

Geography Bee Study Sheets

Grades 5 & 6: US State Capitols;
World Capitols, Expanded;
Continents; Geographical Terms
Wednesday, August 12, 6:15 p.m.

US State Capitols

Alabama	Montgomery
Alaska	Juneau
Arizona	Phoenix
Arkansas	Little Rock
California	Sacramento
Colorado	Denver
Connecticut	Hartford
Delaware	Dover
Florida	Tallahassee
Georgia	Atlanta
Hawaii	Honolulu
Idaho	Boise
Illinois	Springfield
Indiana	Indianapolis
Iowa	Des Moines
Kansas	Topeka
Kentucky	Frankfort
Louisiana	Baton Rouge
Maine	Augusta
Maryland	Annapolis
Massachusetts	Boston
Michigan	Lansing
Minnesota	St. Paul
Mississippi	Jackson
Missouri	Jefferson City
Montana	Helena
Nebraska	Lincoln
Nevada	Carson City
New Hampshire	Concord
New Jersey	Trenton
New Mexico	Santa Fe
New York	Albany
North Carolina	Raleigh
North Dakota	Bismarck
Ohio	Columbus
Oklahoma	Oklahoma City
Oregon	Salem
Pennsylvania	Harrisburg
Rhode Island	Providence
South Carolina	Columbia
South Dakota	Pierre
Tennessee	Nashville

Texas	Austin
Utah	Salt Lake City
Vermont	Montpelier
Virginia	Richmond
Washington	Olympia
West Virginia	Charleston
Wisconsin	Madison
Wyoming	Cheyenne

World Capitols, Expanded

Afghanistan	Kabul
Argentina	Buenos Aires
Australia	Canberra
Austria	Vienna
Bahamas	Nassau
Belgium	Brussels
Brazil	Brasilia
Bulgaria	Sofia
Canada	Ottawa, Ontario
Chile	Santiago
China	Beijing
Cuba	Havana
Denmark	Copenhagen
Egypt	Cairo
Ethiopia	Addis Ababa
France	Paris
Germany	Berlin
Greece	Athens
Haiti	Port-au-Prince
Hungary	Budapest
India	New Delhi
Indonesia	Jakarta
Iran	Tehran
Iraq	Baghdad
Ireland	Dublin
Israel	Jerusalem
Italy	Rome
Jamaica	Kingston
Kenya	Nairobi
Korea, South	Seoul
Liberia	Monrovia
Libya	Tripoli
Mexico	Mexico City
Netherlands	Amsterdam
New Zealand	Wellington
Norway	Oslo
Pakistan	Islamabad
Peru	Lima
Poland	Warsaw

Portugal	Lisbon
Romania	Bucharest
Moscow	Russia
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh
Serbia	Belgrade
Somalia	Mogadishu
South Africa	Pretoria
Spain	Madrid
Sudan	Khartoum
Sweden	Stockholm
Switzerland	Bern
Thailand	Bangkok
Uganda	Kampala
United Kingdom	London
Venezuela	Caracas
Vietnam	Hanoi

Continents

Africa
Antarctica
Asia
Australia
Europe
North America
South America

GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS

Grades 5 and 6

*Student will hear or read definition, and
respond with the matching term.*

ACID RAIN: Rain that has become more acidic than normal (a [pH](#) below 5.0) as certain oxides present as airborne pollutants are absorbed by the water droplets.

ALTITUDE: Height of an object in the atmosphere above sea level.

ASH: Fragments less than (about 1/8 inch) in diameter of lava or rock blasted into the air by volcanic explosions.

ATLAS: A bound collection of maps.

ATMOSPHERE: The mixture of gases, aerosols, solid particles, and water vapor that envelops the Earth.

BADLANDS: Very irregular topography resulting from wind and water erosion of [sedimentary rock](#).

BAY: A 3/4 bowl shaped body of water almost fully enclosed by land yet allowing water to flow.

BEACH: A landform along the shoreline of an ocean, sea, lake, or river with a loose surface of sand, gravel, shingle, pebbles, shells, stones or coral.

