

National Council for Geographic Education

Grades 7-9

The National Geography Olympiad

1999

1. Name the driest desert in the world. It lies along a cold ocean current on South America's west coast.
A. Sahara
B. Gobi
C. Atacama
D. Mojave
2. Tropical grasslands with clumps of grasses and widely scattered trees describe the vegetation of a
A. savanna.
B. flood plain.
C. alluvial fan.
D. steppe.
3. What term do urban geographers use to identify a "super city" such as the one stretching through the northeastern part of the United States from Washington, D.C. to Boston, Massachusetts?
A. metropolis
B. exurb
C. megalopolis
D. edge city
4. If you are standing at the North or South Pole, what time is it?
A. Whatever time you want it to be since neither of these locations is in any official time zone.
B. It depends on the national time zone of the polar research station sponsoring you.
C. This issue is still being addressed by a United Nations commission.
D. It is the same time as Greenwich Mean Time or Universal Coordinated Time.
5. What is the political term used these days to identify the countries in Southwest Asia?
A. Far East
B. Balkans
C. Indo-China
D. Middle East
6. In humid subtropical climate zones where rain is a constant year round, umbrella stands are everywhere. You will find them at the entrances to shops, restaurants, schools, hospitals, hotels and offices. In which one of the following cities are you likely to find such stands?
A. Phoenix, USA
B. Tokyo, Japan
C. Barcelona, Spain
D. Cairo, Egypt
7. Which of the following is an example of a cultural feature on the landscape?
A. canal
B. isthmus
C. rift valley
D. strait