



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY CHALLENGE - 2015

GRADE 7 - GRADE 8 - GRADE 9 CONTEST

- ANSWER KEY -

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|-----|----------------------|
| 1. | <u> B </u> | 26. | <u> C </u> |
| 2. | <u> C </u> | 27. | <u> D </u> |
| 3. | <u> A </u> | 28. | <u> B </u> |
| 4. | <u> C </u> | 29. | <u> A </u> |
| 5. | <u> B </u> | 30. | <u> B </u> |
| 6. | <u> A </u> | 31. | <u> D </u> |
| 7. | <u> D </u> | 32. | <u> C </u> |
| 8. | <u> B </u> | 33. | <u> B </u> |
| 9. | <u> C </u> | 34. | <u> A </u> |
| 10. | <u> A </u> | 35. | <u> C </u> |
| 11. | <u> B </u> | 36. | <u> A </u> |
| 12. | <u> D </u> | 37. | <u> D </u> |
| 13. | <u> C </u> | 38. | <u> A </u> |
| 14. | <u> A </u> | 39. | <u> C </u> |
| 15. | <u> C </u> | 40. | <u> C </u> |
| 16. | <u> B </u> | 41. | <u> D </u> |
| 17. | <u> D </u> | 42. | <u> B </u> |
| 18. | <u> B </u> | 43. | <u> C </u> |
| 19. | <u> C </u> | 44. | <u> B </u> |
| 20. | <u> A </u> | 45. | <u> C </u> |
| 21. | <u> B </u> | 46. | <u> D </u> |
| 22. | <u> D </u> | 47. | <u> A </u> |
| 23. | <u> C </u> | 48. | <u> C </u> |
| 24. | <u> D </u> | 49. | <u> D </u> |
| 25. | <u> A </u> | 50. | <u> A </u> |

**National Council for Geographic Education
The National Geography Challenge – 2015**

Grades 7-9

1. What are the two major water systems connected by the St. Lawrence Seaway?

- A. the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea
- B. the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean
- C. the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean
- D. the Bering Sea and the Arctic Ocean

2. What is the habitat described in the following paragraph?

- A. Glacier
- B. Prairie
- C. Taiga
- D. Piedmont

This habitat is a biome of coniferous forests in Earth's northern latitudes. Cold temperatures and food shortages make life very difficult, especially in winter. Some of the animals hibernate, some fly south if they can, while some just adapt to the hostile environment.

3. Identify the European city called the "City of Light".

- A. Paris
- B. Rome
- C. London
- D. St. Petersburg

4. In which of these areas is annual precipitation the highest?

- A. continental interiors
- B. polar latitudes
- C. equatorial forests
- D. low-lying mountain ranges

5. The most likely cause of severe coastal flooding is _____.

- A. tornadoes
- B. storm surges and high waves
- C. summer thunderstorms
- D. abnormal precipitation

6. In which of the following locations would you most likely find snow in equatorial regions?

- A. in areas at high elevations
- B. in areas at high latitudes
- C. in areas below sea level
- D. in areas near fresh water lakes

7. The stony fields on a New England farm are the result of which of these Ice Age processes?
- A. volcanic eruptions
 - B. earthquakes
 - C. coastal flooding
 - D. continental glaciation
8. Through what physical feature is a canal typically built?
- A. strait
 - B. isthmus
 - C. channel
 - D. gap
9. It is generally agreed that the current trend in climate change across the world is caused by _____.
- A. polluted ocean waters
 - B. reduction in biodiversity
 - C. increased use of fossil fuels
 - D. tilt of Earth's axis
10. The State of Israel is a nation located in _____.
- A. Asia
 - B. Africa
 - C. Europe
 - D. North America
11. A tropical storm in the Indian/Western Pacific Ocean areas is identified as a _____.
- A. northeaster
 - B. typhoon
 - C. tornado
 - D. hurricane
12. Which of the following countries is located in Central America?
- A. Colombia
 - B. Chile
 - C. Venezuela
 - D. Belize
13. With what natural hazard is the Ring of Fire most closely associated?
- A. coastal flooding
 - B. tornadoes
 - C. volcanoes
 - D. forest fires
14. Which of these lines on Earth's surface is used to measure time across the planet?
- A. Prime Meridian
 - B. Arctic Circle
 - C. Tropic of Capricorn
 - D. Equator
15. Which of these jobs is an example of *service* work?
- A. coal miner
 - B. wheat farmer
 - C. taxi driver
 - D. paper mill worker

