

Geography Trivia Questions and Answers

A ready-to-host geography trivia set for adult groups, with 24 sourced questions across six distinct categories.

Host guide / Letter / Adult trivia / 20–35 minutes

Read the guide privately first if this activity has hidden answers. Print single-sided at Actual size / 100%. Cut only sheets marked CARDS. Keep answer keys with the host.

What you need

- Printed question cards or a host screen
- Pens and a score sheet (optional)
- A timer (optional)
- One host or reader for each team

How to run it

1. Play individually or in teams of two to five; let players pass on any card.
2. Read the prompt and allow about 20–30 seconds for discussion or a written answer.
3. Award one point for a correct answer, accepting equivalent wording and reasonable pronunciation variants.
4. Reveal the answer and read the explanation; keep its source link available for a quick check or later reading.
5. For a shorter round, choose a balanced mix from at least four categories.
6. Skip scoring and the timer for a relaxed conversation round.

How to host this deck

This geography round suits a dinner, team social, or remote gathering. It moves from familiar capitals to physical geography, lakes, map-reading, and coastal landforms. The answer key gives a short explanation so the game stays conversational and the group can follow a curiosity into the source link.

Players can answer individually, pair up, or join mixed teams. Encourage reasonable spelling variants and accept country or city names when the question asks for them.

- Read the question once, allow a short discussion, then lock in answers before revealing.
- Keep a simple one-point score, or play cooperatively and aim for 18 correct answers.
- Let players pass and avoid making map knowledge a proxy for anyone's education or travel experience.

Choose a round length

For a 10-minute icebreaker, draw one card from each category and let the group choose four bonus questions. For a longer gathering, play all 24 and rotate the reader. A facilitator can balance easy cards with a few harder ones so the round remains welcoming.

The cards are marked by category; select a spread instead of treating the deck as a geography exam.

- Short round: 8 cards, ideally from 4–6 categories.

- Full round: all 24 cards in the printed order or a mixed order.
- No-score option: reveal each answer and invite one optional comment about the map, place, or landform.

Topics in the deck

The capital questions span Europe, Oceania, and Africa, while the mountain cards range from a border peak to continent and elevation records. River and lake cards introduce geography across several continents. The map section reviews latitude, longitude, contour lines, and scale; the final set distinguishes a delta, fjord, atoll, and large reef system.

Geographic records and official naming can depend on measurement conventions. Where a claim is a superlative, the answer explanation links to the cited institutional material so hosts can check the wording.

- Capitals and administrative geography
- Mountain ranges, borders, and high-elevation peaks
- River basins and inland waters
- Map coordinates, contours, and scale
- Coastal forms and coral structures

CARDS / Geography Trivia Questions and Answers

<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-001 / Capitals</p> <p>What is the capital of France?</p>	<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-002 / Capitals</p> <p>What is the capital of Australia?</p>
<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-003 / Capitals</p> <p>Which Japanese city is the national capital?</p>	<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-004 / Capitals</p> <p>What is the capital of Kenya?</p>
<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-005 / Mountains</p> <p>Mount Everest lies on the border of Nepal and which other country?</p>	<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-006 / Mountains</p> <p>What is the highest mountain in North America?</p>

CARDS / Geography Trivia Questions and Answers

<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-007 / Mountains</p> <p>How many main summits are on the UIAA's classic list of peaks above 8,000 metres?</p>	<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-008 / Mountains</p> <p>In the UIAA's classic list, eight of the 14 main summits are in Nepal or on its border with which country?</p>
<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-009 / Rivers</p> <p>Which river is the longest in the United States?</p>	<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-010 / Rivers</p> <p>What is the longest river in Canada?</p>
<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-011 / Rivers</p> <p>Which is a major river of West Africa: the Niger, the Danube, or the Yukon?</p>	<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-012 / Rivers</p> <p>The Amazon River empties into which ocean?</p>

CARDS / Geography Trivia Questions and Answers

<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-013 / Lakes</p> <p>What is the largest lake located entirely within Canada?</p>	<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-014 / Lakes</p> <p>Which Canadian lake is the country's deepest?</p>
<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-015 / Lakes</p> <p>Which lake is the world's deepest freshwater lake?</p>	<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-016 / Lakes</p> <p>Which lake system contains Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario?</p>
<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-017 / Map reading</p> <p>On a standard map, lines of latitude run in which general direction?</p>	<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-018 / Map reading</p> <p>Longitude measures position east or west of which reference line?</p>

CARDS / Geography Trivia Questions and Answers

<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-019 / Map reading</p> <p>On a topographic map, what do contour lines connect?</p>	<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-020 / Map reading</p> <p>What does a map scale help you compare?</p>
<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-021 / Coasts & landforms</p> <p>What is a coral atoll?</p>	<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-022 / Coasts & landforms</p> <p>What landform may build where a river deposits sediment at its mouth?</p>
<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-023 / Coasts & landforms</p> <p>A fjord is a deep inlet commonly carved by what natural process?</p>	<p>R_TRIVIA_GEOGRAPHY-024 / Coasts & landforms</p> <p>What is the Great Barrier Reef widely described as the world's largest example of?</p>

Host answer key

Keep this section separate from player cards. Accept equivalent wording where the meaning matches.

