

ROUND 5

2015 U.S. Geography Olympiad Varsity / JV Nationals – Quiz Bowl Tournament Playoffs - SEMIFINALS

1. A journey across this desert was the subject of a 1959 travelogue by Wilfred Thesiger. Bertram Sidney Thomas was the first Westerner to cross this desert. This desert contains a large area of quicksand at Umm al Samim in its east. The largest oil reservoir in the world, Ghawar, is located in the east of this desert. This desert covers Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen, and the United Arab Emirates. For the point, name this second largest sand desert in the world, which covers the Arabian Peninsula and is also known as the "Empty Quarter."

ANSWER: **Rub al' Khali** [accept **Empty Quarter** before mention, prompt afterwards] <CKM> {II}

2. The largest tomato plant in the world can be found at this location. The original plans for this location were more or less implemented in the Reedy Creek Improvement District. A massive fireworks show here is called IllumiNations. Ray Bradbury wrote the storyline for an attraction at this place that depicts the history of communication. Originally intended to be an experimental community, this location contains the World Showcase, Future World, and Spaceship Earth. For the point, name this theme park at Disney World that contains a massive geodesic sphere.

ANSWER: **Epcot** [or **EPCOT** Center; accept "The **Land**" until "original plans", prompt on "Disney World" before mention, do NOT accept "Disneyland"] <MC> {III}

3. Wooden buildings and traditional merchant shops are found in this present-day city's Higashiyama District. This city contains the Kodaiji Temple and cherry blossoms line a canal in this city's Philosopher's Path. A Zen shrine with gilded walls in this city, called the Golden Pavilion, was rebuilt after a case of arson in 1950. This city is home to the Heian Shrine and its now-vacant Imperial Palace ceased to house the emperor's family in 1868. For the point, name this city, the capital of Japan prior to Tokyo.

ANSWER: **Kyoto**, Japan [or **Kyoto**-shi or **Meaco**] <BA> {III}

4. *This project was satirized with a poem saying its originator was a "Brobdingnagian Bagman, big Dreamer of Dreams."* This project's innovator was called the "manager" of "such troublesome things as Lobengula." A cartoon in *Punch* depicting this project shows a man holding telegraph lines and a pith helmet while towering over a landscape. The cartoon "The Rhodes Colossus" referenced this project, which despite German loss of Tanganyika was never finished. For the point, name this project proposed by the British Empire's Cecil Rhodes, who sought to create a south to north rail route through Africa.

ANSWER: **Cape to Cairo** railway [accept any answer mentioning **Cape to Cairo**, prompt on **African railroad** or similar answers] <MC> {III}

5. Feliks Steuer wrote in this region's namesake language, which is closely related to the Lach dialect of Hlucin. A large Jewish population once lived in this region's Zaglemia subregion. In the early 20th Century, its Rybnik Plateau was a major producer of coal. Its ethnically mixed Upper region was subject to a 1921 plebiscite by the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. Centered along the valley of the Oder River, its cities include Katowice (**pr.kat-oh-VEE-tseh**), as well as the capital of Wroclaw (**pr. Vrotz-waw**), previously called Breslau. For the point, Frederick the Great invaded which industrial region, now in southwestern Poland?

ANSWER: **Silesia** [or **Slask**, or **Slansk**, or **Schlesien**, or **Schlasing**, or **Slezsko**] <BA> {III}

6. A possibly-satirical 1898 map identified this text's hero as a "Circumnavigator of Africa and Discoverer of America." Robert Bittlestone proposed that this text ends in Paliki, which is now connected to the mainland by a sandbar. In the 1920s, Victor Bérard retraced a possible route from this text, which consistently describes the hero's home as "rocky" and a wise king's city-state as "sandy-shored". Scholars of this text often assume that Skheria corresponds to modern-day Corfu, and that the underworld scene in Book XI is west of the pillars of Hercules just outside the Mediterranean. For the point, name this poem set largely in Ithaca, an epic by Homer.

