

National U.S. Geography Bee – Finals (3rd-5th)

Regulation Tossups

(1) **This tallest peak in Pisgah National Forest is named after a flagship university professor who died while summiting it. This peak names the first state park in the (+) American Southeast, as well as the first in (*) North Carolina.** For the points, identify this highest peak in the United States located east of the Mississippi.

ANSWER: Mount **Mitchell**

(2) **Withdrawals from this feature led to the cancellation of the artificial Optima Lake along the Beaver River in Oklahoma. Center pivot irrigation (+) from this feature, which is in eight states, revitalized agriculture in one region (*) following the Dust Bowl.** For the points, name this major source of groundwater for much of the Great Plains.

ANSWER: **Ogallala** Aquifer (accept **Ogallala** Formation)

(3) **This river, which is known as the Staunton above a certain boundary, enters the Albermarle Sound at Batchelor Bay. The headwaters of this river are at (+) Lafayette in Montgomery County, and this river joins the Dan River north of the (*) Virginia-North Carolina boundary.** For the point, identify this major Southeastern U.S. river which shares its name with a lost colony based in Dare County.

ANSWER: **Roanoke** [[roh-AH-nohk]] River

(4) **This geographic feature marked the upper extent of salmon migration on a certain tributary of the Columbia River. This waterfall, the "Niagara of the West," (+) lies near the city of Twin Falls and is situated on the (*) Snake River.** For the points, name this waterfall in southern Idaho, named for a Native American tribe whose members included Sacagawea.

ANSWER: **Shoshone** Falls

(5) **This facility is surrounded by a "Cactus Curtain" of prickly pears, and this facility is surrounded by 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)

(6) **This city's George Eastman Museum contains the world's oldest photo collection and was named for Kodak's founder. Xerox (+) was founded in this city, which shares its name with a Minnesota city home to the Mayo Clinic. (*)** For the points, name this city in upstate New York, west of Syracuse and east of Buffalo.

ANSWER: **Rochester**

(7) **This lake's Herbert Hoover Dike was constructed after the 1928 San Felipe Segundo Hurricane. This lake, which is fed by the Kissimmee River. (+)** contains the meeting point of five counties, including Martin, Henry, and Glades Counties. (*) For the points, identify this largest lake in Florida and the southern U.S.

ANSWER: Lake **Okeechobee**

(8) **This landmark in Morrill County contains the Ethel and Christopher J. Abbot Visitor Center. This landmark in the American West, which is composed mostly of Brule clay (+) and Arikaree sandstone, was a key stop on the Oregon Trail. Overlooking the Platte River, (*)** for the points, what is this tall rock formation in western Nebraska?

ANSWER: **Chimney Rock** National Historical Site

(9) **This mountain range does not include the nearby Taconic Mountains, but it is technically a continuation of The Berkshires. The highest peak in this range is Mount (+)** Mansfield, and its namesake “Boys” fought alongside Ethan Allen in the Revolutionary War. (*) For the points, name this major mountain range of Vermont.

ANSWER: **Green** Mountains

(10) **Landslides caused by Hurricane Helene in September 2024 closed sections of I-26 and I-40 around this mountainous Southern city, where authors O. Henry and Thomas Wolfe are buried in (+)** Riverside Cemetery. This city in the Appalachian Mountains is home to the largest (*) privately owned residence in the U.S. For the points, identify this North Carolina city, the home of Biltmore estate.

ANSWER: **Asheville**

(11) **A Marriott Marquis hotel in this city was a filming location for the *Hunger Games* series. A Hilton in this city contains the last tiki-themed Trader Vic's restaurant in the U.S. outside of (+)** California, and a motel in this city was the plaintiff in a 1964 Supreme Court case. (*) For the points, name this city where skyscraper hotels can be found in the Peachtree Center district.

ANSWER: **Atlanta** (accept *Heart of Atlanta Motel, Inc. v. United States*)

(12) **John McPhee wrote a 1967 ecological and historical book about this region, whose highest point is Apple Pie Hill. This region includes the Bass River (+)** State Forest, as well as the Wharton State Forest. (*) For the points, name this forested region of southern New Jersey, which is said to be home to the Jersey Devil.

ANSWER: **Pine Barrens** (or **Pinelands**; or **Pineys**; prompt on “New Jersey” until mentioned)

(13) **This city hosts the shareholder meetings of the world's largest company by revenue. This city contains the Donald W. Reynolds (+) Razorback Stadium, (+)** and this city is the largest city on the southern side of the Ozarks. (*) For the points, name this second-largest city of Arkansas after Little Rock.

ANSWER: **Fayetteville**

(14) **This mountain is known as "Great Mountain" to the Penobscot. This mountain is the northernmost mountain in the eastern U.S. (+) to stand over 4,000 feet tall. The New England-Acadian forests ecoregion contains, (*)** for the points, what highest mountain in Maine, the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail?

ANSWER: Mount **Katahdin** (accept **Baxter** Peak before mentioned)

(15) **This bridge, which had the longest continuous truss bridge span on the U.S. East Coast, was formerly crossed the Patapsco River. This bridge briefly passed through Anne (+) Arundel County, and, after the MV *Dali* crashed into it, traffic on the Fort (*) McHenry Tunnel has increased.** For the points, name this Baltimore bridge which partially collapsed in 2024 and was named for the writer of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

ANSWER: Francis Scott **Key** Bridge (prompt on "Baltimore Bridge" or similar answers)

(16) **Hidden Lake can be accessed from this park's Logan Pass, which is the highest point of Going-to-the-Sun Road. An International Peace Park (+) is formed by this park and Alberta's Waterton Lakes National Park. (*)** For the points, identify this national park in Montana whose namesake icy landforms are gradually retreating.

