

ROUND 2

2015 U.S. Geography Olympiad Varsity / JV Nationals – Quiz Bowl Tournament Round 2

1. This country's capital contained the first Baha'i House of Worship until it was levelled in a 1948 earthquake. One plan for improving this country's climate involved planting a thousand square kilometer cypress forest. It is currently in the process of building the massive Golden Age Lake in the middle of the Karakum Desert. This country relocated a three-legged Monument of Neutrality which was topped with a rotating golden statue of its former president Saparmurat Niyazov. For the point, name this country to the east of the Caspian Sea and north of Iran.

ANSWER: Turkmenistan <EA> {III}

2. A dehydrated, edible white pulp within these organisms' seed pods is sometimes called "monkey bread." These plants take their scientific name from French naturalist Michel Adanson, who published an early paper on them. Six of this plant's eight species are endemic to Madagascar, and according to legend, they take their current form because God or a hyena planted their seeds upside-down. For the point, name these extremely wide-branched trees of southern Africa.

ANSWER: baobab trees [or boab; or Adansonia before "Adanson" is read] <MJ> {II}

3. This building's \$165 million price tag was padded by the 1973 oil crisis and was investigated during the administration of Governor Edwin Edwards. NBC's Brian Williams claimed to have seen a man fall from this building's upper deck. In 2013, the Super Bowl here was halted for a half hour due to a sudden power outage. This building was Governor Kathleen Blanco's original shelter for refugees unable to evacuate from Hurricane Katrina. For the point, name this large arena with a 273-foot dome in New Orleans.

ANSWER: Mercedes-Benz Superdome [or Louisiana Superdome; or The Superdome] <MC> {II}

4. The Ottoman-era Ayjad fortress formerly stood in this city. An edifice found in this city is cleaned twice yearly using brooms dipped in rose water. The world's largest clock face is found on a hotel in this city, which also contains Umm al-Qura University. One artifact in this city is found in the Masjid al-Haram and is circled seven times in the ritual of tawaf. For the point, name this pilgrimage site that contains the Kaaba, the holiest city in Islam.

ANSWER: Mecca, Saudi Arabia [or Makkah, Saudi Arabia]

5. Visitors to this archipelago can overlook banana plantations from its highest point, the dormant volcano Mount Teide. Geysers are found on this archipelago's island of Lanzarote. A BBC documentary controversially claimed that Cumbre Vieja, a volcano on this archipelago, could cause a mega-tsunami to hit the East Coast of the United States. Productive islands in this archipelago, whose name comes from the Latin for "of the dogs," include Gomera, La Palma, and Tenerife. For the point, name these islands off the coast of Morocco, which are controlled by Spain.

ANSWER: **Canary** Islands [or Islas **Canarias**] <BA> {II}

6. John Wayne and Montgomery Clift co-starred in a 1949 Howard Hawks film about life along this place. The namesake of this path was a half-Scottish, half-Cherokee trader who aided the Dodge-Leavenworth Expedition as an interpreter. This trail increased in importance in the 1880s after the Santa Fe railroad reached the town of Caldwell. O.W. Wheeler brought the first 2,400 longhorn steers along this trail, whose start point was either Donna or San Antonio, and whose terminus was the town of Abilene. For the point, name this popular trail used after the Civil War to drive cattle from Texas to Kansas.

ANSWER: **Chisholm** Trail <AG> {II}

7. Morten Traavik organizes a series of beauty pageants named after these objects. A museum full of these objects was started by Aki Ra, who may have removed fifty thousand of them from the local countryside. In 1996 a newspaper suggested that British cows suffering from mad cow disease be shipped overseas to search for these objects. For the point, name these weapons, whose prevalence in southeast Asia have led to Cambodia having the highest per capita amputee rate in the world.

ANSWER: land**mines** [or anti-personnel land**mines**] <DW> {II}

8. *A museum devoted to this man's work is found in Sint-Niklaas.* This man served as court cosmographer to William of Jülich-Cleves-Berge and his son Rumold continued some of his work. This man encouraged Abraham Ortelius to compile the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, the first modern atlas. One construct named for this man represents loxodromes as straight lines and whose linear scale becomes infinite at the poles. For the point, name this Flemish cartographer and namesake of a map projection.