ANSWER: *The **Odyssey*** [or **Odusseia**] <MJ> {II}

7. An island disputed by these two countries, New Moore Island, disappeared in rising waters in 2010. One of these two countries leased the Tin Bigha Corridor to the other for 999 years, providing access to some of the nearly two hundred enclaves located along their border. The southeastern border of the narrow "Chicken's Neck" is shared by these two countries. A mangrove forest known as the Sundarbans is split between these two countries. Both of these countries claim the Bengal tiger as their national animal. For the point, name these two countries that share the Ganges River.

ANSWER: Republic of **India** and People's Republic of **Bangladesh** [accept **Bharat Ganarajya** in place of "India"] <KG> {III}

8. A popular restaurant in this neighborhood that was demolished in 2014 was Little Joe's Italian American Restaurant. The man who won an Oscar for the movie *The Killing Fields* was killed in this neighborhood. A film that ends in this neighborhood features Evelyn Mulwray shot by the police, much to the shock of detective Jake Gittes. That 1974 Roman Polanski film ends with a character telling Jake, "Forget it," while referencing this neighborhood's name. For the point, name this Los Angeles neighborhood which has a statue of Bruce Lee and which contains Chung King Road.

ANSWER: Los Angeles **Chinatown** [or New **Chinatown**] <MC> {III}

9. This city was strategically built on Cape Mesurado where the Saint Paul river flows into the Atlantic Ocean. This city's first settlers arrived at Providence Island and its Mamba Point is home to many embassies. Together with Conakry and Freetown, this city was the epicenter of the recent West African ebola outbreak. This city was built by the American Colonization Society and is the second oldest national capital named for a US President. For the point, name this capital of Liberia.

ANSWER: **Monrovia**, Liberia <BA> {III}

10. Edward Faraday Odlum pinpointed the origins of this object. This object broke into two pieces during its Christmas Day theft by Ian Hamilton and three other students. Some legends equate this object with the stone that Jacob used as a pillow in the Book of Genesis. This object was incorporated into a wooden chair in Westminster Abbey after Edward I took it as war booty. Following the 1950 theft of this object, the border between England and Scotland closed for the first time in over four hundred years. For the point, name this block of sandstone historically used in coronation ceremonies for Scottish kings.

ANSWER: Stone of **Scone** ("SKOON", though accept pronunciations like the baked good) <KG> {III}

11. *Richard I. Dodge named this location during a survey of the Bear Lodge Mountains.* According to the Kiowa Indians, this location rose from the ground and allowed seven girls, who were eventually transformed into the Pleiades, to escape a group of bears. This formation is made of phonolite porphyry arranged in hexagonal columns. UFOs arrive at this location in a key scene from the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. For the point, name this formation in northeastern Wyoming, the first landmark to be made a U.S. National Monument.

ANSWER: **Devils Tower** <KG> {III}

12. *This city is the site of the Siosepol, or the Bridge of 33 Arches.* This city is home to the Palace of the Forty Columns. A famous rhyming proverb about this city claims that it is "half of the world." The Zayandeh River flows through this modern day city, which was made the new Safavid capital by Shah Abbas I in 1598. The Ali Qapu Palace is located on one side of this city's most notable landmark, the Naqsh-e Jahan Square, which also contains this city's Shah Mosque. For the point, name this third largest city of Iran after Tehran and Mashhad.

ANSWER: **Isfahan**, Iran <CKM> {III}

13. Lewis Carroll's "The Hunting of the Snark" lends its name to this peninsula's native boojum tree. Shipwreck scenes for *Titanic*, *Pearl Harbor*, and *Master and Commander* were all shot in tanks built off the coast of this peninsula's Rosarito Beach. This peninsula and nearby Cedros Island were home to the Cochimi, Guaycura, and Pericu ethnic groups. This peninsula is divided into two states and is separated from the mainland by the Sea of Cortez. For the point, name this peninsula on the west coast of Mexico which contains tourist havens such as Cabo San Lucas.

