

# 7



## Level 4: I've Got a Little List

**H**uman geography can include any topic relating to humans—a huge topic! But have no fear; human geography can be broken down into four key areas: political geography, economic geography, cultural geography, and historical geography. Any one or several of these topics may appear as an entire round in a Bee. The questions are challenging because they require a broad knowledge of world history, historical events, key products, major religions, languages, boundary disputes, political conflicts, and much, much more. Whew! That's a lot to know!

Fortunately, some of this information you already know because you studied it in the previous chapter. Now it's time to learn more.

In this chapter, we have organized information into thirty important lists. Many Geography Bee questions will ask you to name the highest, lowest, biggest, smallest, most populous, or least populous.

Therefore we have included many lists of superlatives. The lists provide items such as the largest countries, major languages, and the deepest ocean trenches.

Notice that we don't include the numbers associated with the lists. If you are curious, you can look them up for such lists as population of the largest U.S. states or the elevations of the highest peaks. Also, we couldn't include every superlative; instead, we chose what you will most likely need to know for the Bee. If you have time, feel free to research additional data and create your own lists.

We'd love to tell you that simply putting this book under your pillow will help you absorb all the information you need. But it's just not true. The only way to learn this information is to study it. Use an atlas or your filled-in blank maps from Level 1 to look at each country as you read about them. Often, a country's location or size can help you remember the information on these lists. For instance, take a quick peek at the most populous countries of the world. Perhaps it would make sense that the larger the country, the more people it could contain. With that reasoning, Russia, China, Canada, the United States, and Brazil should be the top five in population. Although Russia is the largest country by size, why is it not even in the top five most populous? The answer lies in Siberia. Much of Russia—and Canada, too—is too cold to be hospitable to humans. Thus, from your atlas, you can understand why some countries may be large but may not hold as many people as other countries.

You've gained some knowledge about each country's culture from Level 3, but there is so much more that you should learn about each country. If you have time, use your additional reference books and the following online resources to build your cultural knowledge.

## **World Online Resources**

**Geography at About Atlas of the World (maps and information about each country, from your author):**

[geography.about.com/library/maps/blindex.htm](http://geography.about.com/library/maps/blindex.htm)

**CIA World Factbook (the latest information from the CIA):**

[www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html](http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html)

**U.S. Department of State Background Notes (in-depth reports about the political situation in each country):**

[www.state.gov/r/pa/bgn/](http://www.state.gov/r/pa/bgn/)

**Hillman Wonders of the World (100 important places around the world):** [www.hillmanwonders.com](http://www.hillmanwonders.com)

**Infoplease Countries of the World (data and a brief narrative about each country):** [www.infoplease.com/countries.html](http://www.infoplease.com/countries.html)

**Lonely Planet Destinations (in-depth information about each country):** [www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/)

**Library of Congress Country Studies (full-length books about many countries):** [lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html)

**Cultural Profiles Project (learn about the culture of many countries):** [cwr.utoronto.ca/cultural/english/index.html](http://cwr.utoronto.ca/cultural/english/index.html)

## U.S. Online Resources

**Geography at About Atlas of the U.S.A. (maps and information about each country, from your author):**

[geography.about.com/library/maps/blusx.htm](http://geography.about.com/library/maps/blusx.htm)

**50 States (great data and facts about every state):** [www.50states.com](http://www.50states.com)

**Stately Knowledge (essential information about each state):**

[www.ipl.org/youth/stateknow/skhome.html](http://www.ipl.org/youth/stateknow/skhome.html)

And now, on with the lists!

## Most Populous States

1. California
2. Texas
3. New York
4. Florida
5. Illinois

## **Least Populous States**

1. Wyoming
2. Vermont
3. Alaska
4. North Dakota
5. South Dakota

## **Most Populous Countries (all above 100 million)**

1. China
2. India
3. United States
4. Indonesia
5. Brazil
6. Russia
7. Pakistan
8. Bangladesh
9. Japan
10. Nigeria
11. Mexico

