

**2015 U.S. Geography Olympiad  
Finals - Round 6**

1. Along with coconut milk and spices, this foodstuff is fermented to produce a dish called tempoyak. Locals sometimes compare the shape of Singapore's Esplanade music hall to this foodstuff. Chantaburi No. 1, named for a Thai province that grows this foodstuff, is a genetically-engineered variant designed by Songpol Somsri to make it more palatable. In Chinese folk belief, this "heating" foodstuff is seen as complementary to the mangosteen, a so-called "queen" akin to this spiky-shelled "king of fruits." For the point, name this large tropical fruit, whose custard-like interior has a notoriously pungent smell that has made this fruit prohibited on subways in Singapore.

ANSWER: **durian** fruit [or *Durio*] <MJ> {III}

2. These events marked the beginning of the Akhet period in a three-period cycle. Elephantine Island contains a staircase-like structure used to analyze these events. These events, which coincided with the rising of Sirius just before sunrise, were represented by the god Hapi. The natural cycle of these events ended in the early 1970s due to the construction of a dam. For the point, what event, which marked the beginning of a new year for an ancient culture, brought large amounts of silt to the banks of the world's longest river?

ANSWER: **flooding** of the **Nile** River [accept equivalents for "flooding"] <KG> {III}

3. This island's hamlet of Newchurch has been referred to as the garlic capital of Europe. This island's west coast is home to white chalk formations called The Needles, and a stone medieval lighthouse known as "Pepperpot" is found near its southernmost extremity, St. Catherine's Point. Military Road runs through an isolated rural region called "the back of" this island. Ferries across a strait known as the Solent connect this island to nearby Hampshire and Portsmouth. It hosted a 1970 music festival which drew more attendees than Woodstock. For the point, name this island located 4 miles off the southern coast of England.

ANSWER: **Isle** of **Wight** <BA> {III}

4. A 2008 drought allowed the cleanup of thousands of tires dumped near this lake's Kreamer Island. It is enclosed by the Herbert Hoover Dike, which was built by the Army Corps of Engineers after a 1928 event named for this lake caused over one thousand deaths. Janie Crawford and Tea Cake live around this lake in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. This lake is fed by the Kissimmee River, which was canalized in the 1960s, causing great ecological distress to the Everglades. For the point, name this large lake in southern Florida.

ANSWER: Lake **Okeechobee** <EA> {III}

5. Members of this ethnicity wrote holy books called the Black Book and a non-Christian Book of Revelation. Members of this ethnic group are expected to make a pilgrimage to the city of Lalish at least once. Du'a Khalil Aswad was stoned to death by people of this ethnicity, prompting the 2007 Mosul massacre. This ethnicity believes that God gave guardianship of the world to the Seven Mysteries, whose number includes the "Peacock Angel." In 2014, people of this ethnicity were trapped on Mount Sinjar by ISIS, who has also forced women of this ethnic group into sexual slavery. For the point, name this ethnic group found primarily in the north of Iraq.

ANSWER: **Yazidis** [or **Yazdani**; or **Ezidi**] <CKM> {III}

6. This location within a larger city was formerly home to the Café Josty and the Hotel Esplanade. This location was the site of the first known traffic light in Europe. A wartime fire destroyed a massive eatery and cinema called the Fatherland House at this location, which is now home to the Helmut Jahn designed Sony Center complex. Renzo Piano led the 1992 project to redesign this location, which lies adjacent to the Leipziger Platz. For the point, name this famous plaza and traffic intersection located in downtown Berlin, which shares its name with a city where a post-Yalta 1945 conference was held.

ANSWER: **Potsdamer Platz** [or **Potsdam Square**; prompt on **Berlin** before mention] <CKM> {III}

7. Since agreeing to a border treaty in 1881, both of these non-Greek nations have claimed Navarino Island. Control of Dungeness Point and Cape Holy Spirit give the eastern of these two countries full control over a key water passage. A last minute intervention by Pope John Paul II prevented these two nations from going to war in 1978 over Lennox, Picton, and Nueva: three islands in the Beagle Channel. Most of their shared border lays along the Cordillera of the Andes. For the point, name these South American nations that share Tierra del Fuego.

