

## PRELIMINARY COMPETITION

*Note to teacher: Each of the following rounds of 30 questions should begin with the same student. If you have fewer than 30 students in your class, you will not need every question within a round. The answer follows each question. Other acceptable answers are shown in parentheses. If a student does not give the correct answer, read only the first answer, not those in parentheses. Although every effort has been made to list all acceptable answers, you may allow other answers that you feel are acceptable. This would include variations on the acceptable answers. That is, if the answer is "Rocky Mountains," you should accept just "Rockies" even though it is not listed.*

**Teacher says:** Each question in Rounds 1, 2, and 3 will include a choice of two answers. Listen carefully and choose the answer you think is correct.

### ROUND 1: U.S. Geography

**Teacher says:** Questions in Round 1 are about the geography of the United States.

1. Which state capital is closer to the Gulf of Mexico—Little Rock or Columbus?
2. Which is more likely to be found in the American Southwest—cacti or boreal forests?
3. The Adirondack Mountains are found in which state—Connecticut or New York?
4. Independence, a starting point for expeditions along the Oregon Trail, is a town in which state—Missouri or South Carolina?
5. Which body of water is partially surrounded by Maryland—Pamlico Sound or Chesapeake Bay?
6. The Outer Banks are barrier islands in which state—North Carolina or Florida?
7. The Gadsden Purchase included which present-day state—Iowa or New Mexico?
8. Which river runs through South Dakota—the Colombia River or the Missouri River?
9. Which is the largest U.S. lake west of the Mississippi River—Lake Mead or the Great Salt Lake?

10. Mount McKinley, the highest peak in North America, is in which state—Colorado or Alaska?
11. Which city is located on the northeastern shore of San Francisco Bay—Oakland or Phoenix?
12. Cape Cod, known for its beautiful shoreline, is located in which state—Massachusetts or West Virginia?
13. Which crop is more important to the economy of Florida—lumber or oranges?
14. The Cherokee Indians were forced to relocate to present-day Oklahoma from what region of the United States—the Midwest or the Southeast?
15. The Chicago River flows across northeastern Illinois from which lake—Lake Michigan or Lake Huron?
16. Valley Forge National Historical Park is located just outside of which large city—Philadelphia or Boston?
17. The Great Basin can be found in which state—Missouri or Nevada?
18. Mauna Loa is a large shield volcano located in which state—Hawaii or Oregon?
19. The Potomac River flows past Washington, D.C., from its sources in which mountains—the Ozarks or the Appalachians?
20. Mobile is the chief seaport of which state on the Gulf of Mexico—Alabama or Louisiana?
21. The Battle of Little Bighorn was fought in which present-day state—Texas or Montana?

22. Which type of climate is found along the coast of Oregon—marine west coast or arid?
23. Lexington and Bowling Green are cities located in which state—Kentucky or Delaware?
24. The Sioux Indians once roamed which region—the Great Plains or the Colorado Plateau?
25. Lake Okeechobee is in which state—Arkansas or Florida?
26. Hurricanes are *more* likely to strike which coast of the United States—the Pacific coast or the Atlantic coast?
27. The geographic center of the lower 48 states lies in which state—Kansas or Idaho?
28. Which river runs between Arizona and California before entering Mexico—the Platte River or the Colorado River?
29. The famous colonial town of Williamsburg is located in which state—Indiana or Virginia?
30. Lewis and Clark traveled through which present-day state as they explored the Louisiana Purchase—North Dakota or Arkansas?

## ROUND 2: State Geographic Comparisons and Choices

**Teacher says:** Questions in Round 2 ask additional questions on the geography of the United States through comparisons and choices.