ANSWER: **Baja** California <EA> {III}

14. Three of these objects were taken by U.S. forces following the Balangiga Massacre in the Philippines. The heaviest one of these objects ever made, which was named for Dhammazedī, was stolen from the Shwedagon Pagoda in Burma by a Portuguese mercenary. Major Victor Joppolo gives one of these objects to the Italian town of Adano in a John Hersey novel. For the point, name these objects that were often found in Italian towers called *campanile* and include a cracked one named for "Liberty" in Philadelphia.

ANSWER: **bells** [do not accept "towers" or "bell towers"] <KG> {III}

15. This city is home to the Nestorian Stele, a gift from Christian missionaries that contains both native and Syriac writing. Many artifacts from Banpo, a site just outside this city, date back to around six thousand years ago. The oldest mosque in China is found in this city. This largest city in the province of Shaanxi (**pr. SHAN-si**) is the eastern terminus of the Silk Road and home to nearly eight thousand sculptures of Qin Shi Huang's soldiers. For the point, name this capital of several first-millennium Chinese dynasties and home to a "Terracotta Army."

ANSWER: **Xi'an**, China [or **Chang'an**] <KG> {III}

16. In 1933, an unusually strong 7.3-magnitude earthquake struck this body of water off the coast of Pond Inlet. This bay has an unusually early spring plankton bloom in the North Water Polynya. This bay may contain an unexploded thermonuclear bomb that was never recovered after a 1968 B-52 crash near Thule (**pr. TOO-lay**) Air Force Base. In the winter, up to ninety percent of the world's narwhals live in either this bay or the Davis Strait, which connects it to the Atlantic Ocean. For the point, an ice bridge over what bay may have allowed for early human migration from Canada to Greenland?

ANSWER: **Baffin** Bay <DW> {III}

17. In 2011, researchers confirmed that the Luizi structure was one of these formations. A structure long mistaken for one of these, the Richat structure in Mauritania, was later shown to have been formed by erosion of a circular anticline. Vincenzo di Michele (**pr. dee mick-AY-lay**) used Google Earth to discover the only known one of these structures to have ejecta rays. Shatter cones found in the Vaal River confirmed the origin of the largest one on Earth, the Vredefort Dome. For the point, what circular depressions were formed by an extraterrestrial object smashing into the Earth's surface?

ANSWER: **impact craters** [or **impact structures**; or **impact sites**; or **asteroid craters**; or **meteor craters**; prompt on **craters**; do not accept "meteorites"] <DW> {III}

18. During Samuel Butler's five-year stay in this city, one of its newspapers published his work "Darwin Among the Machines." In 2013, Shigeru Ban designed a "Cardboard Cathedral" in this city. Robert Scott's first voyage to Antarctica began after he departed this city's port of Lyttleton. This city, by far the most populous in the Canterbury region, was struck by a series of major earthquakes in 2010 and 2011. For the point, name this most populous city on New Zealand's South Island, which has a religion-inspired name.

ANSWER: **Christchurch**, New Zealand [or **Otautahi**] <KG> {III}

19. This hypothetical structure would have been the major economic driver of Jeremy Bentham's proposed territory of "Junctiania." One proposal to build this structure was denied following circulation of a postage stamp depicting an erupting Momotombo. In 2013, a proposal by the HKND Group to build this structure was approved despite environmental concerns that it would cause ecological destruction to Central America's largest lake. For the point, name this project supported by current world leader Daniel Ortega, an oft-suggested alternative to the Panama Canal.