ANSWER: Gerardus **Mercator**

9. An 82 acre island which sits within Lake Mindemoya, which sits on an island in *this* lake, is the largest island in a lake in an island in a lake in the world. The earliest-known ice age was a glaciation event named for this lake. The largest freshwater island in the world, Manitoulin Island, is also found within this lake. A large number of shipwrecks can be found in this lake's Georgian and Saginaw Bays. For the point, which Great Lake is east of the Strait of Mackinac (**pr. Mack-in-aw**), which connects it to Lake Michigan?

ANSWER: Lake **Huron** <AG> {II}

10. A grove on the Osun river is held sacred by this ethnic group, which has the highest rate of twin births of any in the world. The city of Ibadan was founded by this ethnicity, which was ruled by chieftains called *oba* in the Oyo empire. These people, who live in the southwest of a country whose north is inhabited by the Muslim Hausa and Fulani, were the first to worship *orisha* spirits. For the point, what ethnic group of Wole (**pr. woe-lay**) Soyinka largely opposed the Igbo in the Nigerian Civil War?

ANSWER: **Yoruba** people <MJ> {II}

11. *These objects, known as combis in South Africa, have been the subject of namesake mafia-style turf wars there.* An apple-green variety of these items, introduced to New York in 2013, are given the “boro” designation and are forbidden from most of Manhattan. One licensing test requires operators of these vehicles, also known as hackneys, to memorize every landmark within six miles of Charing Cross in London and is known as “The Knowledge.” For the point, what vehicles historically built by the Checker Motors Corporation are now threatened by the rise of Lyft and Uber?

ANSWER: **taxicabs** [or **taxis**; or **cabs**; or **hackneys** before mention] <CW> {II}

12. Martin Strel swims the length of this river in the documentary Big River Man. Alfred Russel Wallace explained the diversity of animal life along the course of this river with his River Barrier Hypothesis. The bloodsucking candiru fish is native to this river. It is sometimes referred to as the Solimoes River before it vividly converges with a darker river at the “meeting of waters.” This river flows through the controversial 2014 World Cup host city of Manaus. For the point, name this river whose basin is home to a massive rainforest in Brazil.

ANSWER: **Amazon** River <EA> {II}

13. One body of water in this state is home to the Eelpout Festival and names its largest Indian reservation. One feature in this state was named by Henry Schoolcraft from the Latin words for “truth” and “head.” Its Ojibwe people cultivate wild rice around Leech Lake, and it celebrates its state fish, the walleye, with a giant statue on the shore of Mille Lacs. This home of Lake Itasca also contains an exclave isolated from the rest of America by its Lake of the Woods, the Northwest Angle. For the point, what Midwestern state is the source of the Mississippi River and Land of Ten Thousand Lakes?

ANSWER: **Minnesota** <CW> {II}

14. This region which is located directly east of the geologically related Vosges (pr. *Voezh*) Mountains, is home to a type of earthworm that can grow to up to five feet long. Contrary to Orson Welles' speech in *The Third Man*, this region, not Switzerland, traditionally manufactured cuckoo clocks and it is famous for a namesake cherry cake. Roman emperors, such as Caracalla, took advantage of springs in this region's town of Baden-Baden. This region contains the source of the Danube River. For the point, name this wooded region in southwest Germany.

ANSWER: the **Black Forest** [or **Schwarzwald**; prompt on **Baden-Württemberg** until "Baden" is read] <KG> {II}

15. Poisonous organisms on this continent can be taken to the Butantan Institute for biological study. While this continent was isolated during the Cenozoic, it was the main home of 10-foot-tall, wingless avians called "terror birds." The smallest known members of the deer family, sometimes called "mouse deer" or pudú, are found on this continent, whose other ungulates include a light brown, humpless camelid called the guanaco. For the point, name this home continent of the anaconda and the capybara, where speakers of Quechua once transported goods on the backs of llamas.

