

GEODUCK (Geographic Designs of the Unusual and Conventional Kinds): “Geo, dude, is real, and strong, and it’s my friend.”

Round 2

By Kenji Shimizu

1. In native myths, this mountain is often paired with Tungurahua [toon-goo-RAH-wuh] to its direct east. Debris from a landslide on this mountain 35,000 years ago constitutes the land on which the city of Riobamba sits. To prove a hypothesis, the French Geodesic Mission sent missions to both Lapland and this mountain. In 1802, the expedition of Aimé Bonpland and (*) Alexander von Humboldt achieved a then-record altitude of over 19,000 feet on this mountain, but failed to reach its summit. Explorers finding a new climbing route on this mountain found the 26-year-old remains of a passenger plane that crashed on a path from Quito to Cuenca. For 10 points, what Ecuadorian volcano’s summit is the farthest point from the Earth’s center?

ANSWER: Chimborazo

2. Description acceptable. Clive Palmer owns a nickel refinery in Yabulu that has been implicated in accelerating this process. The owners of the *Shen Neng 1* were questioned by government agents in Gladstone over an accident that contributed to this process. A protected zone was established around a third of the area impacted by this process to prevent the removal of the giant triton, which targets the crown-of-thorns (*) starfish, one of the largest natural contributors to this process. Tourism to cities like Cairns and Townsville may be negatively impacted by this process, whose other contributors include a disease called skeletal eroding band and global warming-induced bleaching. For 10 points, identify this process by which a large landmark off the coast of Queensland, Australia is slowly becoming no more.

ANSWER: destruction of the Great Barrier Reef [accept obvious equivalents; prompt on partial answer]

3. At one point in this book, its author recounts the Epic of Koroghlu, telling one of its characters to groom his “powerful thoroughbred.” A 2008 Finnish documentary about this book’s “shadow” claims that its author tried to convince Chrysler, Nokia, and Siemens, among others, to sponsor translations of it. Papers written on various scientific topics and the Akhal-Teke race horses have recently substituted the use of this book in (*) schools. A giant green statue of this book opens every day at 8 PM, playing an audio excerpt from it. This book, which frequently quotes Sufi poet Magtymguly Pyragy [MAGH-toom-go-lee puh-RAH-ghee], supposedly grants its readers a spot in heaven should they choose to read it three times. For 10 points, name this weird book of revisionist history and spiritual guidelines by Saparmurat Niyazov, the former “President-for-Life” of Turkmenistan.

ANSWER: Ruhnama [or *The Book of the Soul*]

4. A painted hill called Salvation Mountain lies seven miles east of this body of water in Slab City, which is almost exclusively inhabited by squatters. This body of water, like Laguna Salada to its south, is one of the few habitats for the desert pupfish. The north shore of this body of water is home to a non-Arabian town called Mecca and a national wildlife refuge named after Sonny Bono. The Alamo and New Rivers that flow into this body of water formed as a result of silt blockages in the (*) Imperial Canal. Increasing salinity and massive piles of dead fish effectively killed the tourism industry at this lake, which is partly located in the Coachella Valley. For 10 points, name this shrinking lake in southern California.

ANSWER: Salton Sea

5. Richard Atkinson used the locations of telephone boxes in his explanation against the significance of these entities, which are the subject of a magazine once edited by Paul Devereux. In the book *The Old Straight Track*, the term “dodmen” described those who surveyed these entities. That book was written by Alfred Watkins, who hypothesized about these entities after his son described a “chain of fairy lights” on a (*) map. The author John Michell, whose books *The View Over Atlantis* and *The Flying Saucer Vision* revived modern interest in these entities, influenced the planning of the second Glastonbury Festival by choosing a site at the intersection of many of them. For 10 points, name these paths with supposed spiritual significance, along which many ancient English monuments are aligned.

ANSWER: ley lines

6. Like a nearby cemetery, this place’s construction was briefly halted after a heavy loss at the Battle of Meloria. Seven objects kept in this place, including ones named “the Assumption,” “the Crucifixion,” and the eponymous Dal Pozzo, correspond to a musical scale. The similarities between this structure and a portion of the Church of San Nicola lead some historians to attribute it to Diotisalvi. A soldier named Leon Weckstein saved this place by refusing to order it (*) shelled. This structure in the Square of Miracles once housed a bell called “The Justice” that rang to signal the execution of traitors like Ugolino. A biography by Vincenzo Viviani is the only source that an experiment at this place involving two cannonballs actually happened. For 10 points, name this structure in the hometown of Galileo, known for tilting 4 degrees off-center.

