

ROUND 1

2015 U.S. Geography Olympiad Varsity / JV Nationals – Quiz Bowl Tournament Round 1

1. Professor Jack Hyde's warnings of this event's likelihood were ignored. A man scoffed at this event by saying "it will take an Act of God and the Congress to move me out." That man was a lodge owner named Harry R. Truman who died at Spirit Lake in this event. This event killed *National Geographic* photographer Reid Blackburn as well as 12 million Chinook and Coho salmon fingerlings. Ten weeks of work in Yakima were needed to remove all of the ash it created. For the point, name this event, which on May 18, 1980, involved the eruption of a volcano in Washington.

ANSWER: Eruption of Mount **St. Helens** [or eruption of **Lawetlat'la**; or eruption of **Loowit**] <MC> {II}

2. Pagan rituals to the god Svantevit once occurred at Cape Arkona on the shores of this sea. A large sand dune called the Curonian Spit creates a substantial lagoon in this sea. Several Romantic artists took getaways to a resort island in this sea surrounded by chalk cliffs, called Rügen. At its narrowest point, this sea is south of two small channels called the Little Belt and the Great Belt, between the islands of Funen and Zealand. It is connected to the Atlantic via the Skagerrak. For the point, name this large sea of northern Europe.

ANSWER: **Baltic** Sea <BA> {II}

3. Land which was once part of this natural feature is served by the Emisor Central tunnel of the Deep Drainage System. An attempt to reconstruct part of this natural feature is named after Nabor Carillo. A levee was built in 1453 to separate fresh and brackish water in this largest of five interconnected endorheic (pr. **en-doe-REE-ick**) lakes. It was home to the endangered axolotl, and its chinampa farms eventually grew into an island which served as the capital for a Mesoamerican empire. For the point, what historic lake in the Valley of Mexico was home to the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan?

ANSWER: Lake **Texcoco** <CW> {II}

4. An environmental education center on this body of water is named for Lockerbie bombing victim Karen Noonan. In the 1800s, fishermen on this home bay of Smith and Tangier islands devised a type of boat called the skipjack. A 2012 stormwater remediation fee intended to protect this body of water has been nicknamed the “rain tax.” This large estuary, which is fed by the Susquehanna River, is home to a large blue crab population. For the point, what large bay is separated from the Atlantic Ocean by the Delmarva Peninsula?

ANSWER: **Chesapeake** Bay <CW> {II}

5. This city is home to a presidential residence called the House with Chimeras, named for the various animals depicted on its facade. A Polish coronation tradition derived from an incident in which Boleslaw the Brave chipped his sword on this city's Golden Gate. In 2014, this city elected former boxer Vitali Klitschko as its mayor. German soldiers massacred over 33,000 Jews in a ravine near this city called Babi Yar. The Euromaidan protests took place in, for the point, what capital of Ukraine?

ANSWER: **Kiev**, Ukraine [or **Kyiv**] <KG> {II}

6. The city of Swindon has the world's largest expatriate community from this island. In 2012 this island received an Official Statistician following the 2010 decision to build its first airport on Prosperous Bay. It is home to a Jacob's Ladder which connected a hilltop fort with its main port of Jamestown. Its Longwood House was, in 1815, converted to serve as a residence for its most famous prisoner. For the point, name this remote island in the South Atlantic where the British government permanently exiled Napoleon.

ANSWER: **Saint Helena** <DW> {II}

7. According to legend, American cliff swallows began to nest in one of these places from spring to fall after an angry innkeeper destroyed their mud nests. The Danish-themed town of Solvang developed around one of these places. These places were designed to be a day's walk apart, and many of them fed and educated Chumash populations. For the point, name these places which were connected by El Camino Real, and established by Father Junipero Serra in California for the purpose of Christianizing Native Americans.