ANSWER: **South America** <MJ> {II}

16. *This town was built under a hill dedicated to Kronos called the kronion.* In classical times, an area called the Altis in this town was the main sanctuary town controlled by the city-state of Elis. A seated chryselephantine statue once found in this town, sculpted by Phidias, is among the canonical Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and depicted Zeus. This town used a clearing called the *stadion* to host footraces starting in 776 BCE every four years. For the point, name this Greek town whose athletic events inspired more modern quadrennial "Games".

ANSWER: **Olympia**, Greece [do not accept "Olympus"] <MJ> {II}

17. The exploitation of this resource caused the meteoric population growth of the Wood Buffalo Municipality. The Northern Gateway is a controversial plan to ship this resource to Asia via Kitimat. Fort McMurray is a hub for this resource that requires steam-assisted gravity drainage. This resource is mainly extracted near the banks of the Athabaska River. One proposal to deliver this resource for refining in Texas is known as Keystone XL. For the point, name this fossil fuel resource with an energy intensive extraction process, which can be found in the province of Alberta.

ANSWER: Athabasca **oil sands** [or Alberta **oil sands**; or Canadian **oil sands**; or **tar sands**; or **bituminous sands**; prompt on partial answers such as **oil** or **petroleum**; do not accept "oil shale"; do not accept "Venezuelan oil sands"] <PL> {II}

18. In a phenomenon known as mautam, massive plagues of rats accompany the once-every-forty-eight-year flowering of this plant. White tea and this plant are popular products of Anji County. Although new culms of this plant contain the cyanogenic glycoside taxiphyllin, they are the signature ingredient in lumpia semarang and any khorisa dish. This plant is found in Kyoto's Sagano Forest and forests of it form endangered species reserves in Sichuan. For the point, name this fast-growing plant, the main diet of the giant panda.

ANSWER: **bamboo** [or **Bambuseae**] <DW> {II}

19. This people created extensive mural paintings at Bonampak. This civilization's architectural achievements were often arranged in specific layouts known as E-Groups. An innovative design by this civilization was the triadic pyramid. The Plaza of the Seven Temples was built by this civilization, which also constructed the nearby Lost World in Tikal. This civilization built a temple to the god Kukulcan on top of a pyramid known as El Castillo. For the point, name the Meso-American civilization which constructed sites such as Chichen Itza.

ANSWER: **Mayans** [or **Quiche** Maya] <JL> {II}

20. Elinor Ostrom developed her theories of governing the commons by studying this country's Huerta irrigation systems along its Segura and Turia Rivers. Its "Green" area is bordered by the Cantabrian mountains through which travelers took paths marked by scallop shells on a medieval pilgrimage route. This country is home to the world headquarters of the Santander banking group and the Zara fashion brand. For the point, name this country where Hannibal crossed the Ebro river, south of the Pyrenees.

ANSWER: Kingdom of **Spain** [or Reino de **España**] <CC> {II}

21. In this national park, a group of warriors' footprints from about 1790 can be accessed via the Kau Desert Trail. This national park's Bird Park is home to such endemic birds as the nene (**pr. nay-nay**). A "tube" named for discoverer Lorrin Thurston can be accessed by this park's Crater Rim Drive, which connects to Chain of Craters Road. Loihi is a submerged one of its namesake features, while Kohala, the oldest, is considered extinct. For the point, name this national park home to Mauna Loa and Kilauea.

ANSWER: **Hawaii Volcanoes** National Park <SH> {II}

22. The Cippi of Melqart found in this country were key to deciphering the Phoenician language. Several proposals have been made for a bridge from this country's island of Gozo to its main island. This country's inhabitants were collectively awarded the George Cross for their bravery in fighting the Axis during World War II. This island country, whose namesake Semitic language is written in Roman letters, received independence from the UK in 1964. For the point, which Mediterranean island country is located between Sicily and Africa?

