

2015 Geography Bee of Asia & Europe

ROUND FINALS – STAGE 1

1. Cyclone Mahina hit this country in 1899, causing the death of hundreds of pearlers who had sought shelter at Bathurst Bay. Indigenous peoples in this nation were granted Certificates of Exemption, also known as a “dog licence.” At Yarra Ranges National Park, one can still see “stags,” or towering charred Mountain Ash trees, over 70 years after the devastating Black Friday fires. Farmers in this nation currently worry over the future of the Murray-Darling Basin, which has undergone recent devastating droughts. For the point, name this country where the Black Saturday fires in 2009 killed 173 in its state of Victoria.
ANSWER: **Australia** (JF)
2. La Bufadora, a natural marine geyser that blows water up to 80 feet, is close to the only deepwater port on this landmass, the cruise-ship drawing port of Ensenada. Another attraction, on this landmass, Todos Santos draws surfers due to the allure of its waves. Though not Nicaragua, the American William Walker attempted to seize this region. A city in the north of this region is home to the world’s busiest land border crossing while a major tourism draw on this peninsula features the Cabo Wabo complex in Cabo San Lucas. For the point, name this second-longest peninsula in the world, severed by the Sea of Cortes from Mexico.
ANSWER: **Baja California** Peninsula (JF)
3. Two rivers that run through national capitals in this mountain range are the Hrazdan and Kura Rivers. This mountain range is home to the Kartvelian language family, as well as the Alan and Ingush languages. The Pankisi Gorge is found in this mountain range along with the breakaway republic of South Ossetia. Rosa Khutor is a recently built sporting complex in this mountain range, whose highest peak is Mount Elbrus. For the point, name this Eurasian mountain range between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea.
ANSWER: **Caucasus** Mountains (WD)
4. The largest city by population in this country has a name that can be translated as “mother of apples”. One building in this country’s capital is supposed to resemble a golden egg in a tree and is called Bayterek. This country’s largest lake is Lake Balkash, and is home to cities like Karaganda and Aktobe. Almaty used to be the capital of this country before being replaced in 1997 by Astana. For the point, name this Central Asian country, the largest landlocked nation in the world.
ANSWER: (Republic of) **Kazakhstan** (WD)
5. This island’s Fly River serves as an international boundary between the two countries that own land here. The Torres Strait separates this island to the Cape York Peninsula to the south. The western half of this island is known as Irian Jaya to the people living there, while the residents of the eastern half speak the

language Tok Pisin. Cities on this island include Madang, Jayapura, and one capital city, Port Moresby. For the point, name this island, considered to be the westernmost of Melanesia, the second largest in the world.

ANSWER: **New Guinea** (WD)

6. A silt removal project on this river will clear the path for a route between the cities of Baro and Warri. Mungo Park was an early explorer of this river's basin. The Dogon and Fula people live along this river, which receives water from the Bani River. An expedition to traverse the entire length of this river in 1946 began at Kissidougou. This river joins the Benue River at Lokoja in one of the countries named for it. For the point, name this West African river which served as the center for the Mali, Songhai, and Ghana civilizations and empties into the Gulf of Guinea.

ANSWER: **Niger** River (ARCHIVE)

7. This region was the site of the Battle of the Hydaspes River between its King Porus and Alexander the Great. The Sutlej and Chenab Rivers flow through this region, whose current capital is Chandigarh. This region's ancient capital of Lahore lies on the shore of the Ravi River. This region contains the holy city Amritsar, against which Indira Gandhi launched Operation Blue Star. For the point, name this Northern Indian region that was historically famous as the homeland of the Sikhs.

ANSWER: **Punjab** (RN)

8. This body of water is home to a unique phenomenon where, twice a year, tides open up a land bridge between the otherwise separate islands of Jindo and Modo. This sea includes the Laodong and Laizhou Bays, and is home to ports such as Qinhuangdao on the shores of its Bohai branch. Jeju island lies Southeast of this sea, whose port at Incheon proved pivotal during the Korean War. For the point, name this colorfully named sea that lies between China and the Korean Peninsula.

ANSWER: **Yellow** Sea (accept "**Bohai Sea**" before read) (RN)

9. The highest natural point in this city is located near the Loudonville Reservoir. On the western edge of this city, a preserve holds the only inland pine barrens sand dune ecosystem in the United States, and Patroon Creek and Normans Kill bound this city to the north and south. A suburb of this city named Troy calls itself the birthplace of Uncle Sam. This state capital city is the longest continuously chartered city in the United States. For the point, what is this New York city home to the Empire State Plaza?

ANSWER: **Albany**

10. The Galle Trilingual Inscription concerns an event led by this person. This person led one side in a conflict against King Alakeshvara of Kotte, leading to a reorganization of government in southern Ceylon. The city of Mogadishu was famously visited by this man in 1430. This man once returned a giraffe to his home country, where it was mistaken as a qilin. This man is known to have sailed

as far as the east coast of Africa, and is often theorized to have “discovered” and mapped the Americas. For the point, name this Ming Chinese admiral who led 7 Indian Ocean voyages from 1407 to 1433.

ANSWER: **Zheng** He (accept **Cheng** Ho) (EK)

11. A monument to the namesake of Earl Grey tea can be found in this city, and was built to honor that man’s work on the Reform Act of 1832. The British answer to the reality series *Jersey Shore* takes place in this city; that show is *Jordie Shore*, and makes use of a colloquial term for people from this city. The river referenced in this city’s full name distinguishes it from a similarly named city in England; that city is located “under Lyme.” Its not Manchester, but this city is also famous for its “United” Premier League team. For the point, name this northeast English city, the capital of the metropolitan county Tyne and Wear.

ANSWER: **Newcastle** upon Tyne (CP)

12. The city of Garmisch-Partenkirchen cleaned up evidence of human rights abuses before it became one of these places. Cities in Kazakhstan and China are seeking to win this designation later this year. Due to World War II, Cortina d’Ampezzo became one of these places later than expected. The southernmost of these places is Nagano, Japan. Lake Placid, one of these places, was the location of the 1980 Miracle on Ice. For the point, name these places; a heavily controversial one of which was Sochi in 2014.

ANSWER: **Hosts of the Winter Olympics** (accept equivalents; prompt on partial answer) (CP)

13. Insel Air is based at this island’s airport, called Hato International, which offers direct flights to Santo Domingo, Caracas, and Miami. The 2004 Little League Series was won by a team from this place. Colorful buildings can be seen in this island’s capital of Willemstad. The residents of this island speak Papiamentu and this island is located just north of Venezuela. For the point, name this Caribbean island which belongs to the Netherlands, the C in the ABC Islands.

ANSWER: **Curacao** (WD)

14. This country contains an isolated settlement at Matmata, whose Hotel Sidi Driss was the location of filming for many scenes set on the planet Tatooine of the Star Wars franchise. This nation’s Southeastern shore was home to the ancient city of Thapsus while its city of Sfax saw fighting in World War II. This country is famous for a fiery red pepper paste known as harissa, and a street vendor’s self immolation in 2010 in this nation sparked mass demonstrations that would evolve into the Arab Spring. For the point, name this African nation with capital at Tunis.

ANSWER: **Tunisian** Republic (RN)

15. This state's ghost town of Ebenezer was established by Austrian Protestant outcasts, and briefly served as this state's capital. Settlers of this state founded the first of its many capitals at Yamacraw Bluff. This state has the second-most counties in the U.S. with 159, such as Henry and Cobb, with the most populous being Fulton. During the Civil War, this state's city of Augusta was spared from destruction by General Sherman's Savannah Campaign, also known as his March to the Sea. For the point, name this state, nicknamed the Peach State, with capital Atlanta.

ANSWER: **Georgia** (CP)

16. This continent is home to Mount Frissell, a peak in a range whose highest point is Mount Equinox. That mountain range is the Taconics. One stretch of the western area of this continent features many erratics, or car-sized boulders driven hundreds of miles in a flood. In addition to the Scablands, a massive lake named Lake Agassiz existed on this continent, leaving among its remnants the Lake of the Woods. The city of Cahokia and the Clovis culture existed on this continent. For the point, name this continent whose Acadian orogeny formed the Appalachian mountains.

ANSWER: **North America** (JF)

17. Mount Shishaldin is the highest mountain in this chain, whose island of Amchitka was used for underground nuclear tests. This group of islands was once called the Catherine Islands, and is geologically related to the Commander Islands. Its largest town, Dutch Harbor, processes approximately 750 million pounds of fish a year. During World War II, this chain's islands of Agattu, Kiska, and Attu were occupied by Japanese forces. For the point, name this island chain which extends off the coast of Alaska.

ANSWER: **Aleutian** Islands (JF)

18. The Kariba Dam and the Cahora Bassa Dam on this river provide hydroelectric power and control flooding. The Mana Pools on the lower part of this river provide excellent game-viewing. The Caprivi Strip was added to the colony of German South-West Africa to give it access to this river. The most famous feature of this river is called Mosi-oa-Tunya or "the smoke that thunders." For the point, name this river, home to Victoria Falls.