1. Which state is *more* likely to experience a blizzard—Idaho or Arkansas?
2. Which state borders *more* Great Lakes – Michigan or Ohio?
3. Which state reaches farther north—West Virginia or Wyoming?
4. Which state produces *more* apples—Washington or Florida?
5. Which state is *more* populous—New Jersey or New Hampshire?
6. Which state borders *more* states—Kentucky or Rhode Island?
7. Which state is *more* mountainous—Utah or Nebraska?
8. Which state is part of the Delmarva Peninsula—Virginia or Georgia?
9. Which state is home to the Little Missouri and Sheyenne National Grasslands—North Dakota or Kansas?
10. Which state has a longer border with Mexico—California or Texas?
11. Which state produces *more* corn—Iowa or Mississippi?
12. Which state borders Lake Erie—Wisconsin or Pennsylvania?
13. Which state is *more* likely to experience a tornado—New York or Oklahoma?

14. Which state was created over millions of years as the result of a hot spot in the Pacific Ocean—Hawaii or Washington?
15. What state produces *more* gold than any other state—Nevada or Nebraska?
16. Which state is bordered by the Mississippi River—Missouri or Alabama?
17. Which state has a lower average elevation—Arkansas or Florida?
18. Which state is located closer to the Tropic of Cancer—Louisiana or South Dakota?
19. Which state has a greater population density—Ohio or Wyoming?
20. Which state borders Lake Champlain—Vermont or Illinois?
21. Which state is home to Silicon Valley—California or Montana?
22. Which state is located closer to the Bay of Fundy—North Carolina or Maine?
23. Which state has a larger population—Connecticut or Delaware?
24. Which state is adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico—Mississippi or Oregon?
25. Which state has a longer border with Canada—Alaska or Idaho?
26. Which state does *not* have a coastline—Delaware or New Mexico?
27. Which state is bordered on the southwest by the Savannah River — South Carolina or Indiana?

28. Which state produces *more* wheat—Kansas or Vermont?

29. In which state is *more* land used for agriculture—Illinois or New Jersey?

30. Much of the southern part of which state is located on the Allegheny Plateau—Maine or New York?

## ROUND 3: U.S. Cities

*Teacher says:* In Round 3 you will be asked questions about cities in the U.S.

1. About three-quarters of the population of which state lives in the Honolulu metropolitan area—Utah or Hawaii?
2. Pascagoula [pas-kuh-GOO-luh], a city nearly destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, lies on the Gulf Coast of which state—Mississippi or Florida?
3. Brownsville, an important border city on the Rio Grande, is located in which state—Texas or New Mexico?
4. Flagstaff, known as an astronomical center and home to the Lowell Observatory, is a city in the northern part of which state—Arizona or Oregon?
5. Lumbering and paper milling are two important economic activities in Missoula, a city located just south of the Flathead Indian Reservation, in which state—Wyoming or Montana?
6. The Merrimack River runs through Manchester, the largest city in which state—New Hampshire or Rhode Island?
7. For just over half a century, St. Mary's City was the colonial capital of which state—North Carolina or Maryland?
8. The Rogue River runs through Grants Pass as it flows from the Cascades to the Pacific Ocean in which state—Oregon or Idaho?
9. Louisville, located on the Ohio River, is a major city in which state—Michigan or Kentucky?
10. Newark is the largest city and an industrial center in which mid-Atlantic state—New Jersey or Vermont?

11. Green Bay is located at the southwestern edge of the Door Peninsula, not far from Lake Michigan, in which state—Minnesota or Wisconsin?
12. Thousands of turbines harness the power of strong winds outside Palm Springs, a desert retreat in which state—California or Utah?
13. The town of Luray, famous for its nearby caverns, is located in the Shenandoah Valley in which state—New Mexico or Virginia?
14. Hyannis, a large town located in a major cranberry-producing region, can be found north of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Island in which state—Massachusetts or North Carolina?
15. Juneau is the capital of which large state where herds of reindeer can be found—Maine or Alaska?
16. Sparks, a rapidly growing city on the Truckee River, is located near Lake Tahoe in which state—Nevada or New Hampshire?
17. Wall, a town famous for its huge drug store and tourist stop, is located just north of Badlands National Park in which state—West Virginia or South Dakota?
18. St. Augustine, the site for the fort that protected Spain's first permanent settlement in what is now the United States, is a city located in which state? *Florida or Alabama?*
19. Middletown is located on the Narragansett Bay in which state—Rhode Island or Montana?
20. The city of Moab is the gateway to Arches National Park in which state—Vermont or Utah?
21. Sandusky, a port on Lake Erie, is located in which state—South Carolina or Ohio?

22. The city of Laramie [LA-ruh-mee], center of a livestock-raising region, is located in the southern part of the Laramie Mountains in which state—Wyoming or Alaska?
23. The city of Pocatello is located at the northern end of the Bannock Range in which mountainous state—Vermont or Idaho?
24. The city of Pasco is located on the Columbia River not far from the Ice Harbor Dam in which state—Washington or Georgia?
25. Springfield, once a key stop on a California-bound stagecoach line, is located in which state that gets hydroelectric power from a dam on the Osage River—Missouri or Colorado?
26. The city of Council Bluffs, which served as the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific Railroad, is located in which state—Louisiana or Iowa?
27. The city of Harrisburg, which lies on the Susquehanna [SUS-kwuh-HA-nah] River, is located in which state—Pennsylvania or Kansas?
28. Omaha, situated on the west bank of the Missouri River, is one of the largest livestock markets and meat-processing centers in the world. This city is located in which state—Illinois or Nebraska?
29. The city of New Haven, home to Yale University, is located on the coast of which state—Oregon or Connecticut?
30. Hot Springs, a city that shares its name with the nearby national park, is a famous tourist attraction in which state—Arkansas or Maine?

## ROUND 4: Continents

*Teacher says:* In Rounds 4, 5, and 6, a choice of answers is not provided. The subject of questions in this round is continents.

1. Kakadu [ka-ka-du] National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site noted for its unique ancient Aboriginal rock art, is located in the far north of what continent?
2. The Benelux Countries get their name from the first letters of three small countries located on what continent?
3. Quebec City, founded in 1608 as a fur-trading post overlooking the St. Lawrence River, is located on which continent?
4. Mount Kailas [KEI-LUS], a sacred mountain to followers of the Hindu and Buddhist faiths, is located in the Tibetan Himalayas on which continent?
5. Construction and maintenance of railroads and roads is difficult and expensive in the rugged Andes Mountain region of which continent?
6. Victoria Falls, known to local people by a name meaning "the smoke that thunders," are located on the Zambezi River on which continent?
7. Philippine farmers grow rice on 2,000 year-old mountain terraces built on Luzon, an island that is part of which continent?
8. The Caribbean countries of the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica were colonies of countries on which continent?
9. South Asians, Africans, Chinese, Indonesians, and Creoles make up part of the diverse population of Suriname, a country located on which continent?
10. Yukon, Northwest, and Nunavut are territories in a country that includes parts of the Arctic region of what continent?

11. The Middle East serves as a crossroads between Asia, Africa, and what other continent?
12. What is the only continent today without a permanent human population?
13. Earth's oldest material, approximately 4.4 billion years old, was found in rocks on the only continent without an active volcano. Name this continent.
14. The Okavango Delta, a rich wildlife and wetlands oasis in Botswana, is located in the Kalahari Desert on which continent?
15. Australia, Earth's smallest continent in area, is closest in size to which other continent?
16. In Islam, it is the duty of every Muslim who can to make a once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage to Mecca. This city is located on which continent?
17. Which continent has the largest amount of ice, with over 95 percent of its surface covered by an ice sheet?
18. Mali and Sudan, both predominantly Muslim countries, are located north of the Equator on which continent?
19. Spanish and French, two official languages in many countries, evolved from Latin, which was originally spoken on which continent?
20. The two most populous countries in the world, China and India, are located on which continent?
21. The ancient civilizations of Mesoamerica, such as the Olmec, were located on which continent?
22. The altiplano, a high plateau region near Lake Titicaca [tee-tee-KAH-kah], is located on which continent?