ANSWER: **Glacier** National Park

(17) **This river's mouth empties at Whiskey Island near Edgewater Park. The cities of Kent and Akron (+) are located along this river, which caught fire over (*) 13 times, most infamously in 1969.** For the points, name this river which flows through Cleveland and empties into Lake Erie.

ANSWER: **Cuyahoga** [[KY-uh-HOH-guh]] River

(18) **This bay extends to Mount Hope Bay, across from the city of Bristol. This bay lies to the north of Block (+) Island, and this bay's dominance of its state's (+) geography has led that state to be nicknamed the "Ocean State." Warwick and Newport are on the shores of, (*)** for the points, what major bay of Rhode Island?

ANSWER: **Narragansett** Bay

(19) **This city is rounded by Auke Bay, and it is separated from Douglas Island by the Gastineau Channel. Due to the nearby (+) Boundary Ranges, this state capital is the only one for which no roads connect it to the rest of its state, with travel being available only by (*) plane and ship.** For the points, name this capital city of Alaska.

ANSWER: **Juneau**

(20) **This county is home to The Breakers, a historic hotel established by Henry Flagler. Jupiter is situated in this county, and Boca Raton (+) lies on its border with Broward County. (*)** For the points, name this northernmost county in the Miami metropolitan area, the wealthiest county in Florida, named for a type of tree.

ANSWER: **Palm Beach** County

(21) **This city's Ottawa Street Power Station was repurposed into the headquarters of the Accident Fund insurance company. Not including the three of 50 that are independent cities, this city, which is primarily in (+) Eaton County, is the only state capital that is not also a county seat. (*)** For the points, name this Midwestern capital in south central Michigan.

ANSWER: **Lansing**

(22) **One of these features in the U.S. shares a name with the smallest tectonic plate, and is the main outlet of the Salish Sea into the Pacific Ocean. (+) A large example of these features separates Florida from Cuba, while another, the Narrows, splits Staten Island and (*)** For the points, give this term for a body of water connecting two larger bodies of water between land.

ANSWER: **Strait** (accept **Strait** of Juan de Fuca; accept Florida **Strait**; prompt on "Kill")

(23) **This university is home to the oldest academic building in the United States, the Christopher Wren Building. This university's central quad, the Sunken Gardens. (+) was installed by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression. (*)** For the points, identify this second-oldest American college, which is located next to Colonial Williamsburg in southeastern Virginia.

ANSWER: College of **William & Mary**

(24) **This system's Embarcadero station is its busiest, which it shares with the Muni Metro. This system set a one-day ridership record of over 500,000 (+) on Halloween of 2012, due in part to a World Series championship parade for the (*) Giants. For the points, name this main public transportation system of San Francisco that shares its name with a character from *The Simpsons*.**

ANSWER: **BART** (or **Bay Area Rapid Transit**)

(25) **This river passes near the Civil War battle sites of Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg. (+) George Washington's childhood home overlooks this river, over which he is said to have thrown a silver dollar. (*)** For the points, name this river, which separates Virginia's Middle Peninsula from the Northern Neck.

ANSWER: **Rappahannock** River

(26) **This feature's southernmost extent is Laguna Salada, Mexico's lowest point. Tribes such as the Ute [[YOOT]] and Mono inhabit this feature, (+) with borders formed by the Columbia and Colorado catchment areas. (*)** For the points, name this largest endorheic watershed in North America, which includes the Great Salt Lake.

ANSWER: **Great Basin** (or **Gran Cuenca**)

(27) **This National Park contains Mount Owen, as well as part of the Snake River. The ski resort town of Jackson (+) Hole is a gateway to this national park, which is south of Yellowstone. (*)** For the points, name this national park in northwestern Wyoming, named for a nearby mountain

ANSWER: **Grand Teton** National Park (prompt on "Teton")

(28) **This waterway is impounded by the Kinzua Dam. At Point State Park, within the largest city in Appalachia, this waterway meets another, nicknamed “the Mon.” (+) and both merge with the Ohio River. (*)** For the points, identify this waterway which, alongside the Monongahela and Ohio, inspired the name of the former Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh.

ANSWER: **Allegheny** River

(29) **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.** For the points, what Connecticut city contains Yale University?

ANSWER: **New Haven**

(30) **This city’s neighborhood of Munjoy Hill contains Fort Allen Park. This city, which is named for the southernmost isle of Dorset, named another city (+) at the end of the Willamette River after a coin toss. (*)** For the points, name this largest city of Maine that also names the largest city in Oregon.

ANSWER: **Portland**

Extra Questions

(1) **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**

(2) **This highway, which largely follows the route of the Lincoln Highway, parallels the Platte River, and part of it is nicknamed the Keystone (+) Shortway. This highway traverses Nevada, Utah, and Nebraska. (*)** For the points, name this cross-country highway running from San Francisco to New Jersey, the second-northernmost and second-longest transcontinental interstate behind I-90.

ANSWER: Interstate **80** (or I-**80**)