## **Least Populous Countries**

1. Vatican City
2. Tuvalu
3. Nauru
4. Palau
5. San Marino

## **Continents in Order of Population**

1. Asia
2. Africa
3. Europe

4. North America
5. South America
6. Australia/Oceania
7. Antarctica

## **Largest Countries in Area**

1. Russia
2. Canada
3. United States
4. China
5. Brazil
6. Australia
7. India
8. Argentina
9. Kazakhstan
10. Sudan

## **Smallest Countries in Area**

1. Vatican City
2. Monaco
3. Nauru
4. Tuvalu
5. San Marino
6. Liechtenstein

## **Largest States in Area**

1. Alaska
2. Texas
3. California
4. Montana
5. New Mexico

## Smallest States in Area

1. Rhode Island
2. Delaware
3. Connecticut
4. Hawaii
5. New Jersey

## Highest Mountains in the World

1. Mount Everest, China-Nepal (29,035 feet)
2. K2, Pakistan-China
3. Kanchenjunga, India-Nepal

## Highest Mountains on Each Continent

**Africa:** Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania

**Antarctica:** Vinson Massif

**Asia:** Mount Everest, China-Nepal

**Australia:** Kosciusko

**Europe:** Elbrus, Russia-Georgia

**North America:** Mount McKinley (Denali), Alaska, United States

**South America:** Mount Aconcagua, Argentina

## Lowest Points on Each Continent

**Africa:** Lake Assal, Djibouti

**Antarctica:** Bentley Subglacial Trench

**Asia:** Dead Sea, Israel-Jordan

**Australia:** Lake Eyre

**Europe:** Caspian Sea, Russia-Kazakhstan

**North America:** Death Valley, California, United States

**South America:** Valdes Peninsula, Argentina

## Deepest Point in Each Ocean

**Pacific Ocean:** Mariana Trench (deepest in the world)

**Atlantic Ocean:** Puerto Rico Trench

**Indian Ocean:** Sunda Trench

## Most Populous Urban Areas in the World

1. Tokyo, Japan
2. New York City, United States
3. Seoul, South Korea
4. Mexico City, Mexico
5. Mumbai (Bombay), India

## Most Populous Metropolitan Areas in the United States

1. New York City
2. Los Angeles
3. Chicago
4. Washington, D.C.
5. San Francisco

## Most Populous Incorporated Cities in the United States

1. New York City
2. Los Angeles
3. Chicago
4. Houston
5. Philadelphia

## Longest Rivers

1. Nile
2. Amazon

3. Yangtze
4. Mississippi-Missouri

## **Largest Oceans**

1. Pacific Ocean
2. Atlantic Ocean
3. Indian Ocean
4. Southern Ocean
5. Arctic Ocean

## **Largest Lakes**

1. Caspian Sea, Europe-Asia
2. Lake Superior, North America
3. Lake Victoria, Africa
4. Lake Huron, North America
5. Lake Michigan, North America

## **Continents in Order of Area**

1. Asia
2. Africa
3. North America
4. South America
5. Antarctica
6. Australia/Oceania
7. Europe

## **Largest Islands**

1. Greenland
2. New Guinea
3. Borneo
4. Madagascar
5. Baffin



## Tallest Buildings

1. & 2. Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
3. Sears Tower in Chicago, United States
4. Jin Mao Building in Shanghai, China

## Major Religions

1. Christianity
2. Islam
3. Hinduism
4. Buddhism

## Source Locations of Major Religions

**Buddhism:** Northern India

**Christianity/Roman Catholicism:** Middle East and Roman Empire

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons):** New York, USA (but followers settled in Utah)

**Confucianism:** China

**Eastern Orthodox:** Constantinople, Turkey

**Hinduism:** India

**Islam:** Medina and Mecca, Saudi Arabia

**Judaism:** Israel/Palestine

**Protestantism:** Europe

**Shinto:** Japan

**Sikhism:** India

**Taoism:** China

## Major Languages

1. Chinese/Mandarin
2. Spanish (Spain and most of Latin America)
3. English (most widely spoken—often as a second language)

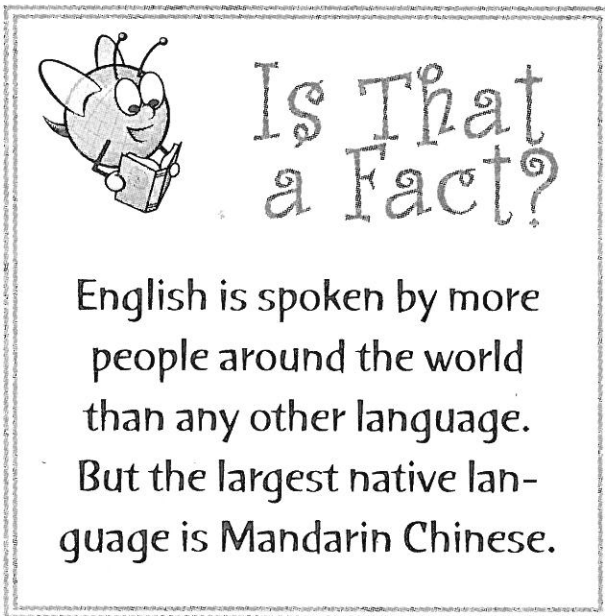
4. Bengali (India, Bangladesh)
5. Hindi (India)
6. Portuguese (Portugal, Brazil)

