

National Geography Bowl – Round 8 (MS)

First Quarter

(1) This river is where the battery-powered Mine Smart Ferry operates, and the Lavo kingdom formed on the banks of this river, which contains the island of Ko Kret. This river forms where the Ping and Nan rivers merge in Nakhon Sawan province, and one of its distributaries has a name literally meaning "pier of Chinese" and is the Tha Chin River. Crossed by the Rama the Ninth bridge, for ten points, name this river that flows through Bangkok into the Gulf of Thailand.

ANSWER: **Chao Phraya** River

(2) Specific term required. *District 13* is a dystopian film set in one of these places, another of which was the site of the 2023 Nahel Merzouk riots. Neuilly [[new-YEE]]-sur-Seine is one of the wealthier examples of these communities, many of which consist of prefabricated housing blocks from the 1970s. For ten points, give this French term for suburban communities, whose poorer versions tend to be disproportionately populated by immigrant populations on the northern edges of Paris.

ANSWER: **banlieues** [[bahn-LOO]] (accept **Banlieue** 13; prompt on "suburbs" until mentioned; prompt on "ghettos," "neighborhoods", or equivalents)

(3) This country's city of Zinder was previously the seat of the Sultanate of Damagaram, and this country contains the 16th century Agadez Mosque, the tallest mud-brick structure in the world. This country's airspace was closed for over a month in the summer of 2023 due to a coup, and it formed the Alliance of Sahel States with Mali and Burkina Faso to protect against ECOWAS retaliation. For ten points, name this country where Mohamed Bazoum was deposed in Niamey.

ANSWER: **Niger** [[NEE-zhehr]] (or Republic of the **Niger**)

(4) These features are sometimes found marking the former extent of ice sheets in areas like Long Island and Cape Cod. These landforms are built from till, and unlike outwash plains, they are not sorted by meltwater. Terminal types of these features form at the furthest extent of a glacier, while lateral ones occur along the sides. Examples of these features include the Oak Ridges in Ontario and one near Valparaiso, Indiana. For ten points, name these glacially deposited ridges of debris.

ANSWER: **moraines**

(5) The Kaluga is endemic to this river's basin, and is said to be the world's largest freshwater fish species. The Hu Line ends at this river's settlement of Heihe, across an international border from Blagoveshchensk settled by the Treaty of Aigun. This river's alternative name, Heilong Jiang, translates to "Black Dragon River," empties into the Pacific near Sakhalin Island. For ten points, name this river which forms much of the China-Russia boundary.

ANSWER: **Amur** River (accept **Heilong Jiang** until mentioned)

(6) In 2021, the Kazungula Bridge formed the first road crossing of a 550-foot border between two countries on this river. A natural wonder on this river has an indigenous name meaning "The Smoke that Thunders." The Cahora Bassa Dam and the Kariba Dam create hydroelectric power along this river, which receives outflow from the Shire [[SHEE-reh]] River and Lake Malawi. The longest east-flowing river in Africa is, for ten points, what river that forms Victoria Falls on the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe?

ANSWER: **Zambezi** River

(7) The proposed Undersea Bed Rail Tunnel will run under this body of water to link two Asian countries. This body of water is named after a governor of Madras who reigned from 1755 to 1763, and this strait is separated from the Gulf of Mannar by a chain of limestone shoals called Adam's Bridge. Receiving water from rivers like the Vaigai, for ten points, what is this strait which separates northern Sri Lanka from southern India, and delimits the maritime border between them?

ANSWER: **Palk** Strait

(8) The first mountain cog railway was built in this mountain range, whose highest peak awards bumper stickers to cars that reach the summit via its namesake Auto Road. Franconia Notch, a prominent pass in this mountain range, was once home to the Old Man of the Mountain. The Presidential Range, a row of peaks in this mountain range, includes Mount Adams and Mount Washington. For ten points, name this subrange of the Appalachian Mountains located in New Hampshire.

ANSWER: **White** Mountains (prompt on "Appalachian Mountains" before mention)

(9) This currency, which is subdivided into [i]kobo[i], is used in cities such as Jos and Zaria. This currency's name was coined from its country's name by Obafemi Awolowo, who was depicted on one of its notes along with Zuma Rock. Offshore oil rigs and Fulani milkmaids are also included on the notes of this currency, another denomination of which displays members of the Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba ethnic groups. For ten points, name this currency used in Nigeria.