ANSWER: **Zambesi** River (KL)

19. Important battles that have taken place along this body of water have occurred in Nicopolis and Mohacs. The delta of this river is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and can be found near the city of Constanta. Composers of musical pieces about this river include Ion Ivanovici and Johann Strauss. Four national capitals lie

along this river including Bratislava, Budapest, and Belgrade. For the point, name this European river which begins in the Black Forest of Germany and flows into the Black Sea.

ANSWER: **Danube** River (WD)

20. This commodity was introduced to the French court after the marriage of Louis XIII to Anne of Austria. Sikasso is a center for human trafficking in order to find workers to harvest this crop. This food is believed to be harvested by up to 15,000 child slaves, most of whom hail from Mali, but who work in the Ivory Coast. In Aztec culture, this bean was ground into a paste and then mixed into a drink with water, chili peppers, and other spices. For the point, name these beans which can be processed into chocolate.

ANSWER: **Cocoa** beans (or **Cacao** beans; prompt on Chocolate up until “bean”) (JF)

21. This country’s main port lies in the district of La Condamine and is called Port Hercules. The entire region of Fonteville, in the south of this country, was reclaimed from the Mediterranean Sea. This country has been ruled by the Grimaldi family since 1297, and its current monarch is Prince Albert II. For the point, name this microstate of Europe, bordered on three sides by France and home to the famous Monte Carlo grand prix and casinos, the most densely populated country in the world.

ANSWER: (Principality of) **Monaco** (WD)

22. The butteri, ranch hands hailing from this region’s area of Maremma, once defeated Buffalo Bill’s cowboys in a test of rodeo skills. Visitors might pair with their meal of *cinghiale*, or wild boar, with a chianti wine hailing from this region. In this region, one can see paintings like *The Birth of Venus* and *La Primavera* or sculptures like Michelangelo’s *David* in its most notable city’s Uffizi and Accademia galleries. For the point, name this region of Italy home to Florence.

ANSWER: **Tuscany** (or **Toscana**) (JF)

23. This structure was reportedly conceived when the architect was looking at Elsinore Castle. Though this structure won its architect the Pritzker Prize, the architect resigned due to conflicts with Davis Hughes, and was replaced by Peter Hall. Joseph Cahill approved construction of this structure, which was built on the site of the Fort Macquarie Tram Depot overlooking Port Jackson. For the point, name this performing arts venue designed by Jorn Utzon, located in the largest city in Australia.

ANSWER: **Sydney Opera House** (ARCHIVE)

24. Though it is not Budapest, the Novo-Darnytskyi Bridge connects the two halves of this city together. A ravine on the outskirts of this city was the site of a World War II massacre at Baba Yar. This city’s House with Chimeras sits across from the Presidential house of this city’s country where Viktor Yanukovich once lived

before the Maidan uprising. For the point, a namesake Rus' was based around what national capital of Ukraine?

ANSWER: **Kiev** (ARCHIVE)

25. The Hualapai people have lived along the southern banks of this river for centuries. One city along this river is home to a bridge that once spanned the River Thames. This river flows through Horseshoe Bend just south of the Glen Canyon Dam. Another tributary of this river is fed by the Yampa and joins just before this river becomes Lake Powell. The Green River and Gila River both feed, for the point, what river that carved out the Grand Canyon?

ANSWER: **Colorado** River (RN)

26. Along with bizarre squatting figures, these animals are used to represent the 12 winds on the Hereford Mappa Mundi. The Ebstorf Map is the earliest map known to depict one of these animals, and that map places it in Southern Africa. Nine of these creatures often depict scenes on walls in Chinese palaces and these creatures can be found on the flags of Bhutan and Wales. For the point, medieval maps are often believed to have labeled terra incognita with the words "Here be *these animals*," fire-breathing lizards.

ANSWER: **Dragons** (JF)

27. The "Witches of Subeshi" and Yingpan Man, mummies found in the foothills of this mountain range have challenged the traditional chronology of Caucasian expansion. The highest peak in this mountain range was named in honor of the Allied victory at Stalingrad, earning it the name Jengish Chokusu, or Victory Peak. For the point, name this Central Asian mountain range spanning through Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and China whose name translates as Heavenly Mountains from Chinese.

ANSWER: **Tien Shan** Mountains

28. This former rock quarry turned park was once owned by the Venable Brothers before being purchased by a state government in 1958. Trails at this park include the Cherokee Trail, Nature Garden Trail, and Songbird Habitat Trails, and a laser show lights the bas-relief carving on this park's namesake feature during summer evenings. For the point, name this park which hosted tennis, archery, and track cycling events during the 1996 Summer Olympics and depicts Jefferson Davis, Stonewall Jackson, and Robert E. Lee.

