

Geography Monstrosity 7

Round 3

Questions by Corry Wang [1-9] and Nicholas Karas [10]

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 minuses.

1. On the northeastern end of this landmass, the 4100 meter-long, one lane-wide Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel leads to the port of Whittier, a town whose entire population lives in one giant apartment building. The western part of the Chugach National Forest borders this landmass's namesake national park, which features the Harding Icefield near Exit Glacier, as well as numerous iconic (*) fjords. The name of this landmass roughly translates to “flat, barren land” in the Athabaskan languages. This ► peninsula was less than 50 miles from the epicenter of the Good Friday Earthquake, which caused multiple tsunamis and a massive underwater landslide in neighboring Prince William Sound. This peninsula is separated from the Seward Peninsula by Cook Inlet. For 10 points, name this Alaskan peninsula south of Anchorage.

ANSWER: Kenai Peninsula (accept Kenai Fjords)

2. In this region, the former KGB agent Viktor Gushan runs a company known as Sheriff, which monopolizes many of this region's local industries and owns the unusually successful and secretive FC Sheriff soccer team. This region's population has decreased from 750,000 in the early 1990s to as low as 300,000 today. It declared independence about a year before nearby (*) Gagauzia similarly tried to declare independence. Today, this region uses its own version of the ruble instead of the leu as currency, speaks Russian as an official language, and continues to oppose union with ► Romania. Tiraspol is the capital of, for 10 points, what breakaway state of Moldova on the east bank of the Dniester River?

ANSWER: Transnistria

3. In this predominantly French-speaking region, as many as two-thirds of the population of 600,000 currently lives overseas as refugees. While riding a bus through this region in 2010, three players on Togo's national soccer team were shot by members of the (*) FLEC separatist group. In the 1980s thousands of Cuban troops were assigned to guard American employees in this region working for Chevron. At the time, Chevron was being pressured by American conservatives to divest from its holdings in this region, in order to increase international pressure on the Marxist ► MPLA. For 10 points, name this coastal exclave that produces 70% of the oil in Angola.

ANSWER: Cabinda [although the Wikipedia article doesn't say so, Cabindans are actually predominantly French-speaking]

4. The idiom “go round the bend” may have originally referred to traveling around this peninsula, where British officers often went crazy from isolation while they were stationed on nearby Telegraph Island. This mountainous peninsula is sometimes compared to Norway because it contains many rocky, fjord-like inlets known as *khors*. The Al Hajar Mountains rise in the southern part of this peninsula. Illegal trade with (*) Iran helps sustain the local economy of this peninsula, which juts into the Strait of Hormuz. For 15 points, name this peninsula that contains a namesake exclave of Oman, marking the eastern end of the Persian Gulf.

ANSWER: Musandam Peninsula (prompt on “Arabian Peninsula” before “mountainous”)

5. This river's eastern watershed includes the Kuznetsk Basin, a major coal mining area. This river's western watershed was the site of the 1957 Kyshtym nuclear disaster, in which an explosion at the Mayak industrial complex forced the evacuation of over 10,000 people. The Yamburg natural gas field is in this

river's extremely long namesake (*) gulf. One of its tributaries flows through the former capital of the Alash Autonomy, Semipalatinsk. For irrigation purposes, the government of the Xinjiang region controversially diverts much of this river's ► Irtysh tributary, which rises in the Altai Mountains. This river flows through Novosibirsk, while its tributaries flow through Yekaterinburg and Astana. For 10 points, name this Siberian river west of the Yenisei and Lena.

ANSWER: Ob River (accept Gulf of Ob)

6. Description acceptable. Examples of this type of place include the Isle Phelipeaux and Isle Pontchartrain, which were notably depicted in the Mitchell Map. In 1798 Mungo Park mapped the Mountains of Kong, which French explorer Louis Gustave Binger determined was one of these places in 1889. Other examples of these places include Bradley (*) Land, which was discovered by Frederick Cook, and Crocker Land, which was discovered by Robert Peary. They include the Strait of ► Anian, the northern island of Thule described by the Greek explorer Pytheas, and Ptolemy's supposed source of the Nile, the African range known as the Mountains of the Moon. For 10 points, name this type of place exemplified by El Dorado and Atlantis.

ANSWER: places that don't exist (accept mythical places or cartographic errors or fictional places or hoaxes or phantom islands or equivalents that convey that these places are not real)

7. According to one theory, this location was at the center of a trade route connecting similar sites at Sa Huynh and the North Cachar Hills. That theory was proposed in 1930 by the amateur French archaeologist Madeleine Colani, who claimed that this location had served as a crematorium. According to legend, it was built by the giant king Khun Jeuam to store (*) wine after he liberated the surrounding region. It lies at the center of the Xiangkhouang Plateau near the city of Phonsavan, at the northwestern end of the ► Annamese Cordillera. This archaeological location is littered with unexploded cluster bombs and mines from the Secret War, during which the CIA trained many local Hmong guerrilla troops to fight the Communist central government. For 10 points, name this "plain" of mysterious stone megaliths in Laos.

