

- (2) Type of plant, common in southwestern deserts, including the saguaro and the prickly pear.

ANSWER: **cactus**

- (3) Major mountain range extending from Canada to New Mexico and creating a rain shadow that helps form the Great Basin Desert.

ANSWER: **Rockys** Mountains (or the **Rockies**)

- (4) Largest saltwater lake in the Western Hemisphere, which names a desert region near the remains of Lake Bonneville.

ANSWER: **Great Salt** Lake

- (5) State that is home to both the Carson Desert and the Black Rock Desert.

ANSWER: **Nevada**

- (6) Driest and smallest of the U.S.'s four main deserts.

ANSWER: **Mojave** Desert

- (7) Desert named for a Mexican state, the only place where the saguaro [[sah-WAH-roh]] cactus is found.

ANSWER: **Sonoran** Desert (prompt on "Sonora")

- (8) Range that traverse the eastern side of the Great Basin Desert, the name of which means "mountain pass" in the Ute language.

ANSWER: **Wasatch** Range

European Lakes

Concerning lakes in Europe, name the...

- (1) Alcoholic drink made from fermented grapes, the white Chasselas [[SHAHS-lah]] variety of which is made near Lake Geneva.

ANSWER: **wine**

- (2) Enlarged "sea" on the Dnipro River, which shares its name with Ukraine's capital.

ANSWER: **Kyiv** Sea (or **Kyiv** Reservoir; accept **Kiev** in place of **Kyiv**)

- (3) Scottish word for "lake," examples of which include Lomond and Ness.

ANSWER: **loch** (accept **Loch** Lomond; accept **Loch** Ness)

- (4) Swedish city spanning fourteen islands, where Lake Mälaren [[MEL-ah-ren]] connects to the Baltic Sea.

ANSWER: **Stockholm**

- (5) Baltic country that shares Lake Peipus [[PAY-pooss]] with Russia and borders Latvia to the north.

ANSWER: Republic of **Estonia** (or **Eesti** Vabariik)

- (6) Largest lake entirely within Europe, the second-largest in Russia after Lake Baikal.

ANSWER: Lake **Ladoga**

- (7) Lake in Lombardy known for its villas and palaces, the deepest European lake outside of Norway.

ANSWER: Lake **Como** (or **Lario**)

- (8) Largest lake in Central Europe, home to the Hungarian resort towns of Siófok [[SHEE-oh-fohk]] and Keszthely [[KESS-tay]].

ANSWER: Lake **Balaton** [[BAH-lah-tahn]] (accept phonetic pronunciations)

South Asia

Concerning the geography of South Asia, name the...

- (1) Bovine animal that is sacred throughout India but kept for its milk.

ANSWER: **cow** (or **cattle**)

- (2) Majority religion of India and Nepal, major gods of which include Shiva and Vishnu.

ANSWER: **Hinduism**

- (3) Capital of the Indian state of Maharashtra, home to the Bombay Stock Exchange.

ANSWER: **Mumbai**

- (4) South Asian country governed from Dhaka, the only country in which Bengali is the official language.

ANSWER: People's Republic of **Bangladesh** (or Gana Prajatantri **Bangladesh**)

- (5) Archipelagic nation southwest of Sri Lanka, the smallest country in Asia.

ANSWER: The **Maldives** (or Republic of **Maldives**; or **Dhivehi Raajjeyge Jumhooriyyaa**)

- (6) Largest city in Punjab, bordered to the north by the Ravi River, a trans-boundary river with India.

ANSWER: **Lahore**

- (7) State in northeast India, governed from Dispur and known for its namesake tea and silk.

ANSWER: **Assam** (accept **Assam** tea; accept **Assam** silk)

- (8) Pakistani province on the Arabian Sea, bordering the Indian states of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

ANSWER: **Sindh** (prompt on "SD")

The Poles

Concerning Earth's polar regions, name the...

- (1) Group of flightless birds found across Antarctica, known for their black and white feathers.

ANSWER: **penguin**

- (2) Object with a namesake "field," which names the "north pole" to which compasses point.

ANSWER: **magnet** (accept North **magnetic** pole or **Magnetic** north pole)

- (3) Country that established the first North Pole ice station in 1937, a mission led by Order of Lenin recipient Ivan Papanin.

ANSWER: **Soviet Union** (or **USSR**; or **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics**; prompt on "Russia")

- (4) Country that, along with neighboring Chile, claims the Antarctic Peninsula, while also claiming Britain's Falkland Islands.

ANSWER: **Argentina** (or **Argentine Republic**; or Republica **Argentina**)

- (5) Canadian territory that absorbed some of the Arctic Archipelago when it was created in 1999.

ANSWER: **Nunavut**

- (6) Massif that includes a namesake mountain, the highest in Antarctica.

ANSWER: **Vinson** Massif (accept Mount **Vinson**)

- (7) Research station that is the southernmost point under U.S. control, named for a pair of explorers.

ANSWER: **Amundsen-Scott** South Pole Station (do NOT accept or prompt on answers in reverse order)

- (8) Uninhabited island of Greenland that includes the northernmost point of land on earth.

ANSWER: **Kaffeklubben** Island (or **Coffee Club** Island)

Fourth Quarter

(1) **This archipelago's Aragusuku island contains an *Utaki* shrine that displays the skulls of hunted dugongs, part of its Yaeyama division. This archipelago, where karate was developed, includes the cities of (+) Nago and Naha. The Luchuan languages are spoken on this archipelago as part of the smaller branch of the Japonic family, as well as a (*) Kagoshima dialect.** For ten points, name this island chain which extends from Kyushu to Taiwan, home to Okinawa.