ANSWER: **Stone Mountain** Park

29. A Ross's Gull, common in the Arctic, was notably spotted at this body of water in November 2006. This body of water occupies a portion of the area of the prehistoric Lake Cahuilla. This body is noted for its great avian biodiversity, and supports roughly 30% of the population of the American White Pelican. This body was created due to construction of irrigation canals to funnel water into this body's namesake "sink" – now, this body draws comparisons to the Aral Sea as a

result of rising salinity. For the point, name this so-called “sea”, located in a drainage basin in southern California.

ANSWER: **Salton** Sea (EK)

30. This island’s longest river is the Solo River, and to its east lies the Madura Strait. This island’s Sailendra Dynasty erected a six story monument with five hundred and four Buddha statues at Borobudur. Government programs have attempted to encourage emigration from this densely populated island to islands such as Sulawesi. Its most active volcano is Mount Merapi, and its second largest city is Surabaya. This island is located East of the strait that contains Krakatoa. For the point, name this most populous island in the world.

ANSWER: **Java** (RN)

31. The Mandelbrot Paradox deals with the difficulty of measuring a British one of these geographic entities. One of these entities in Northeast Spain is referred to as “Brava,” while one in southern Spain is called del Sol. One of these entities in Namibia is named for its many shipwrecks which resulted in skeletons being found along it. Aside from Monaco, the country with the shortest one of these in Europe is Bosnia and Herzegovina. For the point, name these entities where cannot be found in countries such as Paraguay.

ANSWER: **Coasts** (or **coastlines** or other same knowledge equivalents; accept “**Costa Brava**”) (RN)

32. This site was a center of trade, as shown by the many greenstones buried among the offerings in Complex A. The Stirling Acropolis in this site, although largely unexcavated, is believed to have been home to elites. This site has many altars, showing figures emerging from either a cave or the underworld, now believed to have been used as thrones. This site became the center of its culture after the decline of a site contemporaneous to the nearby El Azuzul Twins, San Lorenzo. The Tuxtla Mountains provided the stone for this site’s colossal heads. For the point, name this Olmec site in Mexico.

ANSWER: **La Venta** (JF)

33. Essex, Caledonia, and Orleans counties in this state make up its Northeast Kingdom. One important landmark in the early history of this state is the Catamount Tavern in Bennington. A namesake train terminates in Saint Albans in this state’s northwest. This state is home to Camel’s Hump and Killington Peak, which can be found along its Long Trail. Otter Creek flows past Middlebury in this state en route to a lake on this state’s western border. For the point, name this state, the largest producer of maple syrup in the USA.

ANSWER: **Vermont**

34. Ptolemy II named a city this, after his sobriquet, which would later be the Jordanian capital, Amman. The current town of Alashehir, Turkey, was named this and was notable for being a Byzantine exclave in Anatolia. The American city called this was the residence of the Catholic saints John Neumann and

Katharine Drexel. That city's first black mayor, W. Wilson Goode, was in charge during the MOVE tragedy, and later mayors have included Ed Rendell and John Street. For the point, give this name describing a city where a recent rail crash took place in Pennsylvania.

ANSWER: **Philadelphia**

35. This river's main tributary sees an annual horse race commemorating a battle in a war of independence, where horses compete in swimming across the Apure River. One can see this river's caños in the Turuépano National Park, located near the Gulf of Paría. This river begins on Mount Delgado Chalbaud in the Sierra Parima highlands. The Casiquiare links this river to the more southerly Negro River, joining this river to the Amazon basin. This river names a "belt" of heavy oil alleged to contain 235 billion barrels of oil. For the point, name this 1,700 mile long river largely in Venezuela.

ANSWER: **Orinoco** River (or Río **Orinoco**) (JF)

36. This specific location was found to contain butternut remnants, suggesting that further exploration occurred farther south of this location. This location's name may have resulted from corruption of the French word for jellyfish, and this place's likely historic settlement has a name possibly referring to wild berries or meadows. This location may have been home to the Skraelings, and sites east of this location made by the same civilization were found on Baffin Island. Helge and Anne Stine Ingstad discovered Norse remains at this location, which is located on a peninsula in northern Newfoundland. For the point, name this possible location of Vinland.

ANSWER: **L'anse aux Meadows** (prompt on Vinland or Newfoundland before "name" in line 2 – afterwards, do not) (EK)

37. The Bassac distributary begins this river's delta, branching off sharply after this river receives water from a system including the Stung Sen River. This river's unexplained Naga fireballs are balls of light occasionally observed rising from its surface, and it is crossed by a series of "friendship bridges". The city of Luang Prabang on this river has become an important tourist destination due to its Buddhist temples. The final portion of this river frequently undergoes flow reversals due to low tides along its course. For the point, name this Southeast Asian river that forms a large portion of Laos' Western border.

ANSWER: **Mekong** River (RN)