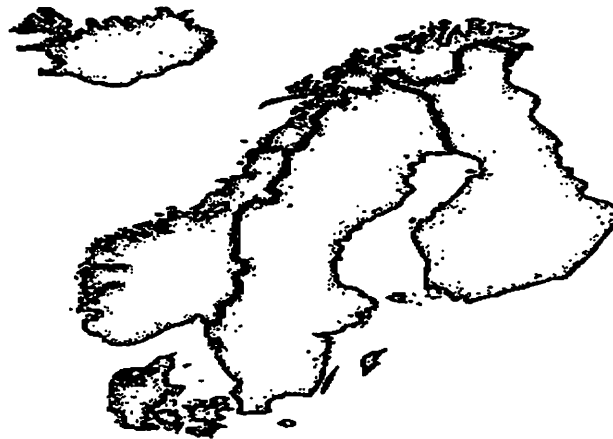
16. Of the sites listed below, which would be the best for location of a large regional shopping mall?

- A. in the center of a center city business district
- B. at a site where two interstate highways intersect
- C. immediately adjacent to an expanding industrial park
- D. in a residential neighborhood of upscale homes

17. Ms. Wilson asks her seventh graders to look for examples of physical geography in the local environment on their way to and from school. She tells them to be ready to report their findings. Which of the following is physical evidence of what students might report?

- A. a girl hoisting the American flag up the pole on the school lawn
- B. parents dropping off children in the school's newly landscaped circular driveway
- C. cement workers installing new gutters to drain the school's play area
- D. gullies on several lawns as a result of heavy rains earlier in the week

18. The world region shown on the map below is located on what continent?

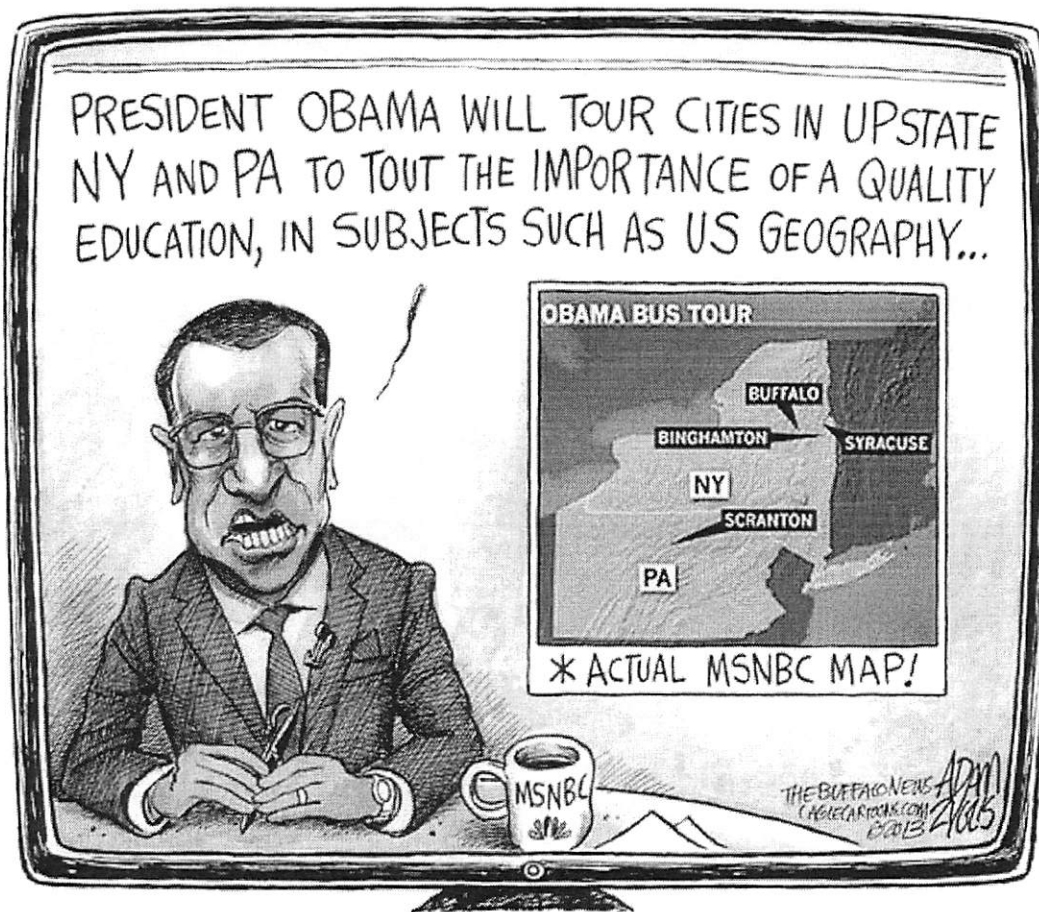


- A. Africa
- B. Europe
- C. Asia
- D. South America

19. Which one of the following Caribbean islands is a territory of the United States known as a commonwealth?

- A. Cuba
- B. Hispaniola
- C. Puerto Rico
- D. Jamaica

20. To travel between Boston, Massachusetts and Albuquerque, New Mexico, in what direction will a jet liner fly?
- A. southwest
B. north
C. south
D. northwest
21. If you want to learn about the symbols on a map of Beijing, China, you would look at the _____.
- A. boundaries
B. legend
C. altitudes
D. scale
22. Which one of the statements about the cartoon below is accurate?