## Busiest Airports (by passengers)

1. Hartsfield Atlanta International
2. Chicago O'Hare
3. Los Angeles International
4. London Heathrow
5. Dallas-Fort Worth

## Where Are They Now?

Countries that no longer exist and the locations of important civilizations throughout history:



**Abyssinia:** Ethiopia

**Asia Minor:** Turkey

**Austro-Hungarian Empire:** Austria, Hungary, and Czech Republic

**Babylonia:** Iraq

**Basutoland:** Lesotho

**Berber States:** Northern Africa

**Carthage:** Tunisia

**Celtic:** Great Britain

**Ceylon:** Sri Lanka

**Czechoslovakia:** Czech Republic and Slovakia

**East Pakistan:** Bangladesh

**Etruscan:** Italy

**Formosa:** Taiwan

**Gaul:** France

**Gran Colombia:** Colombia, Panama, Venezuela, and Ecuador

**Han Empire:** China

- Iberia:** Spain and Portugal
- Incan:** Andes and South America
- Kampuchea:** Cambodia
- Knoisan:** South Africa
- Mayan:** Mexico
- Mesopotamia:** Iraq/Middle East
- Mughal Empire:** India and Pakistan
- Nubian:** Sudan
- Olmec:** Mexico
- Ottoman Empire:** Middle East, Turkey, and North Africa
- Persia:** Iran
- Phoenicia:** Lebanon
- Prussia:** Poland and Germany
- Rhodesia:** Zimbabwe
- Roman Empire:** Rome and Mediterranean Sea area
- Siam:** Thailand
- Sumer:** Iraq
- Tanganyika and Zanzibar:** Tanzania
- Tibet:** China
- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR):** Russia and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan
- United Arab Republic:** Egypt and Syria
- Upper Volta:** Burkina Faso
- Western Sahara:** Controlled by Morocco
- Zaire:** Democratic Republic of the Congo

## Key International Organizations

**United Nations:** As of early 2003, there are 191 countries that are members of the United Nations. One country, the Vatican City, is not a member. A second quasicountry, Taiwan, was a member until 1971.

**OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries):** Sets oil prices. Members include Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria (only member south of the Sahara Desert in Africa), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela (only South American member).

**Organization of American States (OAS):** Includes almost all North and South American countries.

**Organization of African Unity:** Includes almost all African countries.

**Commonwealth of Independent States:** Twelve of the fifteen countries that made up the former USSR (excludes Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania)

**The Commonwealth:** Fifty-three former colonies of the British Empire and the United Kingdom itself

**European Union (EU):** Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom

**G-8 (Group of Eight):** Eight major industrial nations: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, United Kingdom, and United States

**Interpol (International Criminal Police Organization):** 178 members

**The Euro:** A common currency utilized by twelve EU countries: Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain

**NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization):** A military treaty with seventeen members in Europe plus Canada and the United States

**NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement):** Treaty between Canada, United States, and Mexico

## Dependencies/Territories

**Australia:** Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Coral Sea Islands, Heard and McDonald Islands, and Norfolk Islands

**Denmark:** Faroe Islands and Greenland

**France:** French Guiana, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Reunion, St.-Pierre and Miquelon, and Wallis and Futuna Islands

**Morocco:** Western Sahara

**Netherlands:** Aruba and Netherlands Antilles

**New Zealand:** Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau Islands

**Norway:** Jan Mayen and Svalbard

**Spain:** Ceuta and Melilla

**United Kingdom:** Anguilla, Bermuda, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Montserrat, Pitcairn Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and Turks and Caicos Islands

**United States:** American Samoa, Baker Island, Guam, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnson Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Palmyra Atoll, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Wake Island

**Taiwan:** Also known as the Republic of China, Taiwan is unrecognized as a country by most of the world and claimed by China.

**West Bank and Gaza Strip:** Israeli territory under Palestinian control

## Other Important Facts

**Tallest Tower:** Canadian National Tower (CN Tower) in Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**Wettest Point:** Mount Waialeale in Hawaii

**Windiest Point:** Mount Washington in New Hampshire

**Highest Temperature:** 136° Fahrenheit in Libya

**Most Bordered:** China is bordered by fourteen countries, more than any other.

**Doubly Landlocked:** Two countries are doubly landlocked and thus surrounded by landlocked countries—Uzbekistan and Liechtenstein.

**Great Lakes:** Remember "HOMES": Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior.