

## **Reviewing for the National Geography Bee**

What follows are tips and techniques to help you prepare for the National Geographic Bee (formerly called the National Geography Bee but since the National Geographic Society is the organizer, they decided to change the name)<sup>1</sup>.

- Start with a world map, globe, and atlas and become very familiar with the continents, countries, states and provinces, islands, and major physical features of our planet.
- Use [Outline Maps](#) of the world and continents to test yourself on this information. Knowing the relative location of countries, islands, major water bodies, and major physical features is very important for the Bee. Be sure to also have a good understanding of where the [major lines of latitude and longitude](#) lie.
- Take as many practice quizzes as possible. My site offers an archive of hundreds of multiple-choice [Geography Quizzes](#) that will definitely help. National Geographic offers a daily [GeoBee](#)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://geography.about.com/cs/geographybee/a/geobee.htm>

[Quiz](#) online. There are additional online quizzes in my [Test Your Knowledge](#) collection of resources. Be sure to use an atlas to look up or understand the questions that you've missed.

- Prepare flash cards or use some other technique to memorize the [capitals](#) of the countries of the world and the [capitals](#) of the fifty United States.
- Memorize these [Basic Earth Facts](#), the [Highest, Lowest, and Deepest](#) points around the world, and study other [geographic superlatives](#).
- Read the newspaper, news magazines, and subscribe to my free [Geography Newsletter and Geography 101 Email Course](#) to learn about geography and to stay up-to-date with major news events happening around the world. Some Bee questions come from the geography of current events and these events are usually those that occur in the latter portion of the year before the Bee. Look up any unfamiliar place names you encounter in an atlas.
- Knowing principal languages, currencies, religions, and former country names is definitely a bonus. It's most important at state and national levels. This information is best obtained from the [CIA World Factbook](#).
- Become familiar with the terms and concepts of [Physical Geography](#). If you can review the glossary and key concepts of physical geography

from a college-level physical geography textbook, do so!

In the 1999 state finals, there was a difficult round devoted to exotic species but each question's answer was the choice between two places so having a good geographical knowledge would have been the easiest way to win the round. My book, [\*The Geography Bee Complete Preparation Handbook: 1,001 Questions & Answers to Help You Win Again and Again!\*](#), is a helpful resource for those preparing for the Bee at the school, state, or national levels.

### Geography Bee Resources

- [Geography Quizzes](#)
- [Geography Trivia](#)
- [Geography Glossary](#)

### Related Articles

- [Geographic Education Revival](#)
- [Gift Ideas for Geographers - Geography](#)

- [Geography in the United States - Geography in America](#)
- [National Geography Bee - Geography](#)
- [Geography for Kids](#)

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### Study Aids for Geography Bee Preparation<sup>2</sup>

**Maps** The [first](#) tool students need is an up to date world map that clearly defines country borders

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<sup>2</sup> <http://geography-game-software-review.toptenreviews.com/geography-bee-preparation.html>

and includes physical features such as mountain ranges, deserts and other major land features like the Canadian Shield. It is helpful if the map is portable, so for example, if the student sees something on the news or in a movie, they can quickly grab their map and locate the area that is referenced. It is also fun to have some historic maps to compare to modern maps, to see where ancient civilizations were located in relation to modern cities.

**Current Events Source of Information** The geography bee will include questions related to current events. Therefore, the student needs access to a world news source. This could include such sources as BBC News Front Page, CNN.com (see World link), WorldNews.com or The World News Connection. Whenever a location is referenced, it should be located on a map and the student ought to also consider surrounding areas or political associations that could be affected by the latest developments.

### [Statistics Analysis](#)

Manage Data Better With IBM SPSS Statistics. See the Online Demo Now

[www.cognos.com/spss\\_analytics](http://www.cognos.com/spss_analytics)

**Geography Reference Materials** This could include an up to date textbook that includes definitions of geography related terms. Sources should include statistical data such as population figures including distribution and densities. Other good sources of information include those listed in the resource section of this site. National Geographic 3D Globe is a good software choice for older students that need quick information on world religions, health, education or other comparative data.

**National Geography Standards** These standards, established in 1994 to guide geography course work in the schools, include five major areas and eighteen sub divisions. All major areas of these standards will be addressed during the bee. In brief, these standards require an understanding of the following:

#### **1. The World in Spatial Terms**

- Knowing how to use maps
- The ability to organize people, places and environments into spatial terms
- The ability to analyze the spatial organization of people, places and environments

## 2. Places and Regions

- Physical and Human Characteristics of Places
- That People Create Regions to Interpret Earth's Complexity
- How Culture and Experience Influence Perceptions of Places and Regions

## 3. Physical Systems

- Physical Processes That Shape the Patterns of Earth's Surface
- Characteristics and Spatial Distribution of Ecosystems

## 4. Human Systems

- Characteristics, Distribution and Migration of Human Populations
- Characteristics, Distribution and Complexity of Earth's Cultures

- Patterns and Networks of Economic Interdependence on Earth's Surface
- Processes, Patterns and Functions of Human Settlement

## 5. Environment and Society

- How Human Actions Modify the Physical Environment
- How Physical Systems Affect Human Systems
- Changes That Occur in the Meaning, Use, Distribution and Importance of Resources

As one can quickly see, these standards encompass many areas, well beyond location. Nearly every school subject, whether social studies or biology, includes geography related concepts. In fact, geography incorporates so many areas that it is almost impossible to study or memorize everything.

Therefore, kids should strive to succeed in all of their course work especially social studies, [government](#), history and earth science to be successful in geography. The goal is to begin to understand how all of these relationships are related. For example how an environmental change affected migration patterns, economics and

resources, population distribution or political influence.

If the student is planning to compete in the National Geographic sponsored bee, it is a good idea if they regularly visit their website and read the “Kids News” and their “Bee Resources” pages.

### **In Summary**

A geography bee may include many geography related subject areas. To succeed, students must make their map their constant companion as they study current events, world history, social studies and earth science. In addition, once they have mastered their maps they should be able to analyze and organize statistical data into spatial relationships. Lastly, successful geography students are able to see the entire modern and ancient world and its populations in spatial relationships and begin to see the interconnectivity of events.

### **Review Products**

<http://geography-game-software-review.toptenreviews.com/national-geographic-3d-globe-review.html>

<http://www.amazon.com/Geography-Bee-Complete-Preparation-Handbook/dp/0761535713>

<http://www.amazon.com/National-Geographic-Official-Study-Guide/dp/079227850X>

<http://www.amazon.com/National-Geographic-Official-Study-Guide/dp/1426301987>