ANSWER: Spanish **missions** in California <AG> {II}

8. The longest known tunnel from antiquity was an aqueduct that ended in this modern day country's city of Gedara. A long canyon whose name means "the Shaft," *al-Siq*, leads to former Nabataean capital in this country featuring tombs carved out of a cliff face. The city of Jerash is located in this country, whose only coastal city is Aqaba along a narrow gulf to its south. A place called *Al-Maghtas*, in this home country of the stone city Petra, marks the purported site of the baptism of Jesus. For the point, name this Middle East kingdom due east of Israel.

ANSWER: Hashemite Kingdom of **Jordan** <CKM> {II}

9. The flag of Anguilla includes a crest with three of these animals on it. Gray's Paradox arose from confusion about the quickness of these animals given their small muscle mass. In Brazilian folklore, pink animals of this type may be shapeshifting "encantados." The baiji (**pr. bye-jee**) are a breed of this animal in China that has likely been driven extinct by the Three Gorges Dam and other human activity. For the point, name this echolocating type of marine animal which includes species like the bottlenose.

ANSWER: **dolphins** <EA> {II}

10. Bruno Schmitz designed an obelisk in this city called the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Native American and Western art are featured in its Eiteljorg Museum, found downtown in White River State Park. Its suburb of Beech Grove is one of the few "excluded cities" which was not part of a 1970 consolidation with Marion County, known as Unigov. A venue in another of its excluded cities, Speedway, is nicknamed the "Brickyard." For the point, what Midwestern state capital lends its name to the largest auto racing track in the world?

ANSWER: **Indianapolis**, Indiana <CW> {II}

11. This man led the brutal Emin Pasha Relief Expedition, which may have caused a sleeping sickness epidemic. This man was the former namesake of the Malebo Pool. He allied with Zanzibari slave trader Tippu Tip, who helped him complete his first trans-Africa journey. In 1871, this man was sent by the New York Herald to find a missing missionary, and he located that man in what is now Ujiji, Tanzania. For the point, name this explorer who asked "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

ANSWER: Henry Morton **Stanley** <TR> {II}

12. This state's San Rafael Swell was chosen as the site of a research station for its Mars-like landscape. Chemical weapons testing at this state's Dugway Proving Ground may have led to the death of over six thousand sheep. The phrase "Greatest Snow on Earth" was used to advertise Deer Valley, Park City, and other ski resorts in this state's Wasatch Range. Land speed records have been frequently set at this state's Bonneville Salt Flats. For the point, name this Western US state home to the Great Salt Lake.

ANSWER: **Utah** <KG> {II}

13. Every high school on this island participates in a television quiz show known as Gettu betur. In 1627, Arab pirates abducted women from the Westman Islands, which lie to this island's south. Tourists often visit the blue lagoon spa on this island, and take the Golden Circle tour to sites such as the waterfall Gullfoss. This island was chosen by Jules Verne to be the start of the *Journey to the Center of the Earth* in one of its volcanoes. For the point, name this island powered almost entirely by geothermal energy, whose "Bay of Smokes" lends its name to the city of Reykjavik.

ANSWER: **Iceland** [or **Ísland** ("EES-lahnd"); accept **Republic of Iceland** or **Lýðveldidh Ísland**] <SH> {II}

14. A Guinness Record-breaking component of this event has a name meaning "Rooster of Early Hours." During this event, people flock to the "Republicas" filled with college students in the town of Ouro Preto. A variety of musical styles collectively known as *frevo* are showcased during this event, which formed the setting of the 1959 film *Black Orpheus*. Stadiums known as *sambodromo* host the parades during this event in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. For the point, name this popular festival marking the beginning of Lent in Brazil.