ANSWER: Nigerian **naira**

(10) Saray-Jük, on the banks of this river, was one of the northernmost places Ibn Battuta visited, and was the capital of the Nogai Horde. This river, which passes by Orsk and Orenburg, was home to a population of Yaik Cossacks, who pioneered a method of ice fishing for sturgeon. When it reaches its mouth south of Atyrau, this river lies at Europe's lowest point and forms its eastern boundary. For ten points, name this Russian River named for a mountain range.

ANSWER: **Ural** River (accept **Yaik** River before mention)

Second Quarter

(1) This region is known for housing the Momine Khatun Mausoleum, Gulistan Mausoleum, and Noah's Mausoleum. The Zangezur corridor across Syunik Province has been proposed to connect this region to the rest of its country. The Aras River defines this region's southern border with Iran and also forms its extremely short border with Turkey. Behind Kaliningrad, this region was the largest exclave in the USSR. For ten points, name this exclave administered as the southwestern-most part of Azerbaijan.

ANSWER: **Nakhchivan** Autonomous Republic

BONUS: The Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic lies north of this shrinking salt lake in northwestern Iran situated near the city of Tabriz, formerly the Middle East's largest.

ANSWER: Lake **Urmia**

(2) This material is composed largely of quartz, feldspar, and clay minerals, and although fertile, its cohesion is weak, making it prone to collapse when saturated. This substance covers large areas of the North China Plain and the American Midwest and forms steep, vertical cliffs which can be prone to erosion and landslides. China's Yellow River is so named because it contains large amounts of this material as sediment. For ten points, identify this windblown silt with a name derived from German.

ANSWER: **loess** (prompt on "dirt," "soil" or equivalents)

BONUS: Loess deposits in this U.S. state form bluffs along the eastern edge of the Missouri and Platte Rivers and contribute to the fertile soils of its western farmland.

ANSWER: **Nebraska**

(3) This state's Socorro Island is known as one of the two places which the Clipperton crab inhabits. This state's eponymous capital city was found to have the world's highest murder rate in 2022, and it also contains Tecomán, which is nicknamed the "lime capital of the world." This state, which administers the remote Revillagigedo Islands, has Manzanillo as its largest city. This state is the smallest in Mexico by population, and it is the smallest by area which is not landlocked. For ten points, name this Mexican state sandwiched between Michoacán and Jalisco on the Pacific Ocean.

ANSWER: **Colima** (or Free and Sovereign State of **Colima**)

BONUS: Clipperton Island is claimed by France, and was formerly administered by French Polynesia, which is comprised of the Austral, Society, Gambier, and Tuamotu Islands in addition to this archipelago, whose largest city is Taioha'e.

ANSWER: **Marquesas** Islands

(4) This company is headquartered in the city of Dhahran, and owns Motiva Enterprises, which operates a major facility in Port Arthur. Facilities of this company in Abqaiq and Khurais were targeted by terrorist attacks in 2019, and a planned stadium named for this company in the city of Khobar is set to host some matches of the 2034 FIFA World Cup. This company completely owns and operates the Ghawar Field in Eastern Province, and by revenue, it is the largest company outside of China or the U.S.A. For ten points, name this national oil company owned by Saudi Arabia.

ANSWER: Saudi **Aramco**

BONUS: The 2034 FIFA World Cup will also include matches hosted in this planned city in Saudi Arabia's far northwest, including a 110 mile long city called "the Line."

ANSWER: **NEOM**

(5) This territory's Flat Island was merged to a larger island in a 2001 volcanic eruption, part of a hotspot which also produced the Naturaliste Plateau. This territory's largest island contains the Big Ben massif, which includes the highest point of its country at Mawson Peak. Though completely uninhabited, this territory gained media attention in 2025 for being targeted by a series of tariffs implemented by the United States. Located southeast of the Kerguelen Islands is, for ten points, what remote territory of two sub-antarctic islands in the southern Indian Ocean, administered by Australia?

ANSWER: Territory of **Heard** Island and **McDonald** Islands (or **HIMI**)

BONUS: The Heard and McDonald Islands are one of the homes of this most numerous species of crested penguin, which was first seen by Europeans in the Falklands and was named for its yellow crest.