ANSWER: **Argentina** and **Chile** [or **Argentine Republic** and Republic of **Chile**] <BA> {III}

8. A marathon named for this mountain starts in Manitou Springs. A flat area to the east of this mountain is named Devil's Playground for the way lightning jumps from rock to rock there. The namesake of this mountain died leading American forces at the Battle of York during the War of 1812. Participants in a gold rush named for it were known as fifty-niners and frequently used the slogan "this mountain or Bust." For the point, name this mountain named for the U.S. explorer Zebulon, a fourteener in the Colorado Rockies.

ANSWER: **Pikes** Peak <EA> {III}

9. This country's flag depicts two overlapping palm fronds surrounded by a boar's tusk. A creole spoken in this incredibly linguistically-diverse place is known as Bislama. This non-African country was jointly ruled by the British and French until its 1980 independence. Cyclone Pam directly hit this country in March 2015. Some residents of this country's Tanna Island worship John Frum in an oft-cited example of a cargo cult. Like nearby New Caledonia, this country originally had a Scottish-inspired name. New Hebrides was the former name of, for the point, what Pacific island country run from Port Vila?

ANSWER: Republic of **Vanuatu** <KG> {III}

10. When this route first opened, its western terminus was the borough of Irwin. A 1968 reconstruction of this route bypassed Rays Hill and Sideling Hill. It originally used six tunnels built by William Vanderbilt in a failed attempt to compete with the builders of the Horseshoe Curve. This road's old Exit 6 features an unusual connection to Interstate 70 along local roads. Breezewood is found along this road, which was America's first long-distance limited-access highway when it opened in 1940. For the point, what Mid-Atlantic toll road, now part of I-76, has a Northeast Extension to Scranton?

ANSWER: **Pennsylvania Turnpike** <CW> {III}

11. The top floor of this skyscraper is home to a VIP club so exclusive that no pictures of it were released until 10 years after it was built. This building casts a shadow onto East Park, making it the world's tallest sundial. Fireworks are launched from this building during its nation's New Years Eve celebrations, and its torch-like spire changes color based on the day of the week. This building is intended to resemble a pagoda. At its 2004 completion, it was the tallest in the world, but it has since been surpassed by the Burj Khalifa. For the point, name this skyscraper in Taiwan's capital.

ANSWER: **Taipei 101** [or **Taipei World Financial Center**] <BA> {III}

12. This desert's Dune 45 is claimed to be the most photographed dune in the world. Tourists generally enter this desert through the "Sesrium Gate" and frequently traverse it on a sixty kilometer road to Sossuvlei. Along with the Kaokoveld desert to its north, this desert is the only home of a botanically unique shrub called the welwitschia. The Kuiseb River passes through this desert, although much of its water has been drained to provide water for the towns of Swakopmund and Walvis Bay. For the point, name this desert which occupies the Atlantic coasts of Angola, South Africa, and its namesake country.

ANSWER: **Namib** Desert <EA> {III}

13. A chronicler from this city authored a “History of Deeds Done Beyond the Sea” between 1170 and 1184. The Necropolis of Al Bass is located in this city, which also contains a massive Roman Hippodrome. Ancient people from this city worshipped a tutelary deity named Melqart. Alexander the Great built a causeway to besiege this city in 332 BCE, after which he slaughtered most of its citizens. Crushed *Murex* shells are used to create a purple dye named for this city, which replaced Byblos as the capital of Phoenicia. For the point, name this city in modern day Lebanon located on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea.

