



International Geography Bee

2024-2025 Regional Finals Study Guide – Beta Question Set

Instructions: This study guide should be your first resource in preparing for the International Geography Bee that is run on the Beta Set of questions for the 2024-2025 academic year. Most of the facts below are found at some point in the preliminary rounds of this Set. Thus, we have selected these facts for this study guide to help make your preparation easier and more efficient. This study guide is particularly meant to help new players and teams – not to determine the ultimate winner of the tournament. For that, you will need to do more preparation. In particular, we recommend reviewing the past questions that are posted on the website at www.ihbbeurope.com, www.iacompetitionsasia.com, or www.ihbbcanada.com as well as the other resources there, such as the Nationals Capitals Study Guide. Remember that the questions are all short paragraphs on a particular topic, so if a topic is referenced below, then it is a good idea to learn a bit more about it on your own than what is listed here (since additional facts about a topic will also be referenced in the question). On the other hand, it is generally not helpful to memorize the dates of events or of famous people’s birth and death years, as those are provided below for historical context, not because we will likely ask for those. It is also helpful to read, at a minimum, the introduction of a Wikipedia page on a topic to gain additional context about why it is significant. Good luck!

African Geography

1. The [Sahara Desert](#) is the world’s largest desert, bounded to the south by the semi-arid [Sahel](#) region in North Africa.
2. The [Congo River](#) is Africa’s second-longest river, and the only river in the world to cross the equator twice.
3. [Liberia](#) is a West African country governed from [Monrovia](#) that was founded by freed American slaves.
4. [Johannesburg](#) is South Africa’s largest city and the site of O.R. Tambo International Airport.
5. [Mozambique](#) is a southeast African country with a capital at [Maputo](#), separated from [Madagascar](#) by its namesake channel to the east.
6. [Lake Tanganyika](#) has a maximum depth of almost 5,000 feet and is part of [Africa’s Great Lakes](#).
7. [Kenya](#)’s Nairobi National Park is one of the country’s most successful rhinoceros sanctuaries.

Asian Geography

1. [Kathmandu](#) is the capital city of Nepal, located in Bagmati Province in the Himalayas.
2. [North Korea](#) is governed from Pyongyang and is separated from South Korea by the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).
3. [Lake Baikal](#) is the deepest lake in the world, located in Eastern Siberia, and contains 11% of the world’s supply of fresh water.
4. The [Yellow River](#) is the second-longest river in China, and is so named for the color of the loess and silt that makes up its bed.
5. [Sri Lanka](#) is an Indian Ocean nation, separated from India by the Palk Strait.

6. The [Caspian Sea](#) is a saltwater sea, considered to be the world's largest lake, that forms an inland depression with the Aral Sea.
7. [Mumbai](#), formerly called Bombay, is the largest city in India and capital of the state of Maharashtra.
8. [Baghdad](#), the capital city of Iraq, sits on the banks of the Tigris River.
9. A major river in [Thailand](#) is the [Chao Phraya River](#), which flows through the capital city, [Bangkok](#).
10. The most populous cities of China are [Chongqing](#) (31 million), [Shanghai](#) (24 million), and [Beijing](#) (21 million).

Australia & Oceania Geography

1. The [Galápagos Islands](#) are an Ecuadorian-owned archipelago in the Pacific Ocean where [Charles Darwin](#) did much of his research on evolution by natural selection.
2. Explorer [James Cook](#) names the [strait](#) that divides the two main islands of [New Zealand](#). These islands are called North Island and South Island.
3. [Easter Island](#), also known as Rapa Nui, belongs to the nation of Chile, but is considered part of Polynesia. It is known for its large statues of human heads known as *moai*.

European Geography

1. [St. Petersburg](#), formerly Leningrad, is the second-largest city in Russia, located on the Neva River.
2. [Denmark](#), with its capital at Copenhagen, is a small Scandinavian country just north of the German state of Schleswig-Holstein.
3. [Mont Blanc](#), located on the border between France and Italy, is the highest mountain in the Alps and Western Europe.
4. [Sicily](#) is the largest Italian region and largest Mediterranean island, with the capital at Palermo.
5. [Reykjavik](#), the capital of [Iceland](#), is the northernmost national capital in the world.
6. [Hungary's](#) capital is [Budapest](#), which is the site of attractions like St. Stephen's Cathedral and Chain Bridge.
7. [San Marino](#), the world's oldest continually-existing republic, is located on Mount Titano and completely surrounded by Italy.

U.S. & Canadian Geography

1. The [Grand Canyon](#) is a giant gorge in Arizona carved out by the Colorado River.
2. [Hollywood](#) is a neighborhood of Los Angeles known as the center of the American film industry.
3. [Victoria](#) and [Vancouver](#) are cities in the [Canadian province](#) of [British Columbia](#).
4. The [Great Smoky Mountains](#) in North Carolina and Tennessee comprise the U.S.'s most-visited national park.
5. The city with the highest population in Canada's French-speaking province of [Quebec](#) is [Montreal](#).

Latin American and Caribbean Geography

1. [El Salvador](#) takes its name from Jesus Christ, has its capital at San Salvador, and along with the Central African Republic, is one of two nations in the world where Bitcoin is legal tender currency.
2. [São Paulo](#) is the most populous city in [Brazil](#), as well as the largest city by population in both the western and southern hemispheres.
3. [Havana](#), the capital of Cuba, is the site of the Jose Marti memorial in the Plaza de la Revolucion.
4. Ecuador's capital, [Quito](#), is about 16 miles away from the Equator.
5. The island of Hispaniola is shared between [Haiti](#) and the [Dominican Republic](#).