ANSWER: Leaning Tower of Pisa [accept bell tower or campanile of the Pisa Cathedral]

7. Linguistic oddities in this city’s English include unusually heavier “L”s and the use of the phrase “Get down from the car” instead of “Get out of the car.” A neighborhood of this city holds a year-end parade satirizing the year’s political issues, called the King Mango Strut. This city 8th Street was where the Versailles Restaurant, popular with exiles from a nearby country, was founded. The so-called “Hearst Castle of the East,” Villa (*) Vizcaya, is in this city’s Coconut Grove neighborhood, east of its suburb of Coral Gables. The record for the world’s longest conga line was set during a festival in this city along its street of Calle [KAH-yay] Ocho. For 10 points, the largest Haitian and Cuban populations in the United States are found in what city’s metro area, which includes West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale?

ANSWER: Miami

8. This political region’s Badia and Gherdëina [gurr-DIE-nah] valleys are home to speakers of the Ladin [lah-DEEN] language, not to be confused with the Ladino language spoken by Spanish Jews. A mineral named for this region and discovered in its city of Schwaz lends its name to a division of Swarovski, which is headquartered in one of its market towns. To celebrate the Pact of Steel, Hitler and Mussolini met at a village in this region named after its (*) Brenner Pass, which connects Bolzano to a city named for a bridge on the Inn River. After a lengthy territorial dispute, the southern portion of this region, sometimes called Alto Adige, was handed to Italy. For 10 points, name this region in western Austria home to the city of Innsbruck.

ANSWER: Tyrol [or South Tyrol; or Alto Adige until it is read; prompt on Italy; prompt on Austria]

9. In 1982, Margaret Thatcher's son Mark went missing for six days during one of these events. The ashes of this event's founder, Thierry Sabine, were spread around a "Lost Tree" after he died during one. These events have been misleadingly named since 2009, the year when it was moved to Argentina. Omar bin Laden suggested using (*) horses in this event after an attack on five French tourists in Aqaba by the AQIM led to the cancellation of its 2008 incarnation. A less restrictive alternative to this event travels from Budapest to Bamako. Fears of terrorism in Mauritania hindered the organization of this event, which was won twelve times using a Mitsubishi Pajero [pah-JARE-row]. For 10 points, name this event in which off-road vehicles race between the capitals of France and Senegal.

ANSWER: Paris-Dakar Rally

10. A city on this river, Hama, is home to seventeen ancient water wheels called norias, which have unfortunately stopped turning. According to Strabo, this river was formed after Zeus's thunderbolt struck Typhon to the ground. This river flows away from the Litani River, which, like this river, starts in the Beqaa [BECK-ah] Valley. A large dam dating back to the time of Diocletian forms a reservoir on this river near the city of (*) Homs. The Iron Bridge that spans this river was where Khalid ibn al-Walid vanquished Byzantine forces to take Antioch. Another battle that took place near this river led to the signing of the world's oldest peace treaty between Muwatalli II and Ramesses II. For 10 points, name this river of the Levant, where the Battle of Kadesh was fought.

ANSWER: Orontes River

11. This product includes a small portion called the "foreshot" that is usually discarded. An early form of this product, called *uisce beatha* [ISS-ka BA-huh], was introduced by Scots-Irish immigrants. This product was infamously distributed in Maggie Valley by Popcorn Sutton. Makers of this product performed a flame test that was positive when it burned blue, and used the mnemonic (*) "Lead burns red and makes you dead." Folk songs refer to this product as "mountain dew," for which the modern-day soda is named. Low-quality examples of this product are made with radiators repurposed into largely illegal stills, and often contain fatal quantities of methanol. For 10 points, name this variety of whiskey made throughout the Appalachian Mountains.

ANSWER: moonshine [prompt on whiskey before it is read]

12. Calendar systems native to this island include the *pawukon*, which has ten weeks with lengths that vary from one to ten days, and the more conventional *saka*. Nationalist scuffles occurred after an outside country mistakenly claimed this island's traditional *pendet* dance as its own in a 2009 advertisement. David Bowie requested that his ashes be scattered on this island according to Buddhist customs. Visitors to a temple complex at this island's town of (*) Ubud are surrounded by free-roaming macaque monkeys. This island's residents believe that its highest point, Mount Agung, is a replica of Mount Meru. Unlike the rest of its country, this island is not majority Muslim, but majority Hindu. Denpasar is the capital of, for 10 points, what Indonesian island directly east of Java?