ANSWER: **Tyre**, Lebanon <CKM> {III}

14. The language of these people was studied by Lorenzo Dow Turner. These people still engage in a ritual known as "ring shouting." The stories of these non-Cherokee people inspired Joel Chandler Harris's *Tales of Uncle Remus*. The song "Michael Row the Boat Ashore" originates from these people, who originally worked on indigo and rice plantations. The title of "Kum Ba Yah" derives from the dialect of English spoken by these people. For the point, name this African-related culture that lives on the Sea Islands of Georgia and South Carolina.

ANSWER: **Gullah** people [or **Geechee**; prompt on **African-Americans**] <KG> {III}

15. The Hebrew word now believed to refer to this animal – re'em – was mistranslated as “unicorn” in the King James Bible. The Heck brothers of Germany attempted to bring this animal back from extinction. This animal appears on the coat of arms of Moldova, out of a belief that its founders followed one of these animals there. Cave paintings indicate that this animal was chestnut brown and had massive, forward-facing horns. The last of these animals died in Poland in 1627. For the point, name this extinct wild cattle, the ancestor of domestic cows.

ANSWER: **aurochs** [or **urus**, or **ure**, or **Bos primigenius**] <BA> {III}

16. Edward Herbert Thompson found several jade artifacts inside one of these objects at Chichen Itza. One of these objects was formed after Tropical Storm Agatha hit Guatemala City in 2010. In 2014, one of them destroyed the National Corvette Museum in Kentucky. Mayans threw sacrificial objects into these formations, which are known as *cenotes* in the Yucatan. In urban environments, they may be formed by failures of underground water systems. For the point, name these large depressions that form when the Earth's surface collapses.

ANSWER: **sinkholes** <KG> {III}

17. Leonidas Merritt was among a set of seven brothers who discovered large stores of this resource. The Hib Tac company, which produces this good, is named for the boom town of Hibbing which processed it. A large band of this commodity runs *under* Lake Superior in an arc running east from the Mesabi range, where most of its American output is mined in northern Minnesota. Ores containing this non-carbon element were produced at Scotia, Pennsylvania, for industrial titan Andrew Carnegie. For the point, name this metal often mined in the ores taconite and hematite, the most represented element in steel.

ANSWER: **iron** ore <MJ> {III}

18. A child holds one of these objects in a Children's Peace Monument that honors the victims of the atomic bomb. These objects are depicted on Yukiko's kerchief in a Yasunari Kawabata novel. Eleanor Coerr wrote about the story of a leukemia sufferer named Sadako who made these objects while at a hospital. According to a Japanese legend, anyone can have their wish granted by making a thousand of these objects. For the point, name these common origami creations, which resemble long-necked birds.

ANSWER: paper **cranes** [or **orizuru**; prompt on **origami** animals] <KG> {III}

19. This city was connected to a southern city via the "Mad River Road." In this city, saloonkeeper James Ritty invented an early cash register known as the "Incorruptible Cashier." It was known as the "Gem City," a phrase used in the poetry of hometown author Paul Laurence Dunbar. After a massive 1913 flood in this city, the Miami Conservancy District was created to manage the Great Miami River. This city hosts the "First Four" play-in games for the NCAA men's basketball tournament. For the point, name this Ohio city which contains the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

ANSWER: **Dayton**, Ohio <MC> {II}

20. On the first globe to depict this hypothetical place, Johannes Schoner called it "recently discovered but not yet fully known." A northerly part of this place was named after a mistranscription of Locach from Marco Polo's writings, leading that section of it to be called the Beach Province. A book titled for "A Voyage to [this place]" was published by Matthew Flinders; later, this hypothetical place's name inspired the name of the real continent Flinders had explored. For the point, what hypothetical landmass was thought by cartographers to balance out the amount of land in the northern and southern hemispheres?