ANSWER: **Nicaragua Canal** [or **Nicaragua Canal** after "Canal" is read; or **Nicaragua Interoceanic Grand Canal**; or **Nicaragua Grand Canal**; or obvious equivalents mentioning a **canal** in **Nicaragua**; do not accept "Panama Canal"] <DW> {III}

20. This valley was the site of a 2005 massacre by the SNB that was documented by Galima Bukharbaeva. This valley was the namesake of the "heavenly horses" that Han China warred with the country of Dayuan to obtain. The city of Namangan lies on the northern edge of this valley, which also contains the birthplace of Babur, Andijan. Osh is located at the eastern terminus of this valley, which lies next to the Tian Shan Mountains. The Naryn and Kara Darya Rivers converge to form the Syr Darya River in this valley. For the point, name this fertile valley in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

ANSWER: **Fergana Valley** <CKM> {III}

21. The Hogley valley runs down this mountain's side, downhill from the very rapidly melting Lewis glacier. Like the Aberdare range to this mountain's southwest, this mountain names a species of shrew mole which eats only bamboo. The Batian peak is the highest of several on this extinct volcano. A chief sky god named Ngai is said to live above this mountain in a study by a future national leader, which defended the practice of female genital mutilation among the peoples surrounding it. For the point, name this tall mountain around which the Kikuyu live, which partly titles an anthropological study by Jomo Kenyatta.

ANSWER: Mount **Kenya** <MJ> {II}

22. In a film appearance, members of this ethnic group tie a priest to a cross and throw him over a waterfall. A novel about Antonio de Mariz written by Jose de Alencar is named after one of these people. These people lived in Jesuit-run facilities known as "reductions," some of which were depicted in the film *The Mission*. These people speak a language closely related to the Tupi language of Brazil, from which the word "jaguar" is derived. Soldiers from this ethnic group fought to defend Fort Nanawa against Bolivia during the Chaco War. For the point, name these indigenous people of Paraguay.

ANSWER: **Guarani** [prompt on **Tupi-Guarani** before "Tupi" is read] <KG> {III}

23. The Shotton Valley underlies this body of water where an antler carved into a harpoon was found by the Colinda. The Storegga Slide may have triggered a megatsunami that expanded this body of water while its Heligoland Islands name a bight. Its Long Forties region, named for its relatively shallow depth, now contains its largest oil field. The intertidal mudflats of the Wadden Sea separate it from the Frisian Islands around the mouth of the Elbe River. For the point identify this sea whose offshore oil is split between the United Kingdom and Norway.

ANSWER: **North** Sea <CC> {II}

24. Over the span of a decade, three people near India's Kali River were targeted and killed by the goonch, a type of this animal. A group of hunters in Thailand promised to cease capturing this animal in honor of the 60th anniversary of Rama IX's accession to the throne. A "walking" species of this animal from Java is now an invasive species in Florida. The largest species of this animal is found in the Mekong River and notably lacks the characteristic barbels normally found among them. For the point, name this type of fish, named for its resemblance to felines.

ANSWER: **catfish** [prompt on **fish** until it is read] <KG> {III}

25. Portions of this system built in the 1950s display a standardized “centipede” design. Part of this system’s layout was supposedly inspired by the stain from a coffee mug, and it may connect to a shadow system codenamed “D-6.” Up to fifty stray dogs supposedly commute on this transit system daily. Its Park Pobedy station has the longest escalator in Europe. Its Line 5 is a circle whose marble-clad stations feature ornate chandeliers and socialist realist artworks. For the point, what subway system was started under the supervision of Joseph Stalin and can take you to the Kremlin?

ANSWER: **Moscow Metro** [or **Moskovky metropoliten**] <CW> {III}

26. The account of Abolitionist Moses Grandy describes how he operated boats in this region. A body of water in this region is accessed by Feeder Ditch and is colored by a high content of tannic acid. A canal named for this region, first built in 1805, runs south to South Mills in the Albemarle Sounds. The colonies of escaped slaves in this region feature in Harriet Beecher Stowe's second novel, *Dred*. This region, which contains Lake Drummond, is bordered by the Pamlico Formation and stretches from Norfolk to Elizabeth City. For the point, identify this depressingly-named wetland region in Virginia and North Carolina.

ANSWER: The Great **Dismal Swamp** <JB> {III}

27. A collection of these plants in Germany was drunkenly set on fire by a teenage Nick Clegg, who now leads Britain's Liberal Democrats. The cochineal, which lives off these plants, can be used to make crimson dye. An eight-mile-long strip of these plants separated Guantanamo Bay from the rest of Cuba. The anthropologist Carlos Castaneda encouraged the use of a hallucinogenic type of this plant called peyote. Another kind of these plants gives its name to Saguaro National Park. The Aztecs founded Tenochtitlan after seeing a vision of an eagle eating a snake atop one of these plants. For the point, name these plants which often grow in deserts.