ANSWER: Bali

13. The filmmaker Lee Shapiro documented members of this ethnic group fighting against the government along the Coco River. This ethnic group sometimes experiences outbreaks of psychosis called “grisi siknis.” Members of this ethnic group embark on increasingly dangerous lobster-diving trips from cities like Puerto Cabezas. A region named after this ethnic group is home to a “white city,” or “city of the monkey god,” discovered by a National Geographic expedition in 2015. This is the majority indigenous ethnic group in the city of (*) Bluefields. This ethnic group’s lands have been frequently claimed by governments led by Daniel Ortega and other Sandinistas. For 10 points, identify this ethnic group that lends its name to a coastal region primarily in eastern Nicaragua.

ANSWER: Miskito people

14. Description acceptable. **Three members of this group, including Panther Bior, were chronicled in the documentary *God Grew Tired of Us*. In a *60 Minutes* episode, a member of this group recounted how two thousand of his fellow men drowned in the Gilo [GHEE-low] River. Former motorcycle gang member Sam Childers became known as the “Machine Gun Preacher” during his role in assisting these people. This group took a long southward journey to (*) Kakuma, a camp in Kenya from which many were taken to America with the help of the United Nations.** For 10 points, name this large group of Nuer and Dinka children who were displaced by a civil war in an East African country.

ANSWER: Lost Boys of Sudan [or Sudanese refugees; or Nuer refugees or Dinka refugees before the giveaway; prompt on partial answer]

15. Residents of this island use the term “Malbar” to refer to Tamil workers from Pondicherry. In 2005, about a third of this island’s residents contracted the mosquito-borne chikungunya [“chicken”-GOON-yuh] disease. Michel Debré organized the forced transfer of over 1,500 children from this island to the Creuse [CRUHZ] department. A hotspot currently under this island formed the volcanoes that became the Laccadives, the Chagos Archipelago, and the (*) Maldives. In 2015, debris believed to be from the wing of MH370 washed up on this island, whose airport is named after native son Roland Garros. For 10 points, name this island in the Indian Ocean which, like Mayotte, is an overseas department of France.

ANSWER: Réunion

16. The first X-ray satellite was named using a language spoken in this country, since it was launched from the Italian-owned Broglio Space Center off its coast. Over thirty different types of trees were planted in a former limestone quarry in this country’s Ngomongo Villages. After a lengthy two-year siege in what is now this country, the Portuguese lost Fort Jesus. Workers on a railroad traveling west from this country’s coast were killed by a pair of (*) lions known as the Tsavo [SAH-voh] Man-Eaters. A port in this modern-day country gifted a giraffe to a treasure voyage of Zheng He [“shung huh”]. An avenue with an arch formed by massive elephant tusks and an airport in its largest port are both named after this country’s former president Daniel Arap Moi. For 10 points, name this country home to the historically dominant ports of Malindi and Mombasa.

ANSWER: Kenya

17. In a 2015 film adaptation, the residents of these places work menial jobs for a man who runs a factory that turns miscellaneous items into paperclips. A geographer at one of these places is incapable of saying whether any oceans exist nearby, since he is not an explorer. Inhabitants of these places include a king who considers himself the most admirable person in his realm, which contains (*) no subjects, and a businessman who endlessly counts the stars in the universe. Seeds at one of these places have to be shoveled out to prevent them from growing into baobabs. Before leaving that place, a character places a protective dome over a rose. For 10 points, name these celestial bodies that include B-612 in Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince*.

ANSWER: asteroids from *The Little Prince* [or planets from *The Little Prince*]

18. This territory's border was briefly closed after the arrival of the MV *Aurora*, which was afflicted by a massive norovirus outbreak. The runway of this territory's chief airport dangerously intersects with its chief thoroughfare. Street food in this territory includes a pancake-like dish called the *calentita*. In May 2017, Paddy Power Betfair closed their office in this territory, 40% of whose GDP depends on financial and gambling sectors. Some tourists are attracted to this territory by an isolated population of (*) Barbary macaques. Several Genoese words appear in this territory's Llanito [yah-NEE-tow] dialect. A landmark in this territory forms the northern part of the Pillars of Hercules, whose southern part lies in Morocco. For 10 points, name this territory on the southern tip of the Iberian peninsula, home to a massive "rock."

ANSWER: Gibraltar

19. Formations of this substance in Jasmund [YAHZ-mund] National Park include ones named Victoria View and King's Chair. A battery that once guarded the west end of the Solent is named for a group of three formations of this substance. A substantial amount of this substance forms the terrain of Champagne, where wine cellars are dug into it. Three figures gaze between a formation of this substance in Rügen in a painting by Caspar David Friedrich. The Needles of the (*) Isle of Wight are part of a massive Cretaceous formation made of this substance that also includes Beachy Head and the Seven Sisters in Sussex. The most famous formation of this substance greeted thousands of World War II-era troops evacuated from Dunkirk. For 10 points, name this substance made of calcite shells, which constitutes the White Cliffs of Dover.

ANSWER: chalk [or calcite; or calcium carbonate; prompt on limestone]

20. People studying this system use a constant named for Goodman, Martinez, and Thompson, sometimes called GMT. Five unnamed components of this system are grouped together as the Wayeb. Like a group to its west, the group that used this system assigned nine "Lords of the Night" to its different components. This system is sometimes called (*) *tzolk'in* [ZOLL-kin], even though its original users did not use that name. A numbering scheme in this system uses shells, dots, and bars, which represent zero, one, and five, respectively. In accordance with the *k'atun* [kah-TOON] component of this system, twin-pyramid complexes were erected every twenty years in Tikal. For 10 points, name this system that was interpreted by many to have predicted the world's end in 2012.

ANSWER: Mayan calendar [or Long Count calendar; or tzolk'in until it is read; prompt on Mesoamerican calendar]

21. An economic downturn in this geographic region is centered around a site at Forçados [for-SAH-dohs], a former Portuguese trading post. The Odi massacre was perpetrated against the Ijaw [EE-jow] people of this geographic region. The group MOSOP was founded in this geographic region by an activist whose detention diaries were posthumously published under the title *A Month and a Day*. The attacks of the group MEND off the coast of this geographic region have often targeted tankers and (*) pipelines. A group of nine executed men from the Ogoni people fought against the expansion of Royal Dutch Shell into this region and included Ken Saro-Wiwa. For 10 points, name this oil-rich region in southern Nigeria, where a major West African river meets the sea.

ANSWER: Niger River Delta [prompt on Nigeria until it is read]

22. An unwritten law code among this ethnic group includes the principles of *melmastia*, or hospitality, and *badal*, which has justified long-running blood feuds among them. Lawmakers of this ethnic group meet at councils called *loya jirga*. A Joan of Arc-like heroine of this ethnic group was martyred at the Battle of Maiwand against the British. A folk dance of this ethnic group called *attan* was one of their few traditions to survive a wave of puritanical (*) prohibitions that began in 1996. This is the majority ethnic group in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa [KAI-burr pock-TOON-kwa] province, the homeland of Malala Yousafzai. Sharbat Gula, a member of this ethnicity, wears a red headscarf in an iconic photograph used by *National Geographic*. For 10 points, name this majority ethnic group in Afghanistan.

ANSWER: Pashtun people [or Pashto]

23. After Texas businessman John A. Adams's visit to this place, he popularized the dye once used in red velvet cake; the cake is sometimes named for this place. An explorer of Africa named Harry Johnston lends his name to a bar at this location, which introduced Scottish-themed cocktails such as the Rob Roy. Oscar Tschirky worked as a maître d' at this location, through which he popularized Thousand Island dressing and Eggs Benedict. A meeting at this (*) hotel released a statement that condemned the actions of the Hollywood Ten. This hotel lends its name to a dish in which mayonnaise is mixed with apples, grapes, and walnuts. A fruit salad is named after, for 10 points, what luxury New York hotel partially founded by a family in charge of a fur-trading empire?

ANSWER: Waldorf-Astoria Hotel

24. Many groups in West Africa hunt the gigantic *Achatina achatina* one of these animals. The addition of *Macrobrachium* prawns at the Diama Dam in Senegal serves as a model for controlling the population of these animals. Ocean acidification endangers one of these animals called the sea butterfly, which has often been mistaken for fiberglass by beachgoers. These animals can survive the digestive systems of (*) birds in an unorthodox method of migration. These animals are the primary vector for parasitic flatworms that cause schistosomiasis. The *Murex* genus of these animals was the source of a purple dye first produced by the Phoenicians. For 10 points, name these gastropods that constitute the dish escargot.

ANSWER: snails