BEDROCK: The solid rock that underlies all soil or other loose material; the rock material that breaks down eventually to form soil.

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY: The variety of life forms in an area of the Earth and their interdependence.

BIOSPHERE: The realm of all living things.

BIOTA: The animal and plant life of a region considered as a total ecological entity.

CAPE: A [headland](#) or [promontory](#) of large size extending into a body of water, usually the sea.

CANAL: An artificial navigation channel.

CAPROCK: A stratum of erosion-resistant sedimentary rock (usually [limestone](#)) found in arid areas. It forms the top layer of most mesas and buttes.

CARTOGRAPHER: A person who draws or makes maps or charts.

CONFLUENCE: The place where two streams flow together to form one larger stream.

CONIFEROUS: Bearing cones; from the [conifer](#) family.

CONTINENT: One of the large, continuous areas of the Earth into which the land surface is divided.

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE: The line of high ground that separates the oceanic drainage basins of a continent; the river systems of a continent on opposite sides of a continental divide flow toward different oceans.

CONTOUR LINES: Parallel lines used on topographic maps to show the shape and elevation of the land.

CRATER: The circular depression containing a volcanic vent.

CRUST: The Earth's outermost layer.

DECIDUOUS FOREST: Forests in which the trees lose their leaves each year.

DELTA: A land form at the mouth of a river where the mainstream splits up into several distributaries. It is formed from the deposition of the sediment carried by the river as the flow leaves the mouth of the river.

DOME: A steep-sided mound that forms when lava is extruded from a volcanic vent.

DORMANT VOLCANO: An active volcano that is in repose but is expected to erupt in the future.

ELEVATION: The height of a point on the Earth's surface with regard to sea level.

EQUATOR: An imaginary circle around the Earth halfway between the North Pole and the South Pole.

ESTUARY: The broad lower course of a river that is encroached on by the sea and affected by the tides.

EXTINCT VOLCANO: A volcano that is not expected to erupt again

FALLOW: Agricultural land that is plowed or tilled but left unseeded during a growing season, usually to conserve moisture.

FAULT: A fracture in the Earth's crust accompanied by a displacement of one side of the fracture, showing that movement has occurred.

FAULT ZONE: An area of numerous fractures in the Earth's crust.

FERAL ANIMAL: A wild or untamed animal, especially one having reverted to such a state from domestication.

FISH LADDER: A series of shallow steps down which water is allowed to flow; designed to permit salmon to circumvent artificial barriers such as power dams as they swim upstream to spawn.

FJORD: A long, narrow inlet with steep sides or cliffs, created by glacial erosion.

GEOSPHERE: The nonliving parts of the Earth: such as the atmosphere.

GLACIAL TILL: The mass of rocks and finely ground material carried by a glacier, then deposited when the ice melted.

GLACIER: A thick mass of ice resulting from compacted snow that forms when more snow accumulates than melts annually.

GLOBE: A true-to-scale map of the Earth that duplicates its round shape and correctly represents areas, relative size, and shape of physical features, distances, and directions.

GRID: A pattern of lines on a chart or map, such as those representing latitude and longitude, which help determine absolute location.

GULF: A large area of water that lies within a curved coastline, usually larger than a bay and smaller than a sea.

HARMONIC TREMOR: Continuous rhythmic earthquakes in the Earth's upper lithosphere that can be detected by seismographs and often precede or accompany volcanic eruptions.

HAZARDOUS WASTE: Unwanted by-products remaining in the environment and posing an immediate potential hazard to human life.

HEMISPHERE: Half of the Earth, usually thought of as the division of the globe into two equal parts of either north and south or east and west.

HYDROGRAPHY: The study of the surface waters of the Earth.

ICE AGE: A time of widespread glaciation.

IGNEOUS ROCK: Rock formed when molten (melted) materials harden.

INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY SYSTEM: A US waterway channel, maintained through dredging and sheltered for the most part by a series of linear offshore islands, that extends from New York City to Florida's southern tip and from Brownsville, Texas, to the eastern end of Florida's panhandle.

ISLAND: Any piece of sub-continental land that is surrounded by water.