ANSWER: Plain of Jars

8. A regimental march written by Francis Forbes warns the "bully boys of Liverpool" that "there blow some cold norwesters" on this geographic feature. The phenomenon of turbidity currents was documented for the first time after a 1929 earthquake in this location caused a landslide that destroyed multiple telegraph cables. It was described as "full of (*) fish that can be taken not only with nets but with fishing-baskets" by the crew of John Cabot. In 1992 Canada declared a moratorium on the cod fishing industry within this region of underwater plateaus, where the ► Labrador Current meets the Gulf Stream. For 10 points, name these "banks" off the coast of Newfoundland.

ANSWER: Grand Banks (of Newfoundland) (accept Banks of Newfoundland before "banks")

9. This ecoregion's namesake peccary was discovered to not actually be extinct in 1971. Fortin Toledo marks the western limit of this ecoregion's Russian Mennonite colonies. It is home to the red quebracho tree, an important source of tannin. Its "Austral" section lies south of the Bermejo River, while its (*) "Boreal" section lies north of the Pilcomayo River. The German officer Hans Kundt led a mostly Quechua army against a mostly Guarani army during one conflict in this region, which witnessed the first widespread use of air warfare in the Western Hemisphere. This region lies northwest of the Pampas, and east of the Altiplano. Nonexistent ► oil reserves sparked a namesake 1930s war in, for 10 points, what semi-arid lowland region that mostly lies in Bolivia and Paraguay?

ANSWER: Gran Chaco (accept Gran Chaco War)

10. This location is home to four fountains named Egret, Cupid, Cherub, and Serpent as well as a statue of

Chief Little Fawn. This building was seven stories high before being shortened to four stories due to the 1906 (*) San Francisco earthquake. This building contains 13 bathrooms, 13 drain holes in each sink, 13 coat hooks in each ► séance room, and 13 stairs in each staircase. This building was constructed for many years without an architect, leading to oddities such as doors and stairs leading to nowhere and a window that opens into a wall. For 10 points, what 160-room San Jose, California mansion in San Jose, California, was built by the heiress to a firearms fortune?

ANSWER: **Winchester** Mystery House

1. The Royal Palace of La Almudaina and the nearby "La Seu" Cathedral are historical buildings in this archipelago's capital of Palma. For 10 points each--

[10] Name this Spanish-owned archipelago in the Mediterranean that includes the islands of Majorca and Minorca.

ANSWER: **Balearic** Islands

[10] From the 13th to 15th century, the island of Majorca contained an important stylistic "school" of this profession, whose members included the Jewish father-son team of Abraham and Jehuda Cresques.

ANSWER: **cartography** (or **map**-making or descriptive equivalents; prompt on "cosmography" or "making navigational equipment" or descriptive equivalents)

[10] In the late 14th century, Abraham and Jehuda collaborated to make this famous "atlas" of the Western world, which was the first map to ever include a compass rose.

ANSWER: **Catalan** Atlas

2. Despite being Muslim, the local community in this oasis practiced systematic homosexuality until the mid-20th century. For 10 points each--

[10] Name this oasis in western Egypt that was once home to the Oracle of Amun.

ANSWER: **Siwa** Oasis

[10] A "Lost Army" of over 50,000 troops disappeared in a giant sandstorm after this Persian king attempted to conquer the Oracle in the 6th century BC. Despite that disaster, this king still conquered the rest of Egypt anyways.

ANSWER: **Cambyes II** (prompt on "Cambyes")

[10] The Oracle of Amun gained renewed significance in 332 BC, when this king took a detour to the Siwa Oasis to confirm himself as the legitimate pharaoh. This Macedonian king then proceeded to conquer the rest of the Persian Empire.

ANSWER: **Alexander** the Great (or **Alexander III** of Macedon)

3. For 10 points each--name these celestial bodies in the Star Wars movies, because the extended universe doesn't count anymore:

[10] The Sarlacc Pit and the city of Mos Eisley are on this home planet of the moisture farmer Luke Skywalker.

ANSWER: **Tatooine**

[10] This moon's Great Temple of the Massassis was the main base for the Rebel Alliance during the destruction of the first Death Star.

ANSWER: **Yavin 4** (prompt on partial answer)

[10] This largely underwater planet was the site of the Old Republic's cloning operation, which recruited bounty hunter Jango Fett to serve as the Prime clone.

ANSWER: **Kamino**

4. For 10 points each--name these actual geographical locations from *Call of Duty: Black Ops*:

[10] In the fourth campaign mission "Executive Order," CIA agent Alex Mason travels to this Soviet space launch site in Kazakhstan, where Sputnik 1 was originally launched in 1957.