ANSWER: **Macaroni** penguin (or **Eudyptes chrysolophus**)

(6) The world's longest slackline was crossed between two pylons on either side of this strait in Torre Faro and Villa San Giovanni. This strait is the site of a whirlpool associated with the legend of Scylla and Charybdis, and it is the site of a city often called Reggio. The government of Silvio Berlusconi supported building the world's longest suspension bridge over this strait, which bounds Calabria at the southern end of the Tyrrhenian Sea. For ten points, name this strait between the Italian peninsula and Sicily.

ANSWER: Strait of **Messina**

BONUS: Messina is the third-largest city in Sicily after this city, located to its south, overlooked by Mount Etna on the Ionian Sea.

ANSWER: **Catania** (accept phonetic pronunciations)

(7) Hanna Lake lies on the outskirts of this city, and it was impacted by the 2008 Ziarat earthquakes. The *Jaffar Express* train service, which travels from this city, was hijacked in 2025 by terrorists who killed hostages after stopping it in the nearby Bolan Pass. This city is the center of its country's Brahui and Hazara communities, and it lies across the Durand Line from Kandahar. This city lies roughly halfway between Gwadar and Peshawar. For ten points, name this capital and largest city of Balochistan, the largest city of north-western Pakistan.

ANSWER: **Quetta**

BONUS: Behind Kandahar in population, this city is the third-largest in Afghanistan, lying in its far northwest, and is known for its Tajik population.

ANSWER: **Herat**

(8) This lake's southern counterpart was formerly fed by the Devoll until it was diverted to the area near Korçë. Bitola also lies near the shores of this lake, which is separated from a smaller neighbor by an isthmus visited by Zoran Zaev and Alexis Tsipras in 2018. This lake is also separated by the mountain of Galičica from Lake Ohrid, and this lake was the site of an agreement which added the word "North" to one country's name. This lake was home to the southernmost point of Yugoslavia. For ten points, name this lake split between Macedonia, Greece, and Albania.

ANSWER: Lake **Prespa** (or Great **Prespa** Lake)

BONUS: Lake Prespa is partially enclosed by Western Macedonia, which forms a decentralized administration with this rugged western Greek region separated from Western Macedonia by the Pindus Mountains.

ANSWER: **Epirus** (or **Ípiros**)

Third Quarter

The categories are:

1. US Places with Bird Names
2. Judaism in Europe
3. Holy Sites in Asia
4. Central America

US Places with Bird Names

Concerning places in the U.S. with bird names, name the...

- (1) National bird of the US which names a river that in turn names an Alaskan city

ANSWER: Bald **Eagle** (River)

- (2) State in which Bird-in-Hand is found in Lancaster County, west of Philadelphia.

ANSWER: **Pennsylvania**

- (3) Mythical bird that burns and is born again, naming a state capital.

ANSWER: **phoenix**

- (4) Sandy islands in southern Florida, including examples named Duck, Pigeon, and Largo.

ANSWER: **keys** (or **cay**)

- (5) State that is home to Bird City, which is closer to Colorado to its west than it is to Dodge City.

ANSWER: **Kansas**

- (6) Region that is home to the town of Duck, established well after Nags Head and Kitty Hawk.

ANSWER: **Outer Banks** (or **OBX**; prompt on "North Carolina")

- (7) Bird that names a "Forge" in Tennessee, a near-fourteener in the Needle Mountains, and four rivers in Michigan.

ANSWER: **pigeon** (accept **Pigeon** Forge; accept **Pigeon** Peak; accept **Pigeon** River)

- (8) Bird of prey also known as a sea hawk, which names a Florida town in the Bradenton-Sarasota statistical area.

ANSWER: **osprey**

Judaism in Europe

Concerning Jewish residents and the geography of Europe, name the...

(1) Type of institution that displays historical artifacts to the public, such as Theodore Herzl's birthplace in Budapest.

ANSWER: **museum** (accept Jewish **Museum**)

(2) Capital of the Netherlands, where the Anne Frank House can be visited.

ANSWER: **Amsterdam**

(3) Country, led from Warsaw, in which the Nazis killed nearly one million Jews at Auschwitz.

ANSWER: Republic of **Poland** (or Rzeczpospolita **Polska**)

(4) Eastern European peninsula that names an 1850s war, during which many Jews served in the Russian navy at Sevastopol.

ANSWER: **Crimean** Peninsula (accept **Crimean** War)

(5) Islands, including Jersey and Guernsey, from which the three Jewish British victims of the Holocaust were taken.

