

# National U.S. Geography Bee – Semifinals (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)

---

## Regulation Tossups

(1) **This island comprises the bulk of Dukes County, excluding the Elizabeth Islands that separate it from Cape Cod. Barack Obama hosted a controversial 60th birthday party in this island's city of (+) Edgartown, where a peninsula called Chappaquiddick was the site of a car accident caused by Ted Kennedy. (\*)** For the points, name this Massachusetts island west of Nantucket and south of Cape Cod, whose name hints towards its wine industry.

ANSWER: **Martha's Vineyard** (prompt on partial answers)

(2) **A park situated on the Knik Arm is dedicated to this disaster, which completely destroyed the village of Chenega. The city of (+) Valdez was relocated after this disaster, which forced the rebuilding of the Seward Highway. This disaster originated from a mega thrust on the (\*) Aleutian Trench.** For the points, name this strongest earthquake in U.S. history, which severely damaged Anchorage.

ANSWER: **1964 Alaska** earthquake (or **Good Friday** earthquake; prompt on "earthquake")

(3) **This park's Cadillac Mountain is the highest peak on the nation's Atlantic coastline. This national park was formerly known as Sieur de Monts (+) National Monument. This national park on Mount Desert Island surrounds Bar Harbor and is the site of the earliest (\*) sunrise in the continental United States.** For the points, name this only national park in Maine.

ANSWER: **Acadia** National Park

(4) **Proximity to the Wilson Dam on the Tennessee River allowed this city to become the first to purchase power from the Tennessee Valley Authority. One of the most famous attractions in this city is a modest, two-room, white-sided house (+) that now operates as the Elvis Presley birthplace and museum. (\*)** For the points, name this seat of Lee County, a major industrial and cultural hub of northeast Mississippi.

ANSWER: **Tupelo**

(5) **This town is known for its hedge funds, such as AQR Capital, as it is part of the affluent "Gold Coast" region. This town within Fairfield County (+) is sandwiched between Stamford and Westchester County, and it is the end of a panhandle forming the (\*) westernmost extent of New England.** For the points, name this southernmost town of Connecticut, which is named for a London borough.

ANSWER: **Greenwich** [[GREH-nitch]]

(6) **One of these features called Muirfield was named for a ship that accidentally struck it. One of these features named Lō'ihi will become the ninth member of the (+) Hawaiian archipelago, which forms a chain with a collection of these features named Emperor. (\*)** For the points, name these features that rise from the ocean floor but do not breach the surface, often formed from volcanoes.

ANSWER: **seamounts** (prompt on "underwater plateaus;" prompt on "underwater volcanoes" before "volcanoes" is mentioned)

(7) **This person's purchase of houses alongside Carbon Beach has led to it being nicknamed "Billionaire's Beach." This person, who transformed a former pineapple plantation at Manele Bay, (+) purchased the sixth largest island of Hawaii to turn it into a "laboratory of sustainability." (\*)** For the points, name this founder of Oracle, who owns the majority of the island of Lanai.

ANSWER: Larry **Ellison** (or Lawrence Joseph **Ellison**)

(8) **This city hosts the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, and this seat of Natrona County lies near the Salt Creek Oil Field. This city was the site of the Battle of Platte Bridge, and it lies at the northernmost end of the (+) Laramie Mountains. This hometown of the Cheney family is situated 19 miles from the (\*) Teapot Dome formation.** For the points, name this second-largest city of Wyoming, lying 140 miles northwest of Cheyenne.

ANSWER: **Casper**

(9) **This archipelago's two portions are often nicknamed "Tomorrow Island" and "Yesterday Island," and are said to be bisected by the "Ice Curtain." This (+) archipelago lies at the southernmost extent of the Chukchi Sea. The International Date Line runs through, (\*)** for the points, what archipelago in the Bering Strait, which consists of a pair of islands split between Alaska and Russia?

ANSWER: **Diomede** Islands (or the **Diomedes**; accept **Gvozdev** Islands)

(10) **This community has the highest concentration of veteran residents outside of a U.S. military base. This community, which is home to the largest indoor pickleball stadium in (+) Florida, lies 20 miles south of Ocala and forms the northwestern-most part of the (\*)** Orlando metropolitan area. For the points, name this largest retirement community in the world, situated in Central Florida.

ANSWER: The **Villages**

(11) **This river has its mouth near Prophetstown State Park. This river's shores were the site of a battle during Tecumseh's War, (+) which gave fame to a man who would later use its name in a slogan that also referenced (\*)** John Tyler. For the points, name this river in Indiana, which lent its name to a nickname used by William Henry Harrison.