ANSWER: **Baikonur** Cosmodrome

[10] In the seventh campaign mission "Numbers", CIA agent Jason Hudson tortures the British-Soviet scientist

Daniel Clarke at this massive apartment complex outside Hong Kong, a “walled city” home to over 30,000 people by the 1980s.

ANSWER: **Kowloon** Walled City

[10] In the 13th campaign mission, Mason and Hudson hunt down the Nazi-Soviet scientist Friedrich Steiner at this island in the middle of the Aral Sea, which was once used by the Soviets as a biological weapons testing site.

ANSWER: **Rebirth** Island (or **Vozrozhdeniya** Island)

5. For 10 points each--name these invasive species in Australia:

[10] This Indonesian animal was imported from Timor to Australia, where it spread brucellosis disease across much of the Northern Territory.

ANSWER: **water buffalo(s)**

[10] In 2008 Australia sent hunters in helicopters to shoot nearly 700,000 of these beasts of burden, which still plague the Simpson, Great Sandy, and Tanami Deserts today.

ANSWER: **camels** (or **dromedary** camel or Arabian **camel** or Bactrian **camel**)

[10] This other invasive species was originally introduced to Australia in the 1930s to control local beetle populations. Today, they are pretty much the worst things ever, particularly in Queensland.

ANSWER: **cane toads** (prompt on “toads”)

6. For 10 points each--name these places in the Caucasus that totally sound like other places:

[10] The breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia have tried to separate from this modern-day country in the Caucasus.

ANSWER: **Georgia**

[10] After the death of Bacchus III in 580 AD, this historically Christian kingdom in the Caucasus became a province of the Sassanid Empire. Along with its western neighbor Colchis, this kingdom’s lands would later form the basis of the medieval Kingdom of Georgia.

ANSWER: **Iberia**

[10] Iberia was bordered to the east by this amorphous historical region sandwiched between Sarmatia and Armenia, which roughly corresponds with modern-day Azerbaijan. During Roman times, it was bound by the Aras River in the south and the Kura River in the north.

ANSWER: Caucasian **Albania** (accept **Arran** or **Aghuank**, although that’s no fun)

7. For 10 points each--name these casinos on the Las Vegas Strip:

[10] This casino resort, which is named after a town on Lake Como, features a giant dancing water fountain in front of its main hotel tower.

ANSWER: **Bellagio**

[10] This classic casino hotel was opened in 1946 by the mobster Bugsy Siegel, who was soon assassinated for skimming money off the project.

ANSWER: (The Fabulous) **Flamingo** (Las Vegas)

[10] This iconic casino hotel was demolished in 1996 to make room for The Venetian. This hotel named what is still today the world’s largest casino operator, run by founder and CEO Sheldon Adelson.

ANSWER: **Sands** (Hotel and Casino)

8. For 10 points each--name these places in the Americas known for pirates:

[10] Three years after the Battle of New Orleans, the French pirate Jean Lafitte established a smuggling colony on this barrier island in the Gulf of Mexico. This island later became the center of a major port city that was hit by a 1906 hurricane.

ANSWER: **Galveston** Island

[10] In 1718 Woodes Rogers forced hundreds of local pirates out of Nassau on this then-lawless island, which later became the main island of the new colony of the Bahamas.

ANSWER: **New Providence**

[10] Modern-day treasure hunters often visit this small island in Nova Scotia in search of a legendary “Money Pit,” possibly left behind by local pirates. In actuality, the pits on this island are probably just naturally-forming sinkholes.

ANSWER: **Oak** Island

9. For 10 points each--name these federal subjects of western Russia:

[10] This western exclave of Russia contains most of the former region of East Prussia.

ANSWER: **Kaliningrad** Oblast

[10] This ethnically diverse Russian republic on the western shore of the Caspian Sea was invaded by neighboring Chechnya in 1999, prompting the Second Chechen War.

ANSWER: Republic of **Dagestan**

[10] This Russian republic on the northwestern shore of the Caspian Sea is the only predominantly Buddhist region of Europe, due to the migration of the Oirat Mongols here in the 17th century.

ANSWER: Republic of **Kalmykia**

10. This mountain was formerly known as Boggy Peak. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this tallest mountain in the Shekherley Mountains.

ANSWER: Mount **Obama**

[10] Mount Obama is the highest point in this Caribbean nation in the Lesser Antilles. This nation's international airport is named after its first Prime Minister, Vere Cornwall Bird, and is located near its capital of St. John's.

ANSWER: **Antigua and Barbuda**

[10] This man moved his namesake International Bank from Monserrat to Antigua and Barbuda and was described as "the leading benefactor, promoter, employer and public persona" of Antigua and Barbuda. He was knighted by the Antiguan government in 2006, three years before being sentenced to 110 years in prison for operating a massive Ponzi scheme.