ANSWER: **cactuses** [or **cacti**; or **Cactaceae**; accept specific types such as **prickly pear**] <KG> {III}

28. A cave on this island was popularized through the writings of August Kopisch and is where statues of Triton and Poseidon were uncovered in 2012. This island's main square is nicknamed "the little theater of the world" and is named after Umberto I. Maxim Gorky spent seven years on this island. Twelve Roman villas, including Tiberius's Villa Jovis, are found on this island. This island is home to a sea cave whose glowing waters earn it the name "Blue Grotto." This Campanian island is often accessed from Naples. For the point, name this popular Italian vacation spot.

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

29. This school is home to Jaume Plensa's hollow sculpture *Alchemist*, which consists of white plastic symbols in the shape of a seated man. This school's numbered buildings 7 and 10 lie along a quarter-mile-long "Infinite Corridor". Its irregular-looking Stata Center was so structurally defective that it sued architect Frank Gehry. At this home school of Eero Saarinen's Kresge auditorium, the student body plays pranks called "hacks," such as placing a fire truck atop this school's Great Dome. For the point, name this science-focused school founded in 1861 in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

ANSWER: **MIT** [or **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**] <MJ> {III}

30. Archaeologists in this country have studied Stone Age megaliths at the Tiya (TEE-yah) site. Nepheline syenite stone was used to carve monuments with semicircular tops in this modern-day country, such as one named for king Ezana. A tiny, sour grain known as *tef* is grown in this country, the most populous producer of stews called *wot* and a spongy flatbread called *injera*. The stela-building Axumite Empire was centered in this modern-day country. For the point, name this never-fully-colonized country in Africa, that became landlocked in 1993 after the bloody secession of Eritrea to its north.

ANSWER: Federal Democratic Republic of **Ethiopia** [or **Ityoppya**] <MJ> {III}

31. A large company in this U.S. State's north used the Eleutherian Mills to produce gunpowder during the Civil War. This state has been embroiled in a centuries-old border dispute with its neighbor to the north and east due to a controversial surveying decision originally made in 1681. Many Fortune 500 companies have incorporated in this state, due to its low corporate taxes. Wallace Carothers invented nylon in this state while working for the DuPont chemical company here. A variety of broiler chicken was bred in this state's Sussex County, the southernmost of only three counties composing it. For the point, name this state sharing a peninsula with Maryland and Virginia.

ANSWER: **Delaware** <MJ> {III}

32. Part of the southeast of this region is administered by Los Katíos National Park. The Kuna and Chocó peoples are indigenous to this region. It was the site of the first successful European settlement on the American mainland, Santa María de la Antigua. Historically, a feasible canal route was thought to be its Atrato River. This region is indented by the Gulf of Urabá, for which a ferry system has been proposed because the Pan-American Highway does not traverse this region. For the point, name this densely-forested region that straddles the border of Panama and Colombia.

ANSWER: **Darién** Gap [prompt on **Panama**, **Isthmus of Panama**, or **Colombia** before "Panama"] <SH> {III}

33. This country's government has attempted to ban fishing of its koran trout. Its Arbëreshë (**pr. AHR-buh-reh-shuh**) diaspora in Italy may have begun its Spring Day celebration, now popular in its city of Elbasan. Communities in the north of this country have "sworn virgins," women who take on male social roles. Its language was spoken by the 19th century warrior Souliotes, who switched to Greek. This country's two main ethnic groups are the Tosks and Gegs. Its city of Kruje is home to the old citadel of its national hero, Skanderbeg. For the point, name this Adriatic country where Mother Teresa Square is home to the University of Tirana.

