MEGAN MORAN QUIZZES

Geography quiz questions

60 multiple-choice questions in 3 rounds from The Mighty Geography Quiz Book by Megan Moran. Read each question and its four options out, and teams write down a letter. The host's answer sheet (with a fact to share for each answer) and a team answer sheet to print for every table come after the questions.

Round 1: General geography

1. What is the capital city of Australia? A) Sydney B) Melbourne C) Canberra D) Perth
2. Which African country is completely surrounded by South Africa? A) Lesotho B) Eswatini C) Botswana D) Namibia
3. Which is the largest of Earth's oceans? A) Atlantic Ocean B) Indian Ocean C) Arctic Ocean D) Pacific Ocean
4. The Danube flows through or along the borders of how many countries? A) 6 B) 10 C) 14 D) 8
5. Which Himalayan country's flag features a white dragon? A) Nepal B) Bhutan C) Mongolia D) Thailand
6. Which river flows through the center of Paris? A) Loire B) Rhône C) Garonne D) Seine
7. Which city is the southernmost capital of a sovereign country? A) Wellington B) Canberra C) Buenos Aires D) Montevideo
8. Angel Falls, the world's tallest uninterrupted waterfall, is in which country? A) Brazil B) Colombia C) Venezuela D) Guyana
9. The Strait of Gibraltar separates Spain from which African country? A) Morocco B) Algeria C) Tunisia D) Libya
10. Mount Everest straddles the border between Nepal and which other country? A) India B) Bhutan C) China D) Pakistan
11. Which country's national flag is made of two stacked triangular pennants rather than a rectangle? A) Switzerland B) Sri Lanka C) Brunei D) Nepal
12. In which country would you find the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu? A) Bolivia B) Peru C) Ecuador D) Chile
13. The Atacama, one of the driest non-polar deserts on Earth, lies mainly in which country? A) Peru B) Argentina C) Bolivia D) Chile
14. Lake Baikal, the deepest lake on Earth, is in which country? A) Russia B) Mongolia C) Kazakhstan D) China
15. Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, is in which country? A) Kenya B) Uganda C) Tanzania D) Ethiopia
16. Which mountain range, running north to south through Russia, is traditionally seen as part of the boundary between Europe and Asia? A) Altai Mountains B) Ural Mountains C) Carpathian Mountains D) Pyrenees
17. Which two countries share the longest international border in the world? A) Canada and the United States B) Russia and Kazakhstan C) Argentina and Chile D) China and Mongolia

18. Bolivia is one of South America's two landlocked countries. Which is the other? A) Uruguay B) Ecuador C) Guyana D) Paraguay
19. Which major city is split between Europe and Asia by the Bosporus strait? A) Ankara B) Athens C) Istanbul D) Sofia
20. What is the world's largest island that is not considered a continent? A) New Guinea B) Greenland C) Borneo D) Madagascar

Round 2: Rivers and lakes

21. Which river flows through Rome? A) Arno B) Po C) Tiber D) Adige
22. Which of North America's five Great Lakes is the largest? A) Lake Superior B) Lake Michigan C) Lake Huron D) Lake Erie
23. Victoria Falls lies on which river? A) Limpopo B) Zambezi C) Congo D) Orange
24. Which river carries more water to the sea than any other? A) Orinoco B) Paraná C) Mississippi D) Amazon
25. Iraq's capital, Baghdad, stands on which river? A) Euphrates B) Tigris C) Jordan D) Karun
26. Which is the only major river to cross the equator twice? A) Amazon B) Niger C) Congo D) Nile
27. Which river flows through Lisbon on its way to the Atlantic? A) Tagus B) Douro C) Guadiana D) Minho
28. Iguazu Falls lie on the border between Argentina and which other country? A) Paraguay B) Uruguay C) Chile D) Brazil
29. Which river, notorious for catastrophic floods, has been nicknamed 'China's Sorrow'? A) Yangtze B) Pearl River C) Yellow River D) Mekong
30. In Oxford, the River Thames is traditionally known by what other name? A) Cherwell B) Isis C) Kennet D) Windrush
31. Which river forms much of the border between the United States and Mexico? A) Rio Grande B) Pecos C) Gila D) Brazos
32. Which is the longest river in Asia? A) Mekong B) Ganges C) Indus D) Yangtze
33. The shores of which body of water are the lowest land on Earth? A) Sea of Galilee B) Lake Assal C) Caspian Sea D) Dead Sea
34. The Okavango River never reaches the sea. In which country does it spread out into a vast inland delta? A) Namibia B) Botswana C) Angola D) Zambia
35. Which is the longest river in Europe? A) Danube B) Rhine C) Volga D) Dnieper
36. Lake Titicaca lies on the border between Peru and which other country? A) Bolivia B) Chile C) Ecuador D) Argentina
37. At Khartoum in Sudan, the White Nile is joined by which river? A) Atbara B) Sobat C) Bahr el Ghazal D) Blue Nile
38. Which lake, shared by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, has shrunk dramatically since the 1960s? A) Lake Balkhash B) Aral Sea C) Issyk-Kul D) Lake Sevan
39. Which African lake is the longest freshwater lake in the world? A) Lake Malawi B) Lake Victoria C) Lake Tanganyika D) Lake Turkana

