

2014 Geography Bee Study Guide

Bee starts at 7:30 pm on November 13th in the Mann Auditorium

Local Geography

- North Avenue, Harlem, Roosevelt & Austin streets form the border of Oak Park.
- Interstate 290, also called the Eisenhower Expressway, is the only highway which runs through Oak Park.
- The river closest to Oak Park is the Des Plaines River.
- The largest park in Oak Park is Lindbergh Park.
- Oak Park Village Hall is located at 123 Madison Street.
- Chicago's absolute location is 41 degrees north latitude & 87 degrees west longitude.
- Lake Michigan is the east border of the city of Chicago.
- The Chicago River, which runs through the loop, is famously dyed green on Saint Patrick's Day.
- The 3 letter abbreviation for Chicago's O'Hare airport is ORD which refers to the airport's original name Orchard Field.
- Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower) is the tallest building in Chicago.
- Navy Pier boasts many attractions including the largest Ferris wheel in Chicago.
- Three train lines run through Oak Park, the CTA green line, the CTA blue line & the Metra line.

Midwest Regional Geography

- Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, & Missouri share a border with Illinois.
- The Mississippi River runs along the western border of Illinois.
- The highest point in Illinois is Charles Mound at 1235 feet above sea level.
- The lowest point in Illinois is the Mississippi River at 279 feet above sea level.
- The only home Abraham Lincoln ever owned is located in Springfield, Illinois.
- The largest city in Illinois is Chicago.
- The capital of Wisconsin is Madison.
- The first kindergarten in the U.S. was opened in Watertown, Wisconsin.
- Michigan is home to the first tunnel that allowed motor vehicles to travel between two countries (.
- Mammoth Cave, the longest cave system in the world, is in Kentucky.
- World's largest popcorn factory is in Sioux City, Iowa
- The capital of Michigan is Lansing.
- The natural resources found in Illinois are coal, oil, clay, sand and gravel.
- More interstate highways intersect in Iowa than any other state in the country.
- Kansas produces more wheat than any other state in the country.
- The Straits of Mackinac separate the upper and lower peninsulas of Michigan.
- The largest enclosed mall in the US (The Mall of America) is in Minnesota.
- The St. Louis Gateway arch spans the Mississippi River.
- Nebraska has more miles of river than any other state.
- The Ozark Plateau in Missouri contains thousands of caves.
- The geographic center of the US is in South Dakota.
- There are more than 8,000 lakes in Wisconsin
- The Indy 500 racetrack is located in Indianapolis, the capital of Indiana.

United States Geography

- The two oceans which border the US are the Pacific and the Atlantic.
- The only state which is a peninsula is Florida.
- Yosemite Falls, located in California, is the highest waterfall in the U.S.
- The capital of Delaware, the oldest state of the Union, is Dover.
- The five great lake in the U.S. are Michigan, Superior, Huron, Erie & Ontario.
- The states which border Mexico are California, Arizona, New Mexico & Texas.
- The Space Needle is located in Seattle, Washington.
- The capital of Florida, a state that is a major producer of citrus fruit, is Tallahassee.
- The most easterly of all the states in the country is Maine.
- The first U.S. college, Harvard University, was founded in Massachusetts in 1636.
- New Hampshire is home to the White Mountains which include the highest peak in the Northeast .
- Oklahoma has the largest Native American population of any state.
- The state of Wyoming is a near perfect rectangle in shape.
- Texas is the largest producer of petroleum in the U.S.
- The Statue of Liberty can be found in New York.
- The capital of the United States is Washington DC.
- The highest point in North America is Mt. McKinley, Alaska.
- New Mexico has the least amount of surface water of any state.
- North America makes up 16% of the Earth's land.
- The Everglades National Park is located in Florida.
- The Badlands are located in North Dakota.
- The state which is the largest agricultural producer is California.
- The heads of four presidents are carved in Mt. Rushmore which is located in South Dakota.
- The largest state in area is Alaska
- The smallest state in area is Rhode Island.

International Geography

- Christopher Columbus' first landfall in the New World was in the Bahamas.
- Languages spoken in Belgium include Flemish, French & German.
- Canada's border with the U.S. is the world's longest international border.
- Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean.
- The pyramids of Giza can be found in Egypt.
- In Lapland, a northern area of Finland, the Aurora Borealis can be seen most of the year.
- The Tour de France, the world's best known cycling event, is held in France each year.
- The Berlin Wall can be visited in Germany.
- The Dominican Republic shares the island of Hispaniola along with Haiti
- One of the most famous landmarks in India is the Taj Mahal.
- The Maldives, the earth's lowest country, lies five feet above sea level on average.
- Mexico has over 700 known species of reptiles.
- Monaco is the smallest country in the world with a coastline (in area).
- The Philippines are located on the Pacific Ring of Fire making it prone to earthquakes and typhoons.
- The Andes Mountains are found in South America.

Geographical Definitions

(At the Geography Bee you will not be required to give the definition as an answer, just the word)

Archipelago:	A group of islands clustered in the sea
Atlas:	A collection of maps
Atoll:	A ring of coral that forms an island in an ocean or sea
Canal:	A man made waterway used for transportation or irrigation
Cartography:	The study of maps
Compass rose:	A design on a map that shows direction
Fault:	Where huge plates of rock deep in the earth's crust meet
Geyser:	A natural hot spring that occasionally sprays water and steam above the ground
Glacier:	A slowly moving mass of ice that flows over landforms
Hoodoo:	A column of weathered and unusually shaped rock
Legend	A small table accompanying a map that explains the symbols used on the map
Longitude: meridian	An imaginary line running north to south used to measure distance from the prime
Oasis:	An isolated area of vegetation in the desert
Peninsula:	A body of land surrounded by water on three sides
Plateau:	A large flat area of land that is higher than the surrounding land
Prairie:	A wide, large area of flat grassland
Prime meridian:	Zero degrees longitude
Strait:	A narrow body of water that connects two larger bodies of water
Valley:	A low place between mountains
Volcano:	A mountainous vent in the Earth's crust through which molten lava and gases erupt

Mosts and Leasts

Hottest place on earth	Dalol, Ethiopia
Coldest place on earth	Plateau Station, Antarctica
Largest Ocean	Pacific Ocean
Largest Island	Greenland
Largest Desert	Sahara Desert
Largest Canyon	Grand Canyon
Largest River (in terms of volume)	Amazon River, South America
Largest Volcano	Mauna Loa, Hawaii
Continent with least flowing rivers	Antarctica (it has no flowing rivers)
Greatest Tides	Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia, Canada
Highest point in the world	Mt. Everest
Lowest point in the world	The Dead Sea
Highest point in Africa	Mt. Kilimanjaro
Largest continent in area	Asia
Smallest continent in area	Australia
Least populated continent in the world	Antarctica
Most populous country in the world	China
Least populous country in the world	Vatican City
Largest coral reef	The Great Barrier Reef in Australia