ANSWER: **Channel** Islands

(6) Subgroup of Jews who migrated to Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages and traditionally speak Yiddish.

ANSWER: **Ashkenazic** Jews (or **Ashkenazim**)

(7) Modern country in which the cities of Vitebsk, Mogilev, and Pinsk had a ten percent Jewish population prior to the Holocaust.

ANSWER: Republic of **Belarus** (or Respublika **Byelarus'**; or Respublika **Belarus'**)

(8) "Jerusalem of the North," a city in which Gediminus's Tower memorializes a grand duke who invited Jews to settle there.

ANSWER: **Vilnius**

Holy Sites in Asia

Concerning holy sites from various religions in Asia, name the...

- (1) Country in which Jerusalem is the site of the death of Jesus and the Dome of the Rock.

ANSWER: State of **Israel** (or Medīnat **Yisra'el**)

- (2) Peninsula that names North and South countries, in which mountains are often deemed sacred by mudang, or shamans.

ANSWER: **Korean** Peninsula (accept North **Korea**; accept South **Korea**)

- (3) Sacred river of India, the delta of which covers most of Bangladesh.

ANSWER: **Ganges** (or **Padma**; or **Ganga**)

- (4) City in Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Mohammad and the destination of the Hajj.

ANSWER: **Mecca** (or **Makkah** al-Mukarramah)

- (5) Landlocked modern country that is home to the city of Lumbini, located just north of Uttar Pradesh and the birthplace of the Buddha.

ANSWER: Federal Democratic Republic of **Nepal**

- (6) Second-largest city in Punjab, home to the Golden Temple, one of the holiest sites in the Sikh faith.

ANSWER: **Amritsar**

- (7) Mountain across the valley of Nablus from Mount Ebal, which is considered the holiest site for Israelite Samaritans.

ANSWER: Mount **Gerizim**

- (8) City in which the Oura Church, also called the Basilica of the 26 Holy Martyrs, is the oldest in its country.

ANSWER: **Nagasaki**

Central America

Concerning the geography of Central America, name the...

- (1) Type of artificial waterway that cuts through Panama.

ANSWER: **canal** (accept Panama **Canal**)

- (2) Sea that makes up the eastern coast of Central America, home to the islands of Jamaica and Hispaniola.

ANSWER: **Caribbean** Sea

- (3) Spotted big cat, the largest in the Americas, melanistic individuals of which are called "black panthers."

ANSWER: **jaguar**

- (4) Most populous Central American country, with namesake capital, which is the largest city in the region.

ANSWER: Republic of **Guatemala** (or **Republica de [a]Guatemala**; accept **Guatemala** City)

- (5) Largest freshwater lake in the region, named for its home country and home to the port city of Granada.

ANSWER: Lake **Nicaragua** (or **Cocibolba**)

- (6) Swampy region of Panama that is nearly impassable and creates the only gap in the Pan-American Highway.

ANSWER: **Darién** Gap

- (7) 400-foot deep circular tourist attraction off the shore of Belize, at the center of Lighthouse Reef.

ANSWER: **Great Blue Hole**

- (8) Highest peak in Central America, a stratovolcano in the Sierra Madre de Chiapas range.

ANSWER: Volcán **Tajumulco** [[tah-hah-MOOL-koh]] (accept phonetic pronunciations)

Fourth Quarter

(1) **This city and its surrounding areas were originally inhabited by the indigenous Kurna [[KAW-rna]] people, and today, this city is home to the Tarndanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute. This city is named after the (+) wife of King Henry the Fourth of England, and it is located on the Gulf St Vincent, surrounded by the (*) Mount Lofty Ranges.** For ten points, name this city, the fifth-most populous city of Australia and capital of South Australia.

ANSWER: **Adelaide**

(2) **Two active volcanoes, Mount Nyiragongo and Mount Nyamuragira, are located in this park. This park, located in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, is Africa's oldest (+) national park and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This park's landscape is shaped by its proximity to Lake Edward and its namesake mountain range. This haven for okapis is better known as a refuge for another endangered species. (*)** For ten points, name this park, which has been at the forefront of efforts to conserve mountain gorillas.