23. In 2006, countries from all over the world participated in soccer's World Cup, which took place on which small continent?
24. Which continent in the Southern Hemisphere experiences severe winds and is also the driest continent?
25. Protestantism, which emerged as a protest against the Roman Catholic faith, developed on which continent?
26. European powers drew boundary lines at the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885 that divided what continent according to their colonial interests?
27. Which continent is home to the world's largest remaining rain forest, which contains diverse flora and fauna?
28. Spirit Cave, an interconnecting series of caverns, is located in a karst region of northern Thailand on which continent?
29. During the past three years, the Darfur region on which continent has seen the displacement of refugees?
30. The Bolshoi Theatre, known as a cultural center for opera and ballet, is located in Moscow on which continent?

## **ROUND 5: Cultural Geography**

*Teacher says:* Cultural geography is the subject of questions in Round 5.

1. The city of Nuremberg, the birthplace of the famous painter Albrecht [AHL-breht] Dürer [DOOR-er], lies in province of Bavaria. Nuremberg is located in which present-day country?
2. Matamoros, once occupied by American troops, is located in which country that controls Baja California?
3. Kana and Kanji [kahn-jee] are the two major groups of characters in the written language of which Asian country?
4. Bilbao is a center of Basque culture in which European country?
5. The Siamese cat was named after Siam, which is the former name of what present-day country?
6. Finnish is one member of a language family originating in the Ural Mountains. The Ural Mountains are located in Kazakhstan and which other country?
7. Karachi and Lahore, both cities with populations greater than five million, are located in which South Asian country?
8. Afrikaners are the descendants of European settlers who mostly live in which present-day African country?
9. In the past, Mongol invasions greatly affected the way of life for people in Manchuria. Most of this region is now part of which country?
10. Hakas, dances meant to frighten enemies, are a traditional part of the Maori culture in which island nation?
11. Highway signs in both Gaelic and English are common in which country?

12. The Malagasy have strong ties with the French and live on the largest island in the Indian Ocean. Name this island.
13. Women traditionally wear an *abbaya* [a-bī-a], or dark garment, over modern clothes in Manama, the cosmopolitan capital city of which country?
14. The cultures of Goa have been influenced by both Hindu and Roman Catholic traditions. Goa is now a state in which country?
15. Strong ties to the sea and sailing characterize the city of Genoa. Genoa is a port in which country?
16. Minsk, a major cultural center known for its museums, churches, libraries and theaters, is the capital and largest city of which country?
17. Steel drums, acoustic musical instruments created from finely tuned oil drums, originated in which island country just north of Venezuela?
18. Magyars moved into the middle Danube River Basin more than 1,000 years ago. Today, they are the predominant ethnic group of which Central European country?
19. The Shi'ite [shee-ahyt] Muslims of Azerbaijan [ah-zuhr-bei-JAHN] have much in common with their ethnic relatives in which neighboring country to the south?
20. The two largest ethnic groups, Amhara [ahm-HAHR-uh] and Oromo [aw-ROH-moh], make up about two-thirds of the population in which landlocked country west of Somalia?
21. The people of which island country southeast of India are predominantly Sinhalese?
22. Which country moved its capital from Istanbul to the more centrally-located Ankara in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century?

23. Which Northern European country originated St. Lucia Day on December 13 as a celebration of light in the darkness of winter?
24. Part of the Spanish colonial empire until 1898, which Southeast Asian island country is predominantly Roman Catholic?
25. Which island country, the easternmost in Melanesia, has a population that includes a large number of South Asians?
26. Which country bordering the Pacific Ocean is Central America's most densely populated country?
27. Once a German colony, which present-day country in southwest Africa most recently gained independence?
28. Colonial architecture and traditional folk art are examples of the rich heritage in the city of Quito in which South American country?
29. Carthage, an ancient city famous for its archaeological wealth, is located on the Mediterranean coast of which African country?
30. Plaza de Armas, a center of historic buildings including the Arch Bishop's Palace, is located in Santiago, the capital of which country?

## ROUND 6: World Geography

*Teacher says:* World Geography is the topic of questions in Round 6.