ANSWER: **Carnival** of Brazil [or **Carnaval** do Brasil] (do **not** accept Mardi Gras) <AG> {II}

15. Buildings at this location were damaged by a 1915 explosion caused by saboteurs working for Germany on nearby Black Tom Island. Much of this 27.5-acre location was reclaimed by a state to its west in a 1998 Supreme Court case. This location became far less frequently used after a 1924 law was passed. A facility at this location dealt with people described as "huddled masses yearning to breathe free." This location is located just north of Liberty Island and most of it is now in New Jersey. For the point, name this immigration hub, an island located in Upper New York Bay.

ANSWER: **Ellis** Island <CKM> {II}

16. A cycle of frescoes found in one of these structures shows a bride encountering Silenus playing a lyre before completing a rite and being given a *thyrsus*. A scroll library was preserved in one of these structures buried by ash in Herculaneum. These structures were often found on *latifundia*, and included rooms like the *vestibulum* and *triclinium*. One of these structures at Tivoli was the retreat home of the emperor Hadrian. For the point, name these country houses commonly found in Ancient Rome.

ANSWER: Roman **villas** [or **villae rusticae**] <CKM> {II}

17. The boundary between these two modern-day countries once followed a line set at the McMahon line in a 1914 treaty, but is now officially set at the Line of Actual Control. A war between these two countries was caused by one country's leader starting the Forward Policy, which led to fighting in the Aksai Chin. The Nathu La mountain pass in Sikkim is one of three open border posts between these two countries, and gives one country's citizens access to Tibet. For the point, which two Asian countries are separated by the Himalayas and are the most populous in the world?

ANSWER: Republic of **India** and People's Republic of **China** [or **PRC**] <TR> {II}

18. A largely underground step pyramid called the Jaguar temple remains intact in this country's large pre-Columbian city of Lamai. This country's most popular tourist destination is the island Ambergris Cay, which sits adjacent to the second longest barrier reef system in the world. Off its coast, an atoll called Lighthouse Reef surrounds a perfectly circular sinkhole called the Great Blue Hole. For the point, name this small, English-speaking country in Central America, which lacks a Pacific coast.

ANSWER: **Belize** <EA> {II}

19. In 2011, a mysterious pattern of overlapping lines confined to an exactly rectangular area in this region was found through Google Earth. This region is home to a largely untapped vein of coal named Tavan Tolgoi. In the 1920s, Roy Chapman Andrews found fossilized dinosaur eggs in this region. A "Green Wall" consisting of artificial forests attempts to halt this desert's rapid expansion. Along with the nearby Taklimakan, this desert provides a habitat for Bactrian camels. For the point, name this large desert primarily located in Mongolia.

ANSWER: **Gobi** Desert <KG> {II}

20. Unidentified locales in this book include a "narrow neck of land" with a land named Bountiful on one side of it. One theory about this book assumes that the chief judge Alma, the namesake man of its last section, lived near the isthmus of Tehuantepec in Mexico in its city of Zarahemla. A pageant re-enacts scenes from this book at Cumorah Hill in upstate New York, where the Lamanite army may have wiped out the Nephites. For the point, name this holy book set in an unspecified part of ancient America, which was first found inscribed on golden plates according to its promulgator Joseph Smith.

ANSWER: ***Book of Mormon***: *Another Testament of Jesus Christ* <MJ> {II}

21. On this island, gangs known locally as "Rascals" have made a capital city one of the most dangerous on earth. This island is home to many species of birds of paradise as well as tree kangaroos. Large copper deposits are mined near this island's village of Tembagapura, and near the headwaters of its Fly River. The Kokoda Trail was a flashpoint of conflict on this island between Japanese and Australian forces. For the point, name this island, whose western half is home to the Indonesian province of Papua.

ANSWER: **New Guinea** <SH> {II}

22. A series of houses built in this region are merely concrete shells with electric lighting. A camp located 400 miles south of this region is named for a commander killed by an axe-wielding soldier in this region. This region is currently home to the third-largest flagpole in the world, which was built during a brief contest. The four currently discovered "tunnels of aggression" cross this region, which was set up by an agreement signed at Panmunjom. For the point, name this area that crosses the 38th parallel, the de facto border between North and South Korea.

