

Geography Monstrosity 8

Round 1

Questions by Vasa Clarke and Raynell Cooper

Moderator's note: this set features 20-point superpowers (bold text before (*)) and 15-point powers (text before ►). Some more-difficult tossups are 15 (in extreme cases, 20) points all the way through. There are no minus-fives.

1. This region is home to three “female impersonators” named Darleen, Letitia, and Neilette, the latter of whom is actually female, and who are protected from harassment by a wooden chest with legs. A journey to this place begins after a search for the Egregious Professor of Cruel and (*)

Unusual Geography turns up a portal to a different tropical island. The God of Evolution is *not* located here, but he creates a boat-shaped plant so some people can visit this place. A group of wizards on this landmass are frozen in time after getting into an argument over what a duck looks like, but are set free when Rincewind puts an end to a massive drought. For 15 points, name this analogue to Australia in the Discworld novel *The Last Continent* by Terry Pratchett.

ANSWER: XXXX (pronounced “EcksEcksEcksEcks” or “Fourecks”; or Terror Incognita)

2. This organization’s official opposition to the accession of Faure Gnassingbé forced him to hold elections. The governing body of this group is currently chaired by Idriss Déby. Angelina (*) Jolie gave an address concerning violence against women at a 2015 summit of this organization. Because of this organization's relations with the Polisario Front, Morocco is notably ► *not* a member of this alliance. Barack Obama was the first sitting American president to address this organization, which he did in July 2015 at its headquarters in Addis Ababa. This group is working to build a Great Green Wall to slow the desertification of the Sahel. For 10 points, name this organization of states from a continent south of the Mediterranean Sea.

ANSWER: African Union

3. Two people performing this action were murdered by Randall Lee Smith in 1981. The first person to fully complete this action continuously in a single (*) year was an Army veteran nicknamed “The Crazy One,” Earl Shaffer. A partly fictionalized account of this act involves meeting characters like the annoying Mary Ellen, as documented in a book featuring Stephen Katz and the author, Bill Bryson. To cover up an extramarital affair, South ► Carolina Governor Mark Sanford initially claimed he had been performing this action for six days. People who perform this action may start at Springer Mountain, visit Clingmans Dome and Shenandoah National Park, traverse the Hundred-Mile Wilderness, and end at Mount Katahdin. For 10 points, name this journey undertaken on a route that follows an eastern mountain range in the U.S.

ANSWER: hiking the Appalachian Trail (or the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, which is the official name, or the AT, or more specific answers involving thru-hiking, or obvious equivalents)

4. Traditional accounts hold that this event took place in the home of Apo Namalyari, who initiated this event after being displeased by logging and environmental destruction. This event heavily affected the Aeta people who lived in the surrounding area and were forced to relocate after this event (*) destroyed their homes. Typhoon Yunya made landfall during this event, preventing the dispersal of ash clouds and complicating the emergency response. This event contributed to the abandonment of Clark Air Base and the transfer of the naval base at ► Subic Bay. For 10 points, identify this disaster in which lahars and pyroclastic flows caused damage on the island of Luzon in the Philippines.

ANSWER: the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo

5. A 2015 reddit AMA by user samuirai documented the wartime experiences of their grandmother who had grown up in a village in this region. The Romans called this place the Marciana (*) Silva. This region's restaurants with three Michelin stars are Bareiss and Schwarzwaldstube, both of which are located in the town of Baiersbronn. The highest German mountain outside the ► Alps, the Feldberg, is in this place. This place is the origin and namesake of a dessert consisting of chocolate sponge cake layered with whipped cream and cherries. For 10 points, name this deeply wooded mountainous region in the southwestern German state of Baden-Württemberg.

ANSWER: the **Black Forest** (prompt on **Germany** or **Baden**-Württemberg)

6. While en route to this place, a small plane flown by Will Rogers and Wiley Post experienced engine failure and crashed, killing them both. Medical care in this city is handled by the Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital. The Tuzzy Consortium Library in this city serves as public library to the entire North (*) Slope Borough, according to its website. One of the few tribally ► controlled colleges within the United States, Iḷisaḡvik College, is located in this city. The Drew Barrymore film *Big Miracle* is based on a true story of whales trapped under the ice near this city. For 10 points, name this city, the northernmost in the United States.

ANSWER: **Barrow**, Alaska

7. This non-Australian lake is home to a wild population of wallabies, which were introduced to the island of Inchconnachan in the 1940s. In its original language, this lake's name means "Lake of the Elms." The largest freshwater island in the (*) British Isles, Inchmurrin, is located in this lake. The sound of "wee ► birdies" singing is referenced in a song titled for this lake that mentions observing the "highland hills" and "purple hue" of this lake's surroundings. For 10 points, name this lake, which titles a Jacobite song whose singer will take the "low road" and "be in Scotland afore ye."