ANSWER: Republic of **Albania** [or Republika e **Shqipërisë** or **Shqipëria**] <SH> {III}

34. One attraction on this island is a house built by a 14th century knight for his wife Tiphaine. According to legend, another building on this island was constructed when an archangel prodded Bishop Aubert of Avranches in the forehead. A Henry Adams title compares a building on this island to Chartres Cathedral. Also known as Mont Tombe, this island at the mouth of the Couesnon River becomes surrounded by water at high tide. For the point, name this small island which is topped with a namesake monastery and which sits just off the coast of Normandy.

ANSWER: **Mont Saint-Michel** [accept Mont **Tombe** until mention] <EA> {III}

35. In this mountain range, medicinal muds are found in lakes such as Moltayevo. A river that begins in these mountains and is rich in deposits of potassium salts is the Kama River. This mountain range is used to denote a linguistic family that includes the Mansi, Samoyedic, Finnic, and Hungarian subgroups. These mountains' namesake orogenic belt runs from the Mughalzhar Hills of northwestern Kazakhstan all the way up to the island of Novaya Zemlya. For the point, name this Russian mountain range that traditionally separates Europe and Asia.

ANSWER: **Ural** Mountains [or **Urals** or **Uralskie** Mountains or **Uralsky** Khrebet or **Uralian** orogenic belt] <SH> {III}

**2015 U.S. Geography Olympiad
Playoffs - Semifinals
Extra Tossups – Use to break ties**

TB. These people traditionally regard a class of artisans and smiths called *inaden* with suspicion. Traditionally divided into groups called "kel," their language's word meaning "people," this ethnic group's historical range has the contentious mining town of Arlit and the Aïr mountains near its center. Men from this group customarily wear the *tagelmust*, a type of headgear made of dark blue cloth. The breakaway Republic of Azawad was founded and supported by this nomadic ethnic group. For the point, name these Berber-related people of the Sahara desert, found largely in Algeria, Niger, and Mali.

ANSWER: **Tuaregs** [prompt on **Berbers** until mention] <MJ> {III}

TB. These people originated a sport in which a horseman attempts to spear a suspended gold ring, the "race of the ring." These people used a weapon consisting of three leather balls on a rope to hunt rhea birds. These people participated in "creole fencing" with *facon* knives. One of these people participates in a singing duel at the climax of Jose Hernandez's epic *Martin Fierro*. These people wore woolen ponchos and primarily worked on the pampas and in Patagonia. For the point, name this type of South American cowboy.

ANSWER: **gauchos** <JB> {III}

TB. While working in one of these buildings, Grace Darling became famous for saving the lives of nine men. Robert Stevenson was known for designing these buildings, including one located on Bell Rock. The Fresnel lens was invented for use in these buildings. One of these buildings at Split Rock annually commemorates the *Edmund Fitzgerald* disaster. Sostratus of Cnidus built one of these non-library structures known as the Pharos in Alexandria. For the point, name this type of tower which were often used to warn ships of dangerous coastlines.

ANSWER: **lighthouses** <JB> {III}

TB. At a facility at this state, Arthur Compton sent a message reading "The Italian navigator has landed in the New World." A nuclear reactor in this state was built under the stands of a football stadium. A laboratory in this state unusually houses a herd of bison and is centered on Wilson Hall. Henry Moore's sculpture *Nuclear Energy* is located outside a facility in this state that was also the first-ever nuclear reactor. This state's city of Batavia is home to the largest particle accelerator in the United States, the Tevatron. For the point, name this state home to Fermilab and Chicago Pile-1.

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

TB. The construction of this place was commemorated with the poem "The Mighty Task is Done." People who almost died during the building of this place were part of the "Half Way to Hell Club." Paul Aladdin Alarab killed himself here to protest in the war in Iraq, and a *New Yorker* article called "Jumpers" documented the numerous deaths here. This most popular suicide location in the United States was surpassed in length in the U.S. in 1964 by the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge. For the point, name this suspension bridge linking Marin County to San Francisco.

ANSWER: **Golden Gate** Bridge <MC> {II}