01. Paris

France's official tourism site identifies Paris as its capital and describes it as the country's largest city.

02. Canberra

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade identifies Canberra as the national capital.

03. Tokyo

Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs identifies Tokyo as the capital and seat of government.

04. Nairobi

Australia's DFAT country profile names Nairobi as Kenya's capital.

05. China

Nepal Tourism Board describes Everest on the Nepal–China border, in the Himalaya.

06. Denali

The USGS account of Denali National Park identifies Denali as North America's highest peak.

07. Fourteen

The UIAA recognizes the classic 14 main summits, not every subsidiary top or point above 8,000 metres. It notes that defining a mountain peak is not straightforward.

08. China

The UIAA describes eight of the classic 14 as being in Nepal or on the border with China; this count includes border peaks.

09. The Missouri River

The cited USGS overview identifies the Missouri as the longest river in the United States; it joins the Mississippi near St. Louis.

10. The Mackenzie River

Government of Canada water information identifies the Mackenzie as Canada's longest river system.

11. The Niger River

The USGS overview of West African geography describes the Niger River as a major river system in the region.

12. The Atlantic Ocean

NASA's Earth Observatory describes the Amazon's enormous discharge flowing into the Atlantic Ocean.

13. Great Bear Lake

Government of Canada's climate report describes Great Bear Lake as Canada's largest lake entirely within the country.

14. Great Slave Lake

The same Canadian report identifies Great Slave Lake as Canada's deepest lake.

15. Lake Baikal

USGS background material describes Lake Baikal in Siberia as the deepest freshwater lake.

16. The Great Lakes

The five named lakes form the Great Lakes system on the Canada–United States border; they are freshwater lakes rather than seas.

17. East–west

Latitude is measured north or south of the Equator; parallels circle the globe roughly east–west.

18. The Prime Meridian

Longitude is measured east or west from the Prime Meridian, the zero-degree reference meridian.

19. Points of equal elevation

USGS describes contour lines as joining points at the same elevation, allowing a map reader to see terrain shape.

20. A map distance with the corresponding real-world distance

A map scale states the relationship between a represented distance and the corresponding ground distance.

21. A ring-shaped coral reef or island enclosing a lagoon

NOAA explains that atolls are ring-shaped coral reef structures surrounding lagoons, often with little or no central land.

22. A delta

A delta forms as river-borne sediment accumulates where the river enters a slower-moving body of water.

23. Glacial erosion

National Park Service material explains that glaciers carve U-shaped valleys; when a coastal valley floods, it can form a fjord.

24. A coral reef system

NOAA describes the Great Barrier Reef off Australia as the world's largest coral reef system.

Hosting questions

Can we use this without a map?

Yes. The questions are self-contained. A map can add a visual bonus, but the host does not need one to run the round.

What if someone gives a different spelling?

Accept recognizable spellings and pronunciation variants. If the place is clear, focus on the geography rather than spelling.

Can I make it easier for a mixed group?

Use easy cards across several categories, remove the hard cards, and allow teams to discuss before answering.

Are the explanations enough to verify every answer?

Each card links to an institutional source. The explanation gives the relevant fact in brief; use the link if the group wants more detail.

References

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://www.france.fr/en/destination/paris/>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-australia>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/summit/2008/venue/tokyo_01.html

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/heads-of-government/kenya>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://ntb.gov.np/everest>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://www.usgs.gov/geology-and-ecology-of-national-parks/geology-denali-national-park-and-preserve>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiiaa-position-on-8000m-peaks/>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/geosciences-and-environmental-change-science-center/science/missouri-river-corridor>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/water-overview/publications/water-in-canada.html>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/eros/science/physical-geography>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://science.nasa.gov/earth/earth-observatory/amazon-river-in-the-atlantic-ocean-7021/>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/science-technology/changing-climate-report-2026/cccr-chapter-5-en.html>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/baikal/>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/water-overview/sources/lakes.html>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

https://www.ngs.noaa.gov/FGCS/tech_pub/Guidebook1of3.pdf

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/longitude.html>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-a-topographic-map>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2002/0015/report.pdf>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/lagoon.html>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://water.usgs.gov/nwsum/WSP2425/glossary.html>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/ushapedvalleysfjordshangingvalleys.htm>

Supports the fact stated in the linked answer card; see the card explanation for the claim-specific summary.

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/gbrlargeststructure.html>

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