- A. Cities are located in the wrong state.
- B. The city names are misspelled.
- C. The states are misnamed.
- D. The cities are not correctly located on the map.

23. The globe is the only accurate representation of our spherical Earth. Flat maps cause distortions. To solve that problem, mapmakers use a variety of _____.
- A. scales
 - B. grids
 - C. projections
 - D. meridians
24. Each of the following Asian countries is an archipelago except _____.
- A. Japan
 - B. Philippines
 - C. Indonesia
 - D. South Korea
25. Each spring, the National Weather Bureau announces the number of hurricanes it anticipates through the summer months. Which one of the following states is the most interested in this information?
- A. Virginia
 - B. Oregon
 - C. West Virginia
 - D. Wisconsin
26. One of the methods to grow the world's food supply is through the expansion of *aquaculture*. The success of *aquaculture* will increase the supply of such nourishing foods as _____.
- A. chicken, turkey, and duck
 - B. beef, pork, and lamb
 - C. fish, shrimp, and mussels
 - D. fresh fruit and vegetables
27. Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia are often referred to as _____.
- A. the Low Countries
 - B. the Caucasus
 - C. Iberia
 - D. the Baltic States
28. Which one of these newspaper headlines best introduces a story describing a major cause of *desertification*?
- A. Wall of Water Smashes Japan's Honshu Coast
 - B. Environmentalists Urge Limits to Cattle Grazing in North African Sahel Region
 - C. Increasing Population Growth Puts Pressure on Fragile Arizona Water Resources
 - D. Heavy Spring Rains Break Drought in California's Imperial Valley

29. What is the official language of Australia?
- A. English
 - B. Aborigines
 - C. Dutch
 - D. Tagalog
30. Identify the port city where the Hudson River empties into the Atlantic Ocean.
- A. Baltimore
 - B. New York
 - C. Philadelphia
 - D. Boston
31. The rainy season in India is caused by an intense low-pressure system characterized by _____.
- A. tsunamis
 - B. hurricanes
 - C. avalanches
 - D. monsoons
32. Three of the following four capitals of countries in the western hemisphere are planned cities. Which one is the exception?
- A. Washington, D.C., USA
 - B. Ottawa, Canada
 - C. Quito, Ecuador
 - D. Brasilia, Brazil
33. In early November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda), one of the strongest tropical storms ever recorded, swept through portions of the Philippines. Over 5000 people lost their lives, and the damage to homes and infrastructure was massive. Many geographers monitored events in the Philippines with great interest because natural hazards research is an important aspect of geography. Those actively involved in this research carefully watched the short and long-term impacts that a natural disaster of Haiyan's magnitude can have on individuals, families, and communities. The geographic team was especially mindful of the following challenges for addressing problems. Three of the four items listed here are short-term issues. However, one is long-term. Which one is that?
- A. controlling disease
 - B. rebuilding the school system
 - C. managing the food supply
 - D. providing potable water
34. If a storm with the power of Haiyan developed in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Florida, the National Weather Service would give it a male or female name and identify it as a _____.
- A. hurricane
 - B. tornado
 - C. whirlwind
 - D. cyclone

35. How many states in the United States are *contiguous*?
- A. one
 - B. two
 - C. forty-eight
 - D. fifty
36. What weather conditions are evident in an area where a low-pressure system is present?
- A. overcast and rainy
 - B. warm and sunny
 - C. hot and windy
 - D. cold and clear
37. When you look at a world map using the Mercator projection, which one of these landform areas is most distorted?
- A. Africa
 - B. Japan
 - C. India
 - D. Greenland
38. The physical feature common to most of North Africa is _____.
- A. desert
 - B. tropical rainforests
 - C. mountains
 - D. grasslands
39. All of the following are examples of *weather* except _____.
- A. There are more hurricanes in September than in any other month.
 - B. It has been raining in Philadelphia since before dawn.
 - C. The Northridge earthquake caused major damage to the infrastructure when it shook Southern California in January 1994.
 - D. When a heat wave lasts a month or more, it can cause major crop damage.
40. Which of these North American rivers empties into the Gulf of Mexico?
- A. Columbia River
 - B. Susquehanna River
 - C. Mississippi River
 - D. St. Lawrence River
41. What is the chief function of a state capital?
- A. It serves as a major shopping and medical center for the region of the state where it is located.
 - B. The state university is located there.
 - C. Most of the state's major banks and insurance companies have their headquarters there.
 - D. It is the administrative and legislative center for state government.