ANSWER: Loch **Lomond** (or Loch **Laomainn**)

8. A scientific expedition documenting this body of water was undertaken in 1940 by Ed Ricketts and John Steinbeck. The Comcaac, or Seri, people live along the shores of this body of water and on this body of water's largest island, Tiburón. This body of water serves as the habitat of the critically endangered (*) totoaba fish. The rarest cetacean in the world, the vaquita, lives in this body of water. When it's not blocked by dams or ► diverted for human use, the Colorado River empties into this body of water. For 10 points, identify this body of water located below a similarly named American state and east of a similarly named Mexican peninsula.

ANSWER: **Gulf of California** (or **Sea of Cortez**; or **Vermilion Sea**; or **Mar de Cortés**; or **Mar Bermejo**; or **Golfo de California**)

9. On the Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi in Rome, this river is depicted being menaced by a snake. Irish expatriate William Brown led naval expeditions to defend this river, which was later blockaded by both the British and French. The only river (*) dolphin that prefers saltwater and estuary environments, the Franciscana, is more commonly named after this river. The International Hydrographic Organization puts this river's eastern boundary between Punta del ► Este and Cabo San Antonio. For 10 points, name this river whose headwaters allegedly contained much silver and which flows past Buenos Aires.

ANSWER: **Río de la Plata** (other answers are possible but uncommon)

10. A former government office now open to public viewing on this island was designed by Horace Capron, who visited this island to revitalize its agriculture. A 1993 earthquake near this island caused a tsunami that devastated nearby (*) Okushiri. A UNESCO World Heritage Site on this island is Shiretoko National Park, where a population of brown bear thrives. The first Winter Olympics held outside

► Europe or North America took place in this island's largest city in 1972. The Tsugaru Strait separates this home of many Ainu people from Honshu, which lies south of this island. For 10 points, name this second-largest island and northernmost prefecture of Japan that has its capital at Sapporo.

ANSWER: Hokkaido

Tiebreaker: Description acceptable. The Scudder Falls Bridge is one of the last landmarks on one side of this navigational problem, while the other side technically includes the Pearl Harbor Memorial Extension but ends in earnest near Robbins (*) Township. This problem arose after a planned road was cancelled by Brendan Byrne; that project was the Somerset Freeway. A construction project in Bristol will remedy this problem by building a direct connection to Interstate 276. Most drivers overcome this issue by using the Delaware Memorial Bridge and the New ► Jersey Turnpike. For 10 points, name this discontinuity that affects drivers on the longest north-south freeway in the U.S.

ANSWER: The gap in Interstate 95 (accept synonym for gap or any cogent description that includes I-95)

1. The opening to this body of water is the Kattegat, which connects this sea to the Skagerrak and the North Sea. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this sea that borders such countries as Latvia and Estonia.

ANSWER: **Baltic** Sea

[10] The Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Bothnia merge near this autonomous archipelago that is the only Swedish-speaking part of Finland.

ANSWER: **Åland** Islands

[10] The Baltic Sea's passage to the North Sea is dramatically shortened by this artificial waterway, which cuts across the Jutland peninsula and is named after a nearby German city.

ANSWER: **Kiel Canal** (or **Nord-Ostsee-Kanal**)

2. Answer some questions about the planet Mars. For 10 points each:

[10] This massive shield volcano is the largest volcano and second-largest mountain in the solar system.

ANSWER: **Olympus Mons**

[10] Olympus Mons is so big astronomers such as Giovanni Schiaparelli were able to view it through Earth-based telescopes. Schiaparelli also declared he'd seen these structures on Mars, which some took as proof of extraterrestrial civilization.

ANSWER: **canals** (or **canali**; or **channels**)

[10] Part of the Cydonia region on Mars has this distinct appearance when viewed from the crude cameras of the Viking orbiters; this appearance is due to pareidolia and disappears when one views more-accurate modern images of Cydonia.

ANSWER: it **looks like a human face** (or obvious equivalents)

3. Answer some questions about underground geography. For 10 points each:

[10] Explored extensively by Stephen Bishop, this Kentucky landmark and national park features the underground Echo River. It is the longest cave system in the world.

ANSWER: **Mammoth Cave**

[10] Although designated a national natural landmark, this Virginia attraction is commercially operated. It features attractions like the Great Stalacpipe Organ and the Fried Eggs rock formation.