ANSWER: **Malta** [or Republic of **Malta**; or Repubblica ta' **Malta**] <TR> {II}

23. Popular places where this location may be observed are Terrapin Point and Prospect Point. In 1897, a pioneering Suspension Bridge near this locale, designed by John Augustus Roebling, was taken down. Attractions at this location include Goat Island and the Cave of the Winds. In June 2012, Nik Wallenda crossed this structure near its "Horseshoe" portion on a tightrope; Annie Taylor was the first person to travel over it in a barrel. The "Maid of the Mist" ferries people near this object on its namesake river. For the point, name this waterfall located on the New York-Canada border.

ANSWER: **Niagara** Falls [or **Niagara** Gorge until "Veil" is read] <JZ> {II}

24. In 1968, UN geologists discovered a large deposit of this element in Somalia, which was then 25% of the world's known supply. The world's largest deposit of this chemical element is the Rössing Mine in Namibia, while a city named for this element is found in far northern Saskatchewan. The Shinkolobwe Mine in Katanga held large amounts of pitchblende, an ore containing this element. A type of powder called yellowcake contains this element, and the Bush Administration lied about Saddam Hussein trying to acquire it from Niger to build WMDs. For the point, which radioactive element formed the basis of the Little Boy atomic bomb?

ANSWER: **uranium** <TR> {II}

25. *The composition of an executive body in this nation is governed by a "magic formula" which was unchanged from 1959 to 2003.* Six of this country's subdivisions elect only one member to the Council of States rather than two. Its "inner" Appenzell did not grant women the right to vote until 1991, and a close relative of Friulian is spoken in Graubunden in this country's southeast. For the point, Romansh is one of four official languages in what Alpine confederation of 26 cantons?

ANSWER: **Switzerland** [or **Swiss Confederation**] <CW> {II}

26. One museum in this city was originally built as a shelter for orange trees. Architects Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano employed brightly colored exterior tubing for their design for a modern art museum in this city. A museum in this city was converted from a train station and is now home to works such as *Luncheon on the Grass*. Another of its museums is a former palace that now is topped with I.M. Pei-designed glass pyramids. For the point, name this site of the Centre Pompidou, the Musee d'Orsay, and the Louvre.
ANSWER: **Paris**, France <EA> {II}

27. These people were the victims of the Bloody Falls massacre and believe that their main aquatic prey emerged when a goddess clinging to a boat had her fingers cut off. These people displaced the Dorset culture and are believed to descend from the Thule (**pr. Too-lay**) culture. The first cabinet minister to be one of these people, named Minister of Health in 2008, was Leona Aglukkaq. They are legally distinct from the First Nations and Metis as of a 1982 constitution. For the point, name these indigenous people of Northern Canada and Greenland.
ANSWER: **Inuit** [or **Inuk**; accept **Eskimos**, though that term is considered a racial epithet in Canada, prompt on "First Nations", "Native Americans", or "Native Canadians"] <JZ> {II}

28. An art work of this type was created as a result of a "sword hunt" edict passed by Toyotomi Hideyoshi. The construction of one of these artworks nearly bankrupted the economy of Emperor Shomu. One of these works gives its name to the city of Luang Prabang. Wat Pho in Thailand is home to a "reclining" type of these works. Two of these works carved into the Bamiyan Valley were dynamited by Taliban forces in 2001. For the point, identify this type of work depicting the founder of an Asian religion.
ANSWER: **statues** or **sculptures** of the **Buddha** [or **Buddharupa**; accept **daibutsu** until "Luang Prabang" is read] <KG> {II}

29. This city's close ties to Finnish settlers in Russian Alaska led it to sign a treaty for shipments of Alaskan ice, which all melted en-route. This city's Fillmore Street was the site of the first public reading of the poetic line "I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness." Brightly-colored Victorian houses called "painted ladies" dot this city, where the Ellis Act has contributed to a surge in housing prices. This city's City Lights Bookstore and Haight-Ashbury neighborhoods were centers of mid-20th-century counterculture. For the point, name this city whose Castro Street is home to a long-lasting gay-friendly scene in northern California.
ANSWER: **San Francisco**, California <MJ> {II}

30. Melvyn Goldstein claimed that a form of "fraternal polyandry" in this region, in which a woman marries a full set of brothers, functioned to manage land scarcity. A river in this region known as "Lion Spring" has its source on its peak at Mount Kailash. The Yarlung Tsangpo is the part of the Brahmaputra River that flows through this region. Red Mountain, in this region's capital, is the location of Potala Palace. For the point, name this autonomous region whose namesake plateau, sometimes called the "roof of the world," is administered by China from Lhasa.