40. In which country does the River Rhine rise? A) Switzerland B) Austria C) Germany D) Liechtenstein

Round 3: Mountains, deserts and volcanoes

41. Which mountain range forms the border between France and Spain? A) Alps B) Pyrenees C) Apennines D) Cantabrian Mountains
42. Which volcano in Washington State erupted catastrophically on 18 May 1980? A) Mount Rainier B) Mount Hood C) Mount Shasta D) Mount St Helens
43. Defining a desert by how little precipitation it receives, which is the largest desert on Earth? A) Antarctica B) Sahara C) Arabian Desert D) Gobi Desert
44. Mount Etna, one of Europe's tallest active volcanoes, is on which island? A) Sardinia B) Corsica C) Sicily D) Crete
45. K2, the world's second-highest mountain, is in which mountain range? A) Hindu Kush B) Pamirs C) Karakoram D) Tian Shan
46. The 1816 'Year Without a Summer' in Europe and North America followed the 1815 eruption of which volcano? A) Tambora B) Laki C) Mount Pelée D) Mount Agung
47. Which Hawaiian volcano is the largest active volcano on Earth? A) Mauna Kea B) Kilauea C) Haleakala D) Mauna Loa
48. The 2010 eruption of Eyjafjallajökull, which grounded flights across Europe, happened in which country? A) Norway B) Iceland C) Italy D) Portugal
49. Which mountain range separates the Sahara from the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts of north-west Africa? A) Atlas Mountains B) Ahaggar Mountains C) Tibesti Mountains D) Drakensberg
50. Puncak Jaya, the highest mountain on any island in the world, stands on which island? A) Borneo B) Sumatra C) New Guinea D) South Island, New Zealand
51. Measured above sea level, what is the highest mountain in South America? A) Chimborazo B) Huascarán C) Illimani D) Aconcagua
52. What name is given to a long, narrow, steep-sided sea inlet carved by a glacier, like those along Norway's coast? A) Moraine B) Fjord C) Lagoon D) Estuary
53. Which volcano's 1883 eruption produced what is thought to be the loudest sound ever recorded? A) Krakatoa B) Mount Merapi C) Mount Kelud D) Mount Pelée
54. Mount Elbrus, usually counted as Europe's highest mountain, is the highest peak of which range? A) Urals B) Carpathians C) Alps D) Caucasus
55. The Namib, often called the world's oldest desert, runs along the coast of which ocean? A) Indian B) Pacific C) Atlantic D) Southern
56. North America's highest mountain, known as Denali or Mount McKinley, is in which US state? A) Alaska B) Wyoming C) Colorado D) Montana
57. After Kilimanjaro, which is Africa's second-highest mountain? A) Mount Stanley B) Mount Kenya C) Ras Dashen D) Mount Meru
58. Mount Pinatubo, whose 1991 eruption was one of the largest of the 20th century, is in which country? A) Indonesia B) Japan C) Papua New Guinea D) Philippines
59. The Rub' al Khali, the largest area of continuous sand in the world, is better known in English by what name? A) The Dead Heart B) The Great Sand Sea C) The Empty Quarter D) The Burning Sands

60. Argentina's Perito Moreno Glacier, famous for its towering ice wall, lies in which region? A) Gran Chaco B) Patagonia C) The Pampas D) Cuyo

Answer sheet

For the host. The facts in gray are extras to read out after each answer.

Round 1: General geography

1. **C) Canberra**
   Canberra was purpose-built as a compromise after Sydney and Melbourne both wanted to be the capital, and Parliament first sat there in 1927.
2. **A) Lesotho**
   Lesotho is the only independent country that lies entirely above 1,000 m (3,281 ft); even its lowest point is about 1,400 m (4,593 ft) high.
3. **D) Pacific Ocean**
   The Pacific covers roughly a third of Earth's surface, more than all the land on the planet put together.
4. **B) 10**
   On its way from Germany to the Black Sea, the Danube also passes through four national capitals: Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest and Belgrade.
5. **B) Bhutan**
   The creature is Druk, the Thunder Dragon, and Bhutanese people call their country Druk Yul, meaning Land of the Thunder Dragon.
6. **D) Seine**
   Paris has dozens of bridges across the Seine, and the oldest standing one is, confusingly, called the Pont Neuf, meaning New Bridge.
7. **A) Wellington**
   New Zealand's capital sits at about 41 degrees south and is famous for strong winds funneled through Cook Strait.
8. **C) Venezuela**
   The falls drop a total of 979 m (3,212 ft) and are named after Jimmie Angel, an American pilot who flew over them in 1933.
9. **A) Morocco**
   Europe and Africa are so close here that on a clear day the coast of one continent can be seen from the other.
10. **C) China**
    A joint Nepalese and Chinese survey in 2020 measured Everest at 8,849 m (29,032 ft) above sea level.
11. **D) Nepal**
    Nepal's is the only national flag that is not four-sided; Switzerland and Vatican City have square flags.
12. **B) Peru**
    Built in the 15th century, Machu Picchu perches on a ridge in the Andes about 2,430 m (7,970 ft) above sea level.
13. **D) Chile**
    Its soils are so dry and Mars-like that NASA has used the Atacama to test equipment designed for exploring the Red Planet.
14. **A) Russia**
    Baikal plunges to about 1,642 m (5,387 ft) and holds roughly a fifth of the world's unfrozen fresh surface water.
15. **C) Tanzania**
    Kilimanjaro rises to 5,895 m (19,341 ft) and is a dormant volcano that stands alone rather than as part of a mountain range.
16. **B) Ural Mountains**
    The Urals stretch for about 2,500 km (1,550 mi) and are among the oldest mountain ranges on Earth, worn down to modest heights.
17. **A) Canada and the United States**
    Including the stretch with Alaska, the border runs for about 8,891 km (5,525 mi).

18. **D) Paraguay**
Paraguay and Bolivia are the only landlocked countries anywhere in the Americas, though Paraguay reaches the Atlantic by river via the Paraná.

19. **C) Istanbul**
Istanbul straddles two continents, and bridges and a rail tunnel beneath the Bosporus let commuters cross between them every day.

20. **B) Greenland**
Greenland covers about 2.17 million km² (836,000 sq mi), and most of it lies under a vast ice sheet.

Round 2: Rivers and lakes

21. **C) Tiber**
Legend says Rome's founders, the twins Romulus and Remus, were abandoned on its waters before being rescued by a she-wolf.

22. **A) Lake Superior**
Superior holds as much water as the other four Great Lakes combined, plus three more Lake Eries.

23. **B) Zambezi**
Its local Lozi name, Mosi-oa-Tunya, means 'the smoke that thunders', and the falls mark the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

24. **D) Amazon**
Up to a fifth of all the fresh water that rivers pour into the world's oceans comes from this one river.

25. **B) Tigris**
Further south, near al-Qurnah, it meets the Euphrates to form the Shatt al-Arab, which flows into the Persian Gulf.

26. **C) Congo**
It is also the world's deepest recorded river, with measured depths of around 220 m (720 ft).

27. **A) Tagus**
The longest river on the Iberian Peninsula, it rises in eastern Spain, where it is called the Tajo, and flows about 1,000 km to the sea.

28. **D) Brazil**
The falls are made up of about 275 separate drops, the most famous being the narrow chasm called the Devil's Throat.

29. **C) Yellow River**
Its color comes from silt picked up on the Loess Plateau, making it the most sediment-laden river in the world.

30. **B) Isis**
Oxford University's rowing regattas, Torpids in early spring and Eights Week in summer, are raced on this stretch of the river.

31. **A) Rio Grande**
In Mexico it is called the Río Bravo, and depending on how it is measured it forms roughly 1,400 to 2,000 km of the border.

32. **D) Yangtze**
Flowing about 6,300 km from the Tibetan Plateau to the East China Sea at Shanghai, it is the third-longest river in the world.

33. **D) Dead Sea**
With a salinity of about 34 per cent, it is nearly ten times as salty as the ocean, so swimmers float with ease.

34. **B) Botswana**
In 2014 the Okavango Delta became the 1,000th site inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

35. **C) Volga**
Russians affectionately call it 'Mother Volga'. It flows about 3,530 km before emptying into the landlocked Caspian Sea.

36. **A) Bolivia**
Sitting about 3,812 m above sea level, it is home to the Uros people, who live on floating islands built from totora reeds.

37. D) Blue Nile
Rising at Lake Tana in Ethiopia, it supplies most of the Nile's water, especially during the summer rainy season.

38. B) Aral Sea
Soviet irrigation schemes diverted its feeder rivers, the Amu Darya and Syr Darya, to grow cotton and other crops.

39. C) Lake Tanganyika
Stretching about 670 km, it is also the world's second-deepest lake, plunging to around 1,470 m.

40. A) Switzerland
Its source is usually placed at Lake Toma in Graubünden, and it reaches the North Sea through the Netherlands, flowing past Rotterdam.

Round 3: Mountains, deserts and volcanoes

41. B) Pyrenees
The tiny landlocked country of Andorra sits high in the eastern part of the range, between the two nations.

42. D) Mount St Helens
The eruption and the huge landslide that triggered it lowered the mountain's summit by about 400 m (1,300 ft).

43. A) Antarctica
At about 14 million km², it is roughly half as big again as the Sahara, the largest hot desert.

44. C) Sicily
Almost constantly active, it is one of the busiest volcanoes in the world and was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2013.

45. C) Karakoram
Straddling the Pakistan–China border, it was first climbed in 1954 by Italians Lino Lacedelli and Achille Compagnoni.

46. A) Tambora
On the island of Sumbawa, it was the most powerful eruption in recorded history and cut the mountain's height by about a third.

47. D) Mauna Loa
Its Hawaiian name means 'Long Mountain'. In 2022 it erupted for the first time since 1984.

48. B) Iceland
About 20 countries closed their airspace, affecting roughly 10 million travelers, the worst air-travel disruption since the Second World War.

49. A) Atlas Mountains
Its highest peak, Toubkal in Morocco, reaches 4,167 m (13,671 ft).

50. C) New Guinea
About 4,884 m tall, it was first climbed in 1962 by a team that included Heinrich Harrer, author of Seven Years in Tibet.

51. D) Aconcagua
It is the highest mountain anywhere outside Asia. Although built from volcanic rock, it is no longer an active volcano.

52. B) Fjord
Norway's Sognefjord, its longest and deepest, runs about 205 km inland and plunges to 1,308 m below sea level.

53. A) Krakatoa
The blast was heard about 4,800 km away on Rodrigues, an island near Mauritius.

54. D) Caucasus
It is a dormant volcano with two summits; the western one, at 5,642 m, is about 21 m higher than the eastern.

55. C) Atlantic
Some dunes near Sossusvlei exceed 300 m, and certain beetles survive by collecting droplets from the coastal fog on their backs.

56. A) Alaska
It rises about 5,500 m (18,000 ft) from its base, a bigger base-to-summit rise than Everest's.

57. B) Mount Kenya
The country takes its name from this extinct volcano, whose highest peak, Batian, reaches 5,199 m.

58. D) Philippines
It pumped about 20 million tonnes of sulphur dioxide into the stratosphere, cooling global temperatures by around 0.5 °C from 1991 to 1993.

59. C) The Empty Quarter
Explorer Wilfred Thesiger crossed it twice between 1946 and 1948 and described his journeys in the book Arabian Sands.

60. B) Patagonia
From time to time the glacier blocks an arm of Lago Argentino; the trapped water rises by up to 30 m before bursting through the ice.

Team answer sheet

Print one for each team. 60 questions.

Team name _____

Round 1: General geography

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Round 2: Rivers and lakes

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Round 3: Mountains, deserts and volcanoes

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