ANSWER: **Luray Caverns**

[10] Both Mammoth Cave and Luray Caverns are examples of these geologic regions. These areas are formed by the dissolution of water-soluble rocks like limestone.

ANSWER: **karst** topography

4. According to myth, this region is named after a princess whom Hercules raped while drunk and living with her father. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this mountain range, which in modern times separates the countries of France and Spain.

ANSWER: **Pyrenees** (or **Pirineos**; or **Pirinioak**; or **Auñamendiak**)

[10] The Pyrenean subspecies of this animal rapidly went extinct, with the last individual dying in 2000, but was briefly resurrected via cloning. It was thus also the only animal to go extinct twice.

ANSWER: **ibex** (or **bucardo**)

[10] The Pyrenees are home to this landlocked microstate, whose co-princes are the bishop of Urgell and the president of France.

ANSWER: **Andorra** (Principality of **Andorra**)

5. Its source lies in the Bayan Har Mountains of Tibet. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this river that irrigates the North China Plain and occasionally floods to deadly effect.

ANSWER: **Yellow** River (or **Huang He**)

[10] This region, across which runs a segment of the Great Wall, is formed by the Yellow River's sudden

turns to the north, then east, then south, in a roughly looping incomplete rectangle.

ANSWER: **Ordos** (or **Eerduosi**)

[10] During this decade, the worst recorded flooding in history caused massive deaths along both the Yellow and Yangtze Rivers. Later in this decade, a lot more people died when Chiang Kai-Shek destroyed the Yellow River's levees.

ANSWER: **1930s** (prompt on **30s**)

6. This mountain range was home to the only African species of bear until it went extinct. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this mountain range that stretches from Tunisia to Morocco and whose namesake was a Greek Titan who held the world on his shoulders.

ANSWER: **Atlas** Mountains

[10] This highest peak in the Atlas Mountains is also the highest in all of North Africa.

ANSWER: Jebel **Toubkal**

[10] This other mountainous region of North Africa is an extension of the Baetic System in Spain, and thus doesn't consist of the same rock as the Atlas Mountains. Spain fought a 1920s war against the Berbers in this region.

ANSWER: **Rif**

7. Answer some questions about the Florida Keys. For 10 points each:

[10] While most of the Florida Keys are the remains of coral reefs, some of the more northern islands are actually of this type. These islands are formed by accumulated sand and protect coastlines from ocean waves.

ANSWER: **barrier** islands

[10] This city in the Florida Keys occupies its namesake island and several others in Monroe County. Its motto is "One Human Family."

ANSWER: **Key West**

[10] In response to Border Patrol roadblocks, mayor Dennis Wardlow in 1982 declared Key West to be this independent microstate, which then requested a billion dollars in foreign aid.

ANSWER: **Conch Republic** (or **República de la Concha**)

8. This explorer achieved his most famous feat from the base Framheim, from which he set out in January 1911. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this Norwegian explorer, the first person to reach the South Pole.

ANSWER: Roald **Amundsen** (Roald Engelbregt Gravning **Amundsen**)

[10] Amundsen's plane disappeared while he was participating in a search for this aviator, whose airship crashed while he was attempting to overfly the North Pole.

ANSWER: Umberto **Nobile**

[10] Nobile was a citizen of this country, where he held the rank of major general of the air force. King Victor Emmanuel III founded this country's air force in 1923.

ANSWER: **Italy**

9. Answer some questions about the Gulf Stream. For 10 points each:

[10] The Gulf Stream is part of this ocean's gyre.

ANSWER: **Atlantic** Ocean

[10] The center of the Atlantic Ocean is taken up by this sea with no coastline, around which flow ocean currents and within which grows its namesake seaweed.

ANSWER: **Sargasso** Sea

[10] The Sargasso Sea is the primary hatching ground for both American and European species of this

catadromous fish, which are endangered due to hydroelectric dams disturbing their life cycle.

ANSWER: eels [or Anguilla]

10. A massive, near-continuous lightning storm occurs where the Catatumbo River empties into this lake.

For 10 points each:

[10] Name this big South American lake, connected to the sea by the Tablazo Strait.

ANSWER: Lake Maracaibo (or Lago de Maracaibo)

[10] Lake Maracaibo is in this South American country. It is known for winning hugely at beauty contests and for crippling economic conditions since the election of Nicolás Maduro.

ANSWER: Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; or República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

[10] Lake Maracaibo is experiencing problems with this rapidly growing plant that covers roughly a fifth of the lake.

ANSWER: duckweed (or Lemna)