ANSWER: **Tibetan Plateau** [or **Tibetan Autonomous Region**] (prompt on "China" until the word "capital") <ED> {II}

31. This city's island of Sigsbee Park was created from dredge spoils in the 1940s. One poem about this city asks about the "glassy lights" that "mastered the night and portioned out the sea." Wallace Stevens titled a poem for the "Idea of Order" at this place home to Sloppy Joe's Bar, which was supposedly patronized by Ernest Hemingway. It declared itself the "Conch Republic" in 1982 in protest over a Border Patrol blockade. The Overseas Highway, which is part of U.S. 1, ends here. For the point, what island city in Florida is the southernmost city in the 48 contiguous US states?

ANSWER: **Key West**, Florida <CW> {II}

32. This country contains the Upper Seletar Reservoir near the world's first nocturnal zoo, known as the Night Safari. Mount Faber in this country is a tourist attraction connected by cable car to this country's resort island of Sentosa. This country underwent a period of mourning in 2015 which was reported on by the *Straits Times*. Michael Fay, an American student accused of vandalism, was famously caned here in the 1990's. For the point, name this city-state on the Malay Peninsula, the largest port in Southeast Asia.

ANSWER: **Singapore** [or Republic of **Singapore**; or **Xinjiapo**] <ED> {II}

33. Cacao is grown on this island's humid Vega Real, or Royal Plain. Slaves fleeing this island often went west to Gonâve (**pr. go-NAHV**) Island. A national park in the southeast of this island includes the adjacent island of Saona. This island's highest peak is named after the founder of La Trinitaria, Juan Duarte, and demand for charcoal has led to severe deforestation in its western portion. For the point, name this Caribbean island shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

ANSWER: **Hispaniola** [accept La Isla **Española**, **Quisqueya**, or **Santo Domingo**] <SH> {II}

34. This country introduced the concept of the "national park" to Europe in 1909. This country's Göta Canal begins at Lake Vänern, and includes locks to surmount the falls at Trollhättan. A large iron ore deposit is mined near its Kiruna mountains, which are in this country's sparsely populated Norrland. This largely-Lutheran country has its only archdiocese headquartered at Uppsala while its island of Gotland is the largest in the Baltic Sea. For the point, name this country which is the most populous in Scandinavia.

ANSWER: Kingdom of Sweden [or Konungariket Sverige] <SH> {II}

35. *The Maypan variety of this crop was bred for resistance to Lethal Yellowing.* This crop's shell is used to make a spike fiddle known as the rebab. It is classified into oblong *niu kafa* and the more domesticated, spherical *niu vai*. This fruit's ability to germinate after floating was tested by Thor Heyerdahl. It is known in Malaysia as the "tree of a thousand uses." Southeast Asian curries are made from this fruit's "milk." For the point, name this versatile tropical palm whose immature green fruits have a namesake "water."

ANSWER: coconut <CW> {II}

**2015 U.S. Geography Olympiad
Round 2
Extra Tossup**

Backup Tossup Only:

A leisure and entertainment area of this city is named after its Darling Harbour. Along this city's namesake harbor is the Taronga Zoo, and at the end of that harbor are the Parramatta district and a park that hosted the 2000 Olympics. Its namesake Harbour Bridge is next to an arts center designed by Jørn Utzon, whose roof is composed of white sail-shaped shells. For the point, name this Australian city whose harbor contains a namesake Opera House.

ANSWER: Sydney, Australia <SH> {II}