ANSWER: **Tippecanoe** River (accept Battle of **Tippecanoe**, accept "**Tippecanoe** and Tyler Too")

(12) **This island contains the "Jurassic Falls" used in the 1993 dinosaur movie. This island, home to thousands of feral chickens called *moa*, includes the Nā Pali Coast (+) and the so-called "Grand Canyon of the Pacific," Waimea. Lihue is the seat of this island's namesake county, the westernmost in the US, which also contains (\*)** Niihau. For the points, name this fourth-largest Hawaiian Island.

ANSWER: **Kaua'i**

(13) **This park administers the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site near the town of Wall. Red Shirt Table is the highest peak in this park, which preserves the largest undisturbed mixed grass prairie in the U.S., and the South Unit of this park is co-managed by the Oglala (\*)** Lakota tribe. Rapid City is the closest city to, for the points, what national park in South Dakota?

ANSWER: **Badlands** National Park

(14) **Riverhead is this county's seat and lies at the western end of Peconic Bay, which separates two "forks." This county's town of Sagaponack contains the most expensive (+) ZIP code on the East Coast. Fire Island, Montauk, and the Hamptons are administered by, (\*)** for the points, what easternmost county of New York, which encompasses the majority of Long Island?

ANSWER: **Suffolk** County

(15) **This location, protected by the largest National Wildlife Refuge on the East Coast, is the source of the St. Marys River and the Suwannee River. The 2007 Bugaboo Fire (+) in this location blanketed the city of Jacksonville in smoke. The largest blackwater swamp in North America is formed by, (\*)** for the points, what swamp, situated on the border between Florida and Georgia?

ANSWER: **Okefenokee** Swamp

(16) **This island, which is accessible via ferry from St Ignace, contains M-185, the only state highway in the U.S. which bans motor vehicles. This island, known for its (+) fudge, is nicknamed the "jewel of the Great Lakes" (\*)** and sits at the western end of Lake Huron. For the points, identify this vacation island, which is named for a strait which is named for a strait that connects to Lake Michigan.

ANSWER: **Mackinac** [[MAH-kih-NAW]] Island (or Straits of **Mackinac**)

(17) **This river, whose tributaries include the Teanaway and Naches Rivers, forms a valley where the majority of American hops are grown. The mouth of this river and the (+) Snake River are located adjacent to Pasco, Richland, and Kennewick: the Tri-Cities. (\*)** For the points, name this tributary of the Columbia River which shares its name with a city in south-central Washington.

ANSWER: **Yakima** River

(18) **Historically, this city has had a large Czech immigrant population and is home to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. This city's Museum of Art (+) owns the largest collection of Grant Wood paintings in the world and is the site of the artist's (\*) boyhood home. For the points, name this city, the second-most populous in Iowa.**

ANSWER: **Cedar Rapids**

(19) **This city contains attractions like Barefoot Landing and Broadway by the Beach. This city, which forms an urban area with Surfside Beach and Pawleys Island, is the centerpiece of the (+) Grand Strand. This city, nicknamed the "Redneck Riviera," lies about halfway (\*) between Wilmington and Charleston. For the points, name this resort city on the northern coast of South Carolina.**

ANSWER: **Myrtle Beach**

(20) **This city is home to Hayden Butte [[BYOOT]], where a massive painted letter "A" has served as a backdrop to the Fiesta Bowl. This city's namesake Town Lake receives water from the Salt River. (+) Scottsdale, Chandler, and Mesa also border this city, which houses Sun Devil Stadium. Home to (\*) Arizona State University, for the points, what is this major suburb east of Phoenix?**

ANSWER: **Tempe** [[TEM-pee]] (or **Oidbad**; accept **Tempe** Town Lake)

(21) **Along with Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Seattle, this is the smallest of the four U.S. cities with active trolleybus systems. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is located east of (+) this city, which was the site of an agreement signed by Alija Izetbegović [[ah-LEE-yuh ee-zet-BEH-goh-VITCH]] and Slobodan Milošević [[mee-LOSH-seh-VITCH]]. (\*)** For the points, name this Ohio city in the Miami Valley which names a 1995 set of Accords that formally ended the Bosnian War.