ANSWER: **Terra Australis** [do not accept "Australia" at any point] <JL> {III}

21. Several grand hotels built to complement this project became the start of the Fairmont luxury hotel chain. This project was built by a company co-founded by Lord Strathcona. It went through Kicking Horse Pass and Roger's Pass, and its chief engineer, Sandford Fleming, was a formulator of the system of time zones. This project was finished at Craigellachie, British Columbia where its Last Spike was driven. For the point, name this scandal-ridden nation-building project of John A. Macdonald which connected Vancouver to Montreal, Canada's first transcontinental railway.

ANSWER: **Canadian Pacific** Railway Limited [or **CPR**; or **CP** Rail; accept **Canadian transcontinental** railroad and other similar answers before "transcontinental" is read; do not accept "Canadian National Railway"] <PL> {III}

22. An attraction in this city consists of several stones arranged in the shape of a QWERTY keyboard. A brief 1979 anthrax outbreak, whose casualties were blamed on tainted meat, started at a military facility in this city. This city hosted the first summit of the BRIC economic bloc. Francis Gary Powers's U-2 plane was shot down over this city, which was named for Yakov Sverdlov during the Soviet era. Boris Yeltsin ordered the demolition of this city's Ipatiev House, which was the site of the 1917 execution of the Romanovs. For the point, name this fourth-largest city in Russia, which is named after a "great" empress.

ANSWER: **Yekaterinburg**, Russia [or **Ekaterinburg**; or **Sverdlovsk** until "Sverdlov" is read] <KG> {III}

23. Tepe Yahya in modern-day Iran was a center for trading this material. A headless statue made of this material depicts Iddi-Ilum and dates back to the 21st century BCE. Many small towns in Brazil's state of Minas Gerais produce sculptures made of this material. Eight sculptures of birds made of this material were discovered in an early Shona settlement. A figurine made of this material is the national symbol of Zimbabwe. This material constitutes the outside layer of the statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro. For the point, name this metamorphic mineral mostly made of talc.

ANSWER: **soapstone** [or **steatite**; prompt on **talc** until it is read] <KG> {III}

24. A Woody Guthrie song asks this river to "roll on." Maya Lin designed a park to commemorate this river's Celilo Falls, which were lost after the 1957 construction of the Dalles Dam. Klickitat legend tells of an ancient natural dam of this river called The Bridge of the Gods, which today lends its name to a bridge near North Bonneville. A major New Deal project created Lake Roosevelt by constructing the Grand Coulee Dam over this river. For the point, name this river which starts in Canada and provides much of the border between Washington and Oregon.

ANSWER: **Columbia** River <EA> {III}

25. This region's high numbers of apple orchards has led one hiking path in it to be dubbed the "Apple Pie Trek." Despite being nowhere near Jamaica, this unofficial region contains the Bob Marley Hotel in the city of Muktinath. The Kali Gandaki gorge separates this region from Dhaulagiri. Maurice Herzog wrote a bestselling account of the first ascent of the mountain from which this region gets its name. For the point, name this unofficial region of western Nepal, which contains and shares its name with the deadliest mountain above eight thousand meters in height.

ANSWER: **Annapurna** [or **Annapurna** I; or **Western** Region of Nepal until "western" is read; prompt on **Nepal** until it is read] <DW> {III}

26. A monument to the Cold War arms race in this state is known as the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site. The town of Lead (pr. "led") in this state was a destination for Croatian immigrants in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century while motorcyclists flock to a rally in this state's town of Sturgis each summer. A sculptor with the first name Lincoln completed his father's plans for a monument in this state made out of granite near Keystone. For the point, name this state where Native Americans of the Black Hills opposed the carving of Gutzon Borglum's presidential monument at Mount Rushmore.

ANSWER: **South Dakota** <DW> {III}

27. A university in this present-day city claims to be the successor to the Albertina. An island in this city, which was converted to a sculpture park and memorial in the 1970s, was formerly called Kneiphof. A set of structures in the predecessor to this city, spanning the Pregolya River, inspired a paper on graph theory by Leonhard Euler. A museum over the grave of philosopher Immanuel Kant is found in this city, which changed its name after losing two of its seven bridges in World War II. For the point, what city formerly known as Konigsberg is now the capital of an ice-free Russian exclave on the Baltic Sea?