1. Mumbai is a major port city in which country that has a population of more than one billion people?
2. In 1979, Islamic radicals seized more than 50 American hostages from the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. Tehran is the capital of what country?
3. Over two million barrels of oil a day are exported from what South American country with a border on the Caribbean Sea?
4. Which landlocked European country, a grand duchy, is surrounded by Belgium, Germany and France?
5. The island of Borneo is shared by Brunei, Indonesia, and what other country?
6. The islands of Luzon, Mindanao, and Mindoro are a part of which Asian country that gained independence from the United States in 1946?
7. Around 3000 B.C. the Sumerians built some of the world's first known cities in southern Mesopotamia. This region is part of which present-day Persian Gulf country?
8. The Gaza Strip and the West Bank are territories bordering what country on the Mediterranean coast of Southwest Asia?
9. Serengeti National Park, a vast grassland southeast of Lake Victoria, was established in 1951 in which country?
10. Florence, a city located on the Arno River, is home to the elaborate Boboli Gardens in which country?
11. Gold and uranium are found in the Outback, an interior region of which country bordering on the Pacific and Indian Oceans?

12. The Dead Sea, which has about nine times the salinity of ocean water, lies between Israel and which country?
13. Antigua, located in a valley surrounded by volcanoes, is one of the oldest colonial cities in which Central American country bordering Mexico?
14. The Central Asian nations of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan all border what landlocked country in the Hindu Kush Mountains?
15. In the 8<sup>th</sup> century, the Moors conquered much of the Iberian Peninsula, including the city of Granada, which is in what present-day country?
16. What West African nation, east of Liberia, is the largest cocoa producer in the world?
17. The Salzburg Festival, one of Europe's most important and famous musical events, takes place annually in which Alpine country?
18. Invaded by Turkish forces in 1974, which Mediterranean island is divided between the Turkish-controlled north and the Greek south?
19. The Rila Monastery is a historic and cultural site in the Rhodope Mountains located south of the capital of Sofia in which European country?
20. The Li River, which flows through the city of Guilin [GUAI-LIN], is surrounded by massive karst formations in which large country?
21. The Westman Islands, located on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, are a small archipelago neighboring which European country?
22. The Gulf Islands form an archipelago east of Vancouver Island and are administered by what country?

23. Hadrian's Wall, a defensive structure built by the Romans, stretches across which country?
24. Which country holds the world record for number of annual tornadoes with each state experiencing at least one in its history?
25. A bicycle road race of unique fame and prestige takes place mainly in which European country north of the Pyrenees?
26. The Nazca Lines, a series of geometric forms and lines in the earth, are found in the arid desert coast of which South American country?
27. The Drakensburg Mountains and the famous beaches of Port Elizabeth can be found in the Eastern Cape province of which African country?
28. Tivoli Gardens, a famous amusement park and flower gardens, is located in the capital city of Copenhagen. Copenhagen is located in which country?
29. Bujumbura [boo-jum-BOO-rah] is the capital of which small landlocked country that lies just south of the Equator in Central Africa?
30. What small country on the Atlantic coast of the Iberian Peninsula was a major player in the expansion of oceanic exploration during the 15th century?

## ROUND 7: Odd Item Out

*Teacher says:* "Odd Item Out" is the title of the final round of the Preliminary Competition. In each of the questions in this round, you will be given a choice of three answers. You must choose the one answer that does *not* belong.

1. Which country does *not* border the Atlantic Ocean—Mauritania, Cameroon, or Tanzania?
2. Which country does *not* border the North Sea—Ireland, Denmark, or Germany?
3. Which country does *not* have more than one official language—United Arab Emirates, Switzerland, or Afghanistan?
4. Which country does *not* have ports on both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea—Panama, Belize, or Nicaragua?
5. Which country was *not* colonized by Spain—Peru, Colombia, or Suriname?
6. Which country does *not* have land in the subarctic climate zone—France, Finland, or Sweden?
7. Which country is *not* landlocked—Papua New Guinea, Mali, or Belarus?
8. Which country is *not* located in the Pacific Ocean—Sri Lanka, New Zealand, or Fiji?
9. Which country is *not* located in the Southern Hemisphere—Chile, Argentina, or Venezuela?
10. Which country does *not* include part of the Nile River—Egypt, Sudan, or Libya?
11. Which country is *not* a major producer of zinc—Canada, South Korea, or China?