ANSWER: **Dayton** (accept **Dayton** Accords)

(22) **The outflow of this lake includes the Rigolets Strait, which is visible from the I-Ten Twin Span Bridge and the Bonnet Carré Spillway, which was built after 1927 floods. This lake, which is crossed by the longest (+) continuous bridge over water in the world, was bounded by levees protecting the Lower Ninth Ward until they broke during (\*) Hurricane Katrina.** For the points, name this lake north of New Orleans.

ANSWER: Lake **Pontchartrain** (or Lac **Pontchartrain**)

(23) **This event's "last dash" starts at Unalakleet along the Norton Sound. This event's "restart" occurs at Willow in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough ever since it was relocated north from (+) Wasilla. This event follows the same route taken by a "serum run" which occurred in 1925 from the port of Seward, and this event has its (\*) eastern terminus in Nome.** For the points, name this sled dog race held in early March, which traverses Alaska.

ANSWER: **Iditarod** Trail Sled Dog Race

(24) **This mountain range contains a ski resort at Camelback Mountain and hosts an annual NASCAR race at Long Pond. This range's upland area includes the Delaware Water Gap (+) National Recreation Area and is part of Monroe, Pike, and Wayne Counties. (\*)** Big Pine Hill is the highest peak of, for the points, what mountainous region of Northeastern Pennsylvania?

ANSWER: **Pocono** Mountains (or the **Poconos**)

(25) **This national park's Rapidan Camp was built by Herbert Hoover. Harry Byrd built a shelter on Hawksbill Mountain, the highest peak of this national park, (+) which can be accessed from the Skyline Drive. This park in the Blue Ridge Mountains protects the (\*) longest tributary of the Potomac.** For the points, name this only national park in Virginia.

ANSWER: **Shenandoah** National Park

(26) **This city's Great American Ball Park is located near the John A. Roebling Suspension Bridge that connects this city to Covington. (+) This city's Over-the-Rhine district was named for German immigrants, and this city is the closest major city to the Miami Valley in one state's extreme (\*) southwest.** For the points, identify this third-largest city of Ohio after Columbus and Cleveland.

ANSWER: **Cincinnati**

(27) **The Empire Polo club is located in this valley's settlement of Indio, nicknamed "City of Festivals." This valley is connected to the San Gabriel (+) Valley via the San Gorgonio Pass and contains the resort of Palm Springs, (\*)** west of Joshua Tree National Park. For the points, name this valley which hosts a namesake music festival east of Los Angeles.

ANSWER: **Coachella** Valley (accept **Coachella** Valley Music and Arts Festival; accept Great **Palm Springs** until mentioned)

(28) **This city's museum district, known as The Museums at Washington and Chapin, includes the Studebaker National Museum. This city, which is named for a feature (+) along the St. Joseph River, is connected to Chicago by the South Shore Line. The University of (\*)** Notre Dame is located outside of, for the points, what city in northern Indiana?

ANSWER: **South Bend**

(29) **This bridge, the southwestern-most bridge operated by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, is the longest suspension bridge in the Americas (+) and crosses a strait called the Narrows. A misspelling of this bridge's namesake was only fixed in 2018 after an extra (\*) "Z" was added, and this bridge traverses New York Bay. For the points, name this bridge that links Staten Island to Brooklyn and is named for an Italian explorer.**

ANSWER: **Verrazzano**-Narrows Bridge

(30) **In addition to the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center, this place features a Mark and George Lundeen statue of Apollo 13 astronaut Jack Swigert. Artwork at this location such as the mural "In Peace and Harmony With Nature." (+) as well as a blue mustang statue with glowing red eyes have spawned multiple (\*)** conspiracy theories. For the points, name this major aviation hub at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, the main base of Frontier Airlines.

ANSWER: **Denver** International **Airport** (prompt on partial answers; accept **DEN**)

**Extra Questions**

(1) **This state's town of Picher was abandoned after massive piles of waste from lead-zinc mining, called chat, accumulated near the land of the Quapaw Nation. This state (+) was once known as the Indian Territory, and it contains the reservations of the (\*) Cherokee and Seminole people.** For the points, name this state home to Tulsa in the southern Great Plains.

ANSWER: **Oklahoma**

(2) **America's tallest ferris wheel, the High Roller, opened in this metropolitan area, where the Sphere is known for its massive wraparound LED screen. (+) In 2025, a Cybertruck exploded at the entrance to the (\*) Trump International Hotel in this metropolitan area, the site of the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history at the Mandalay Bay resort.** For the points, name this metropolitan area known for its gambling industry in southern Nevada.

ANSWER: Las **Vegas** (accept **Sin City**, **City of Lights**, or **Entertainment Capital of the World**)