ANSWER: **Ryukyu** Islands (or **Ryūkyū**-shotō; or **Ruuchuu**; accept **Nansei** Islands; prompt on Japanese Archipelago)

(2) **This city's Qavam House served as the headquarters of the Asia Institute, which formerly operated at its namesake university, previously called Pahlavi University. This city's Nasir-ol-Molk Mosque is called the (+) "Pink Mosque" for its dramatic stained-glass displays, and this city, home to the Tomb of Saadi and Tomb of Hafez, is the closest major city to Persepolis. This city, 220 miles south of (*) Isfahan, is the capital of Fars Province.** For ten points, name this city in south-central Iran, the fifth largest of the country.

ANSWER: **Shiraz**

(3) **In 1998, two of these entities merged to form UBS, which is now the world's largest wealth management firm. These institutions historically offered numbered accounts and were known for client (+) confidentiality, a policy weakened by the U.S. Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act and a 2009 IRS probe. These institutions were central to investigations into dormant Holocaust-era (*) accounts in the 1990s.** For ten points, EFG and Vontobel are examples of what financial institutions based in a neutral Alpine country?

ANSWER: **Swiss banks** (prompt on "banks")

(4) **The landmark Sky Rock is at the top of Dorsey Knob in this city, whose Milan Puskar Stadium is named for the founder of Mylan Pharmaceuticals. "Country Roads" is sung after home victories at that stadium in this city. A public transportation system stretching from (+) Walnut Station to Medical Station in this city allows users to call cars and take transportation directly from one stop to another, a type of "personal rapid transit." The Monongahela River flows past, (*)** for ten points, what third-largest city of West Virginia, home to West Virginia University?

ANSWER: **Morgantown**, West Virginia

(5) **The Tagliamento is one of these rivers, being half a mile wide but with actual water channels being very narrow. The Platte is one of these features, being broad, shallow, flowing through constantly eroding sandbars, and (+) lacking a single clear meander. These types of rivers, many of which originate near mountains and widen past foothills, deposit large amounts of sediment as they move downstream. (*)** For ten points, name this type of river whose stream bed includes numerous small, often temporary islands.

ANSWER: **braided** river

(6) **The Little Zab River flows through this autonomous region, marking the border between lands dominated by the Barzani-led KDP and Talabani-led PUK factions. The city of Halabja lies in this region's east, and its three largest provinces are (+) Dohuk, Erbil, and Sulaymaniyah. This region, north of Mosul but not including it, was established to represent an Indo-European (*) minority within Iraq. For ten points, identify this autonomous region named for an ethnic group which also resides in Syria, Turkey, and Iran.**

ANSWER: Iraqi **Kurdistan** Region (or Southern **Kurdistan**; or Bashure **Kurdistan**; or Herema **Kurdistan**; or Iqlim **Kurdistan**, do not accept references to any other country)

(7) **At Prince George in the Interior Plateau, this south-flowing river is joined by the Nechako, and it parallels Provincial Highway 97 downriver. This river turns west at the town of Hope, located at the southern end of its canyon, and islands form in this river near (+) Agassiz. The Pitt River joins this river south of Coquitlam, and the island city of Richmond is located in its delta. (*) For ten points, name this river that forms the border between Burnaby and Surrey, passing south of Vancouver.**

ANSWER: **Fraser** River (or **Staulo**; or **Lhtakoh**; or **Elhda**-chugh Yeqox)

(8) **This body of water's northeastern edge includes Temryuk Bay, and its northwestern coast features the city of Mariupol. This sea is only seven meters deep on average and has historically supported (+) sturgeon fisheries for the production of caviar. This sea is bordered to the west by the Crimean (*) Peninsula and is separated from a larger sea by a strait spanned by a controversial 19-kilometer bridge completed in 2018. For ten points, name this sea connected to the Black Sea by the Kerch Strait.**

ANSWER: Sea of **Azov**

Extra Questions

(1) **One town with this name is home to the University of New Hampshire. A British city with this name on the River Wear contains the third-oldest university in England, lying south of Newcastle upon Tyne. The American (+) Tobacco Historic District is situated in another city of this name, which adjoins the largest research park in the United States as well as (*) Chapel Hill. For ten points, identify this name borne by a city in North Carolina forming an urban area with Raleigh, home to Duke University.**

ANSWER: **Durham**

BONUS: The first location of McDonald's was situated in this California city, which forms the "Inland Empire" with Riverside and is the seat of the largest county in the United States.

ANSWER: **San Bernardino**

(2) **This country's flag is used for the flag of a territory which includes the Crozet and Kerguelen Islands. A miniature version of this country's flag was displayed on the flag of the New Hebrides. (+)** and this country's flag is also displayed on the canton of Wallis and Futuna. The flag of Iowa was inspired by the flag of this country, which is also used in the flag of (*) Acadia and replaced a flag with the fleurs-de-lis. For ten points, name this country known for its tricolor blue, white, and red flag, which is governed from Paris.

ANSWER: **France** (accept **French Republic**; or **Republique Francaise**)

BONUS: This salt sea in the Jordan Rift Valley is at the mouth of the Jordan River is the world's deepest hypersaline lake and has the lowest land-based elevation on earth.

ANSWER: **Dead** Sea (or al-Baḥr al-**Mayyit**; or Yam ham**Melah**)