ANSWER: **Kaliningrad**, Russia [prompt on "Konigsberg"] <CW> {III}

28. This country carried out a mass execution in a soccer stadium by soldiers wearing Santa Claus costumes. This country dumps most of its toxic waste on the island of Annobon. This home country of the Zafiro oil field was once ruled by the notoriously violent Francisco Macias Nguema. Like the Philippines and Spain itself, this country's Spanish speakers still use the pronoun "vosotros." Although most of its landmass comprises of Rio Muni on the mainland, this country's island of Bioko contains its capital, Malabo. For the point, name this small African country whose name derives from its position near zero degrees latitude.

ANSWER: Republic of **Equatorial Guinea** [or Republica de **Guinea Ecuatorial**; do not accept just "Guinea"] <KG> {III}

29. This island's Arikok National Park is home to houses built in the cas di torto style, as well as some Arawak cave paintings. This island's separatist movement was advanced by Betico Croes. Joran van der Sloot, who was convicted of a murder in Peru, is also the prime suspect behind Natalee Holloway's 2010 disappearance from this island. Like Sint Eustatius, this island's capital is named Oranjestad. This island is often grouped with Bonaire and Curacao. For the point, name this Dutch Caribbean possession, the "A" of the "ABC Islands."

ANSWER: **Aruba** <KG> {III}

30. Scraps of this product are known as "blocker waste." This product's source is, along with holm, the main tree in a savannah-like ecosystem known in one country as dehesa. The best grade of this material is amadia, and it is harvested every nine years with hand axes. Its montado forests are strictly protected in Portugal, its main exporter. It is rich in waxy, waterproof suberin, and Robert Hooke identified the cell from putting a sample of this material under a microscope. For the point, what bark, harvested from its namesake oak trees, is commonly used to make wine stoppers?

ANSWER: **cork** <CW> {III}

31. A cave in this country is home to baseball-sized calcite pearls. A delta region in this country is where the art of water puppetry originated. The largest cave in the world is in this country and was undiscovered until 1991. Two rocks said to be "kissing" and other examples of karst topography are found in this country's Ha Long Bay. Much of this country's forests were damaged by Operation Ranch Hand, which used herbicides such as Agent Orange. For the point, name this country home to the Mekong River delta and most of Indochina's coastline.

ANSWER: Socialist Republic of **Vietnam** <KG> {III}

32. In a Gilbert and Sullivan opera, two possible heirs to the Kingdom of Barataria make a career operating these vehicles after being mixed up at birth. These vehicles are traditionally constructed with eight types of wood and most include a five or six-pronged prow. These vehicles were frequently painted by Canaletto (**pr. "KAH-nuh-LET-toe"**). The barcarolle is descended from the songs traditionally sung by operators of these vehicles. These flat-bottomed boats are punted by long oars and chiefly used to carry tourists through the Grand Canal. For the point, name this traditional passenger boat of Venice.

ANSWER: **gondolas** <EA> {III}

33. This river runs through the Imeri Mountains, which contain Mt. Neblina. A major tributary of this river is the Rio Branco, for which a law freeing slaves was named. This specific river is at the south end of the Casiquiare Canal, which connects it to the Orinoco. At the Meeting of the Waters, this river, whose water has an average pH of 3.5 and a color determined largely by humic acid, merges with the much lighter water of its parent of pH 7; that convergence at Manaus creates the largest freshwater discharge in the world. For the point, name this largest left tributary of the Amazon, whose water actually is quite dark.