ANSWER: **Virunga** National Park

(3) **This city will be connected by highway to an airport in Mengomeyén, the birthplace of its country's president. Buildings in this city include the Grand Hotel and the Afro-American University of Central Africa. Progress on this capital of the (+) Djibloho province stalled after the end of an oil boom, despite the efforts of Teodoro Obiang. This city was selected for its position on Rio Muni rather than the island of (*) Bioko.** For ten points, name this planned city that will replace Malabo as the capital of Equatorial Guinea.

ANSWER: Djibloho – **Ciudad de la Paz** (accept **Oyala**)

(4) **This state's northern boundary is formed by the McMahon Line, and the Monpa and Tani people live in this state with its capital at Itanagar. This state's Tawang Monastery is the world's second largest monastery, and was the initial site of the (+) Dalai Lama's refuge before he fled to Tezpur. This state is the largest of the Seven Sisters, and the Brahmaputra widens at the southern border of this state between Myanmar and (*) Bhutan.** For ten points, name this state in far-northeastern India, claimed by China as "South Tibet."

ANSWER: **Arunachal** Pradesh

(5) **This mountain range has its apex at Mount Kirkpatrick, and its subranges include the Queen Alexandra Range, Prince Olav Mountains, and the Supporters Range. This mountain range has its eastern end in Victoria Land, and it also includes the (+) Queen Maud Mountains. The Filchner–Ronne Ice Shelf contains one end of this mountain range, ascended by a traverse from (*) McMurdo Station.** For ten points, name this mountain range which stretches across the world's southernmost continent, dividing it into eastern and western portions.

ANSWER: **Transantarctic** Mountains

(6) **In the context of ocean currents, this phenomenon leads to the Ekman spiral, which causes surface waters to move at an angle to the wind. This phenomenon explains the subtropical jet stream and the (+) Humboldt current's upwelling zone. Named for a 19th-century French scientist, this phenomenon causes objects to move rightward in the (*) Northern Hemisphere and leftward in the Southern Hemisphere. For ten points, name this fictitious force caused by the rotation of the earth.**

ANSWER: **Coriolis** effect (or **Coriolis** force)

(7) **Curecanti National Recreation Area is adjacent to this park, which is most developed near Blue Mesa Point and hosts boat tours from Pine Creek and Morrow Point. The primary feature of this park drops significantly at Chasm View, and was formed by runoff from the (+) Sawatch Range cutting through volcanic rock. This park's primary entrances are near Jackson and Montrose, and it received its name for getting less than an hour of (*) sunlight a day. For ten points, name this national park along a namesake river in Colorado.**

ANSWER: **Black Canyon** of the Gunnison National Park

(8) **This UNESCO World Heritage site includes distinct features named the Chimney Stacks, the Organ, and the Wishing Chair. Located along the Antrim Plateau, this site was formed by an ancient volcanic eruption around 60 million years ago, when the cooling of (+) lava created this formation's distinctive columnar jointing. This geological formation consists of approximately 40,000 interlocking basalt columns, most of which are (*) hexagonal in shape. For ten points, name this natural wonder on the northern coast of Ireland often associated with legends of Finn MacCool.**

ANSWER: **Giant's Causeway**

Extra Questions

(1) **A Maryland suburb was named for this material due to mica deposits in a spring. Massive deposits of this material were historically mined at Cerro Rico, and the settlement of (+) Virginia City was founded as a boomtown after this resource's discovery. This metal gives its name to Nevada's official state nickname, and it is found in places such as Comstock Lode and (*) Potosi. The Latin term for this metal is the namesake of Argentina. For ten points, name this precious metal known for its white color, used to make second-place Olympic medals.**

ANSWER: **Silver** (accept **Ag**)

BONUS: This Southeast Asian kingdom on the Gulf of Thailand is home to the cities of Siem Reap and Battambang, and a mostly Khmer population of 17 million.

ANSWER: Kingdom of **Cambodia** (or Preahreacheanachakr **Kampuchea**)

(2) **This sea, which receives the Pasig River and the Red River, includes ports such as Da Nang. This sea is the site of the controversial (+) "nine-dash line" which one country uses to claim the Spratly Islands, and this sea is home to the island of Hainan. This sea, into which the Indochina (*)** Peninsula juts out, contains the Mekong Delta. For ten points, name this sea situated between the Philippines, Vietnam, and a namesake Asian country.

ANSWER: **South China** Sea

BONUS: This ancient city, constructed as an estate by Pachacuti, overlooks the "Sacred Valley" and is situated in the southeastern part of Peru.

ANSWER: **Machu Picchu**