ANSWER: **DMZ** [or **Korean Demilitarized Zone**; prompt on **38th Parallel**]

23. This mountain range contains Erwin Baumann's stone eagle of Simplon. Barry der Menschenretter found children lost in these mountains near hospices built by a Menthonian Saint. Galeazzo Ciano organized a March 1940 meeting in mountain range at which the Pact of Steel was renewed by the Axis powers. This range in which fondue was developed gives its name to the species epithet of the high-altitude Edelweiss flower. For the point, identify this mountain range which was crossed at St. Bernard Pass by Napoleon.

ANSWER: The **Alps** <CC>

24. Ernest Cormier designed a green-domed Art Deco tower for this city's namesake university. This city's St. Joseph's Oratory sits on top of Westmount Summit. This city's RESO system is an extremely large "Underground City" full of malls and shops. Moshe Safdie's brutalist Habitat 67 modular apartment complex from the 1967 World Expo can be found in this city, as well as the 1976 Olympic Stadium. For the point, name this city formerly home to the only Major League Baseball team whose games were broadcast in French.

ANSWER: **Montreal**, Quebec <PL> {II}

25. During World War II, the nation this archipelago belongs to authorized the USA to build a naval base on its island of Baltra. This archipelago is home to the world's northernmost species of penguin. A creature from this archipelago's Pinta Island, the last of his subspecies, was nicknamed Lonesome George. For the point, name this archipelago located on the Nazca tectonic plate and owned by Ecuador, which is home to large namesake tortoises and Darwin's finches.

ANSWER: **Galapagos** Islands [or Islas **Galápagos** or Archipiélago de **Colón** or **Columbus** Archipelago; accept Las **Encantadas**] <SH> {II}

26. This building once contained the skeleton of the first mastodon exhumed in the United States in its Long Room on the second floor. A self-portrait of Charles Wilson Peale lifting a red curtain depicts an early natural history museum that Peale owned in this building. Green tablecloths in this place's Assembly Room are shown in a historical painting by John Trumbull. For the point, name this locale shown on the back of the 100 dollar bill, the place where the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia.

ANSWER: **Independence Hall** [or **Pennsylvania State House**; prompt on Old **State House**] <MJ> {II}

27. This island is the source of nearly half the world's sapphires. Its central highland, which is dotted with needle-like limestone pinnacles called *tsingy*, is the Ankaratra. A tree native to this island, which features petioles arranged in the shape of a fan and so named for its ability to store water, is the traveller's palm. A clade of strepsirrhine primates native to this island, whose large species may have been hunted to extinction by its natives, includes a ring-tailed variety. For the point, name this island country home to the Malagasy people and lemurs.

ANSWER: **Madagascar** <SH> {II}

28. Lactating animals of this type are spared from the khun khane festival, in which people drink cups of their blood to be healed. From 2008 to 2013, Steadfast Farm in Vermont raised these animals to produce "the Planet's GREENEST Red Meat". In 2015, *National Geographic* reported that females from this species in genus *Bos*, which drink water from ever-receding snow, have moved their herds to higher elevations. For the point, name these pack animals, a long-haired, horned bovine of central Asia and the Himalayas.

ANSWER: yaks [or ***Bos grunniens***; prompt on ***Bos***; prompt on cattle; do not accept "cows" or "water buffalo"] <MJ> {II}

29. This park was the subject of a Bernhard Grzimek documentary whose title insisted it "Shall Not Die." This park is entered at Naabi Hill Gate and across a national border to its north, this park borders a smaller park known as the Mara. It contains the Grumeti River, which every year is crossed by over one million wildebeest in an event known as the Great Migration. For the point, name this home of most of the remaining Black Rhinos, a massive nature reserve in northern Tanzania.