ANSWER: Rio **Negro** [or **Guainia** River, do not accept or prompt on Amazon at any point] <BA> {III}

34. The town of Bonwire (pr. **bohn-WEE-reh**) is largely dedicated to this art form, which it sells to tourists. According to legend, this art form began with two brothers from Bonwire plucked fibers from a raffia tree after observing a spider web. Different designs in this ethnically-Akan art form include a roughly bow tie-shaped gold pattern on a black background, representing the Golden Stool. Table settings for Kwanzaa are often based on this art form. For the point, name this textile whose colors and geometric patterns have different meanings, which is woven in coastal West Africa.

ANSWER: **kente** cloth <MJ> {III}

35. In this national park, scuba divers can view a submerged summer village in Lake Minnewaka. This park's Bow Valley Parkway connects its two townsites; on that parkway is Johnston Canyon. A popular hiking trail in this park features a high-elevation teahouse on the shore of Lake Agnes. This park was originally founded at the hot springs of its Cave and Basin National Historical Site. It is adjacent to Yoho, Kootenay, and Jasper National Parks. A ski resort in this park is based at Lake Louise. For the point, name this national park in the Alberta Rockies, Canada's first.

ANSWER: **Banff** National Park <SH> {III}

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Extra Questions**

TB. *This neighborhood's Minton Playhouse hosted a series of pioneering jam sessions. Orson Welles directed a staging of *Macbeth* at this neighborhood's Lafayette Theater. The documentary *Waiting for "Superman"* documents the efforts of the educator Geoffrey Canada and his work on this place's "Children's Zone." In this neighborhood whose subdistricts include Striver's Row, Howard Sims used a hook to drag failed comics offstage at the Apollo Theater. Artist Jacob Lawrence was part of a cultural movement named for this neighborhood with Langston Hughes. For the point, name this historically black northern Manhattan neighborhood.*

ANSWER: **Harlem** <EA> {III}

TB. *Five tortoises, including one named "Mr. T," were brought from the Galapagos to this island group. Residents of this island group took up beekeeping and honey production to supplement their main source of revenue, stamp sales. In March 2015, the waters around this island group became the largest marine protected area in the world. Many of this island group's residents are Seventh-Day Adventists, largely thanks to the efforts of John Tay. This island group is the only British Overseas Territory in the Pacific Ocean. For the point, name this island group whose residents are descendants of the Bounty mutineers.*

ANSWER: **Pitcairn** Islands <KG> {III}

TB. *Graham Hancock theorizes that the buildings of this complex are meant to represent the constellation Draco. This complex's eastern and western ends contain large, rectangular reservoirs known as *barays*. A building in this complex contains five towers arranged in a cross shape. Visitors to this site often have to travel through Siem Reap. This site, which was meant to represent Mount Meru, was dedicated to Vishnu by Suryavarman II. For the point, name this Khmer complex whose most famous building appears on the flag of Cambodia.*

ANSWER: **Angkor** [accept **Angkor Wat** or **Angkor Thom**] <KG> {III}

TB. *Cormac McCarthy's literary character Suttree lives along this river in squalor.* A tributary of this river received media attention when the construction of the Tellico Dam threatened extinction of the snail darter fish. Two influential recording studios were located in Muscle Shoals, a town named for a rocky section of this river. Along with the Cumberland River, it was dammed dozens of times by a David Lilienthal-led New Deal agency. For the point, name this longest tributary of the Ohio River, which flows past Chattanooga and Knoxville in its namesake state.

ANSWER: **Tennessee** River <EA> {III}

TB. Mount Hope in Rochester was the first city-owned example of this phenomenon. The Egyptian Revival gate in one of these places was designed by its founder Dr. Jacob Bigelow. Forerunners to this movement, whose other examples include Oakwood in Syracuse and Laurel Hill in Philadelphia, were Capability Brown's designs in England and Pere Lachaise in Paris. The first of these, Mount Auburn outside of Boston, opened in 1831, and they served as the forerunner to the American park. For the point, name these Victorian-era landscaped burial grounds built on the outskirts of cities.

ANSWER: **rural cemeteries** [or **garden cemeteries**] <CW> {III}