LACUSTRINE PLAIN: A nearly level land area that was formed as a lakebed.

LATITUDE: Imaginary lines that cross the surface of the Earth parallel to the Equator, measuring how far north or south of the Equator a place is located.

LAVA: The term used for magma once it has erupted onto the Earth's surface.

LEACHING: A process of soil nutrient removal through the erosive movement and chemical action of water.

LEEWARD: The side of a land mass sheltered from the wind—the opposite of windward.

LEGEND: A key to what the symbols or pictures in a map mean.

LITHOSPHERE: The Earth's hard outermost shell, it comprises the crust and the upper part of the mantle.

LONGITUDE: Imaginary lines that cross the surface of the Earth running from north to south, measuring how far east or west of the prime meridian a place is located.

MANTLE: A zone in the Earth's interior between the crust and the core that is 2,900 kilometers (1,800 mi) thick.

MAP: A picture of a place that is usually drawn to scale on a flat surface.

MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE: A climate characterized by moist, mild winters and hot, dry summers.

MESA: An isolated, relatively flat-topped natural elevation usually more extensive than a butte and less extensive than a plateau.

METAMORPHIC ROCK: Rock that has been physically altered by heat and/or pressure.

MORaine: The rocks and soil carried and deposited by a glacier, forms at the end of a glacier when the ice is melting.

MUDFLOW: A flowing mixture of water and debris that forms on the slopes of a volcano, sometimes called a debris flow.

OCEAN: The salt water surrounding the great land masses, and divided by the land masses into several distinct portions.

OUTWASH: Rocky and sandy surface material deposited by meltwater that flowed from a glacier.

PALISADES: A line of bold cliffs.

PANHANDLE: A narrow projection of a larger territory (such as a state).

PERMAFROST: A permanently frozen layer of soil.

PHYSIOGRAPHY: Physical geography.

PIEDMONT: Lying or formed at the base of mountains.

PLATE TECTONICS: Geologic theory that the bending (folding) and breaking (faulting) of the solid surface of the earth results from the slow movement of large sections (plates) of that surface.

PRECAMBRIAN ROCK: The oldest rocks, generally more than 600 million years old.

PREVAILING WINDS: The direction from which winds most frequently blow at a specific location.

PRIMARY PRODUCT: A product that is important as a raw material in developed economies.

RESOURCE: Anything that is both naturally occurring and of use to humans.

RIA: A drowned river valley that remains open to the sea.

SCALE: The proportional relationship between a linear measurement on a map and the distance it represents on the Earth's surface.

SEA LEVEL: The ocean surface.

SETTLEMENT: A place where people live and form communities.

SINKHOLE: Crater formed when the roof of a cavern collapses, usually found in areas of limestone rock.

SMOG: Mixture of particulate matter and chemical pollutants in the lower atmosphere, usually over urban areas.

SNOWLINE: The lowest elevation at which snow remains from year to year and does not melt during the summer.

SOLUBLE: Capable of being dissolved; in this case, the characteristic of soil minerals that leads them to be carried away in solution by water.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP: A map that uses contour lines to represent the three-dimensional features of a landscape on a two-dimensional surface.

TOPOGRAPHY: The physical features of a place; or the study and depiction of physical features, including terrain relief.

TREE LINE: Either the latitudinal or the elevational limit of normal tree growth. Beyond this limit, closer to the poles or at higher or lower elevations, climatic conditions are too severe for such growth.

TREE RINGS: Concentric rings formed annually as a tree grows.

TROPICS: Technically, the area between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, characterized by the absence of a cold season. Often used to describe any area possessing what is considered a hot, humid climate.

TUNDRA: A treeless plain characteristic of the arctic and subarctic regions.

VENT: The opening at the Earth's surface through which volcanic materials (lava and gases) erupt, they can be circular (craters) or linear (fissures).

VOLCANO: A vent (opening) in the Earth's surface through which magma erupts; also the landform that is constructed by eruptive material.

WINDWARD: The side of a land mass facing the direction from which the wind is blowing—the opposite of leeward.

WATER POLLUTION: Contamination of water by chemical or biological constituents that make it unfit for use.