ANSWER: Serengeti National Park <EA> {III}

30. The Academician Ridge separates this lake's north and central basins. This body of water is home to the only seal which lives exclusively in fresh water, the nerpa. Some Buryat tribes are indigenous to Olkhon island, the largest island on this body of water. The first explorer to reach this body of water was supposedly Kurbat Ivanov. A railway known named for this body of water connects its banks to the town of Irkutsk along the Angara river, its only outflow. For the point, name this Russian lake, the deepest in the world.

ANSWER: Lake Baikal <JZ> {II}

31. A group of islands shared by this state and its eastern neighbor was home to an art colony founded by Celia Thaxter. The USA's oldest intercollegiate athletic event was originally held in this state's largest lake. A ledge of this state's Cannon Mountain was home to a formation that collapsed in 2003 and was named for its resemblance to an old man. The fastest wind speeds on the Earth's surface were once recorded at this state's Mount Washington. For the point, name this state whose 18-mile coastline separates Massachusetts from Maine.

ANSWER: New Hampshire <KG> {II}

32. The Egyptian Avenue in London's Highgate Cemetery leads to one of these plants surrounded by a circle of tombs. The city of Bsharri serves as the gateway to one of the few remaining refuges for these plants. That refuge is located adjacent to the monastery-filled Kadisha Valley. In Mesopotamian mythology, a forest of these trees guarded by Humbaba is said to be the home of the gods. The assassination of Rafik Hariri led to an uprising named for these trees. For the point, name these trees that serve as the national symbol of Lebanon.

ANSWER: **cedars** [or *Cedrus libani*, prompt on “trees” until “refuges”] <KG> {II}

33. Antoine de Saint-Exupery married a native of this country, whose Izalco and Santa Ana volcanoes inspired the terrain of asteroid B612 in *The Little Prince*. In the 19th century, this country replaced its indigo monoculture economy with a coffee monoculture, exporting beans from the port of Acajutla in its west. The Los Angeles-based gang MS-13 was founded by immigrants from this country. For the point, name this country that fought the Soccer War with its northern neighbor, Honduras.

ANSWER: Republic of **El Salvador** [or República de **El Salvador**] <KG> {II}

34. This ethnic group records episodes of their history on embroidered panels known as “story cloths.” Refugees of this ethnic group who settled in Merced, California appear in a book by Anne Fadiman chronicling a clash between the parents and doctors of an epileptic child of this ethnicity. This culture was the subject of *The Spirit Catches You And You Fall Down*. They are referred to in China as “Miao,” and many of them were recruited by the CIA in the Secret War. For the point, name this ethnic group of the mountains of Laos.

ANSWER: **Hmong** [or **Hmoob**; accept **Miao** before mention] <CW> {II}

35. This city is overlooked by a red aeroplane suspended on a crane within an amusement park in the nearby Collserola range. The outskirts of this city also feature a church topped by a statue of Jesus named for the Sacred Heart. A multicolored mosaic salamander nicknamed “the dragon” is at the front of this city's Park Guell near a serpentine bench. This city's as-yet-unfinished Sagrada Familia church was designed by Antonio Gaudi. For the point, identify this Mediterranean city, the largest in Catalonia.

ANSWER: **Barcelona**, Spain <CC> {II}

**U.S. Geography Olympiad
Round 1
Extra Tossup**

Backup: The second-largest mine of this material was legendarily discovered by Alexander the Great's horse in what is now Khewra, Pakistan. The Hierve del Agua rock formations in Oaxaca are sometimes called waterfalls of this material. Tanzania is home to a breeding ground for hundreds of flamingos, which is a lake high in this substance, which flamingos excrete through glands in their noses. "Pink lakes" such as Lake Natron have a significantly higher concentration of it than the ocean. For the point, name this material which was transported by the Romans along Via Salaria, a mineral historically used to preserve meat.

ANSWER: **salt** [or common table **salt**; or **sodium chloride**; or **NaCl**] <DW> {II}