12. Which country does *not* have a Romance language as its official language—Turkey, Romania, or Portugal?
13. Which country is *not* partially located on a peninsula—Italy, Malaysia, or Bhutan?
14. Which country does *not* have a majority of its population living in urban area—United States, Iceland, or Burkina Faso?
15. Which country is *not* predominantly Hindu—Bangladesh, India, or Nepal?
16. Which country does *not* border the Mediterranean Sea—Greece, Lebanon, or Iran?
17. Which country is *not* considered part of Scandinavia—Sweden, the United Kingdom, or Norway?
18. Which country is *not* crossed by the Equator—Gabon, Guatemala, or Indonesia?
19. Which country is *not* a major producer of oil—Zambia, Venezuela, or Russia?
20. Which present-day country is *not* a former colony of the United Kingdom—Kenya, South Africa, or Algeria?
21. Which country is *not* at risk of desertification—Saudi Arabia, India, or Japan?
22. Which present-day country was *not* part of former Yugoslavia—Croatia, Slovakia, or Serbia?
23. Which country does *not* experience tropical cyclones—Liberia, Haiti, or Japan?
24. Which country is *not* a member of the African Union—Chad, Yemen, or Ethiopia?

25. Which country is *not* one of the world's top three producers of citrus fruits—Brazil, the United States, or Morocco?
26. Which country does *not* include an area of humid subtropical climate—China, Uruguay, or Chad?
27. Which country is *not* located near the Tsushima [TSOO-SHEE-MAH] Current—Japan, South Korea, or Indonesia?
28. Which country does *not* border the Adriatic Sea—Germany, Italy, or Croatia?
29. Which country does *not* border Lake Victoria—Kenya, Uganda, or Nigeria?
30. Which country does *not* have a border along the Red Sea—Egypt, Syria, or Eritrea?

# Preliminary Competition Tiebreaker Questions

*Note to teacher: The following tiebreaker questions may be needed if there are ties in determining the finalists.*

*Teacher says:* I will use a single-elimination procedure to break the tie. This means one miss and you are out of the competition unless everyone misses the question. Each of you will be asked the same question at the same time. You will have 15 seconds to write your answer on the paper provided. When the timekeeper calls "Time," each of you will put down your marker and hold up your answer. When I call on you, read your answer aloud. *I will wait to give the correct answer until all the answers for that question have been read.* Please continue to hold up your answer until the scorekeeper has had a chance to record each score. The judge will be responsible for verifying that each contestant's written answer matches his or her oral answer and that the scores have been recorded correctly. We will follow this procedure for each question. I will continue asking tiebreaker questions one at a time until the tie is broken. You will not be penalized for inaccurate pronunciation or spellings as long as it can be determined that you know the correct answer. I will read each question *twice*, so you may not ask for a repeat. Please listen carefully before writing your answer.

1. Hilton Head Island, the largest coastal island between New Jersey and Florida, lies south of Port Royal Sound in which state?
2. The city of Nuevo Laredo is a trading center just across the Rio Grande from the city of Laredo. Nuevo Laredo is located in which country?
3. What language is spoken by more Chinese than any other?
4. Tibetan legend says that a mysterious creature called a yeti roams the snowy slopes of what mountain range?
5. A police force founded by Robert Peel, and called "bobbies," patrols the United Kingdom's largest city. Name this city.
6. Alpaca wool has traditionally been a source of clothing for people living in what large, South American mountain range?
7. Which of the four major political divisions of the United Kingdom accounts for approximately 83 percent of the country's population?

8. Name the instrument used for measuring atmospheric pressure.
9. The Bass Strait separates mainland Australia from which island?
10. Ceylon tea is grown on the hillsides of what South Asian country?