42. What kind of expedition would a traveler take to observe the habitat and wild life native to a place such as East Africa or the Amazon Rainforest?

- A. pilgrimage
- B. safari
- C. excursion
- D. crusade

43. What theory explains the shifting positions of Earth's continents?

- A. epicenter
- B. faulting
- C. plate tectonics
- D. geosphere

44. The picture below shows terraced farming. What crop is typically grown using this agricultural method on steep slopes?

- A. soy beans
- B. rice
- C. potatoes
- D. sugar cane



45. In the campaign for governor of your state, a candidate pledges to build a nuclear reactor in your town. Many people are against the plan. What is likely to be their chief concern?

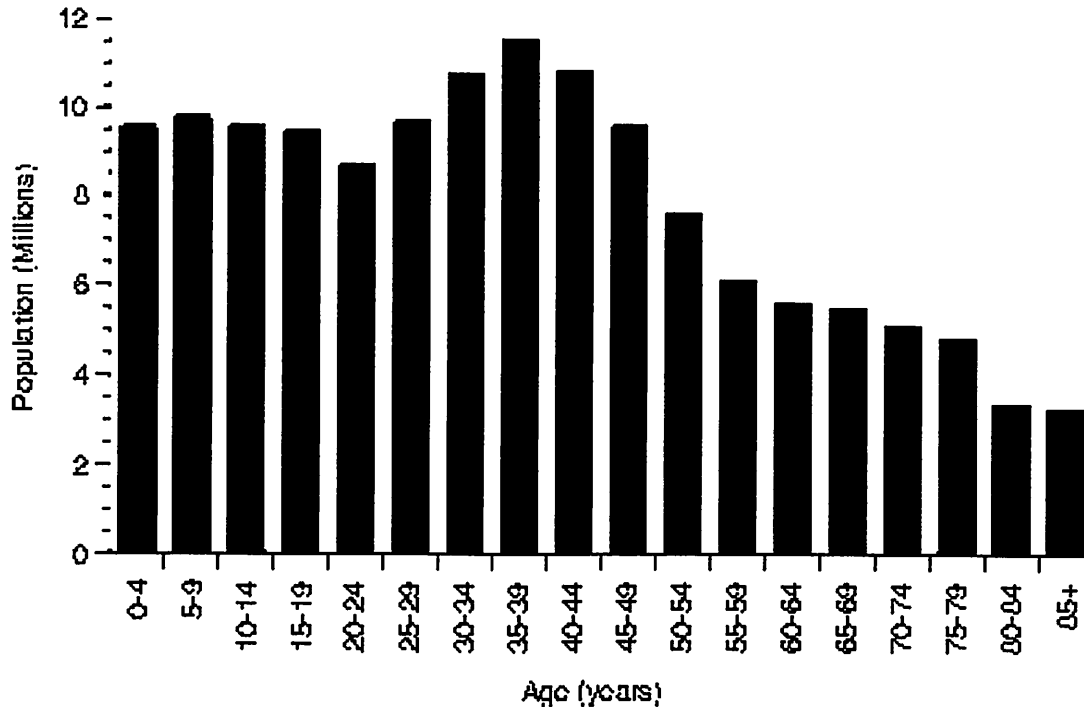
- A. size of the buildings
- B. design of the plant
- C. disposal of the waste
- D. increase in taxes

46. On what continent are vast areas of uncharted territory still being explored by geologists, cartographers, and physical geographers?

- A. Africa
- B. Australia
- C. Asia
- D. Antarctica

Note: Use the graph below to answer questions #47, #48, and #49.

United States Female Population - 1997



47. To provide data about the female population in the United States in 1997, the information is presented as what kind of graph?

- A. bar graph
- B. picture graph
- C. pie graph
- D. line graph

48. Every graph has a *variable* identifying the category being measured. That means while other statistics change in the graph, the *variable* is constant and independent throughout. What is the *variable* in the graph above?

- A. race
- B. age
- C. gender
- D. years

49. According to the information in the graph, what is the closest approximate population between ages 55-59?

- A. 9 million
- B. 8 million
- C. 7 million
- D. 6 million

50 Which of the following is an example of a non-material element of a culture?

- A. belief in a supreme being
- B. assembly line auto production
- C. cutting timber to make pulp for paper
- D. constructing a public library building