

1. To attend school, children at this site braved the so-called "checkpoint of death," until its March closure. The 2012 bombing of this site's Abd Qader Husaini mosque drove many of its inhabitants to the neighborhoods of Yalda and Hajar al-Aswad, contributing to its recent 30-fold population decrease. A 2017 agreement allowed aid deliveries to this site in exchange for access to two towns in the Idlib governorate. Khaled Meshaal lived here before relocating Hamas's (*) headquarters to Qatar in 2012. Crumbling buildings flank this site's main street in a viral 2014 photo of a throng of people awaiting a U.N. Relief and Works Agency food distribution. For 10 points, name this refugee camp in southeastern Damascus, long a hub of the Palestinian diaspora.

ANSWER: Yarmouk

2. Jim Russell penned the world's longest-running comic strip, *The Potts*, for this city's *Herald Sun* newspaper. The Santiniketan Lodge on this city's outskirts served as the headquarters for the Family, a secretive cult that administered LSD to children it obtained through adoption scams. This city lies on the ancestral lands of the Kulin people, who carved coveted green-stone axe heads dubbed (*) *murring*. This city was briefly named Batmania, after co-founder John Batman. Portions of this city's Flinders and Yarra Parks were transformed in 1987 into Rod Laver Arena, the principal venue of the Australian Open. Geelong lies across Port Phillip Bay from—for 10 points—what capital of Victoria?

ANSWER: Melbourne

3. This river's flow is regulated by the Orlik [OR-leek] dam, whose cutting-edge ten-blade turbines won a gold medal at Expo 58. The Herbertov and other weirs pose a challenge to rafters on this river. Saaz [SOTTs] hops are used in the production of Budvar, a beer brewed on the banks of this river by the original (*) "Budweiser" corporation. The Devil's Channel, said to have been dug by the Knights of Malta, departs from this river near Legion Bridge before rejoining it half a mile downstream. This river's St. John's rapids and Vyšehrad [vee-SHARE-aht] fort figure prominently in the second symphonic poem of Bedrich Smetana's *Má vlast*. This river empties into the Elbe [ELL-ba] at Melnik, and is known to its German neighbors as the Moldau. For 10 points, what longest Czech river flows through Prague?

ANSWER: Vltava River (accept Moldau until mention)

4. A 2001 flyby of this object revealed 300-foot-tall icy spires undergoing a mysterious form of erosion. In 1998, UCLA professor Krishan Khurana debuted the claim this body has a salty subsurface ocean, evidenced by its fluctuating magnetic field. Burr, Nirkes, and Njord surround an impact site on this object called Asgard, while 10 concentric rings form the crater Valhalla, one of (*) many riddling this object. NASA refers to this object's landscape as the oldest in the solar system. Unlike its counterparts Ganymede, Europa, and Io, this object did not undergo tidal heating, which accounts for its barren look. For 10 points, name this outermost of Jupiter's Galilean moons, named for a lover Zeus turned into a bear.

ANSWER: Callisto

5. **British composer Tom Lane recorded the sounds of this bridge's cables with contact microphones for a 2014 "river cantata." It was formerly known as the Macken Street Bridge, so named for connecting Macken and Guild Streets. Per the specifications of a 1997 "docklands master plan," this bridge was built to rotate 90 degrees so larger boats could travel down the River (*) Liffey.** This bridge lies two miles downstream from the James Joyce Bridge, also designed by Santiago Calatrava. It resembles a harp laid on its side, its 31 cables representing the instrument's strings. For 10 points, identify this Dublin bridge whose namesake wrote an absurdist play in which Vladimir and Estragon await the arrival of the mysterious Godot.

ANSWER: Samuel Beckett Bridge (prompt on "Beckett")

6. **The Walls of the Night encircled the primordial sea Ekkaia on this planet. The mountain Kalórmë and the city Valmar lie on this planet's equator, dubbed its "girdle." This planet's rulers included its "high ones," the Aratar. The Ainur created this planet by spontaneously singing a harmony-rich (*) tune, intended to spawn a habitat for the children of Ilúvatar [EE-loo-VAH-tur].** This planet took on a "bent" shape after Númenorean forces made the fateful mistake of attacking Aman [AH-mahn]. This planet inhabits a universe called Ea, and its creatures include Vanyar and Noldor, two clans of elves. The sea Belegaer lies west of Middle-earth on—for 10 points—what fictional planet, the setting of much of J.R.R. Tolkien's oeuvre?

ANSWER: Arda

7. **Herbert David Lore opened one of the first inns in this desert, but sold it within two decades after it was compromised by an underlying seam of bentonite clay. This desert is situated between the communities of Willow Springs and Holbrook. Most visitors entering this desert from the west obtain provisions at the Cameron Trading Post, on U.S. Route (*) 89.** Its red Adeii Eechii Cliffs are accessible from Tuba City, but require a permit to explore due to their location within the Navajo Nation. Petrified Forest National Park includes part of this desert, which follows the southeastern course of the Little Colorado River. For 10 points, identify this Arizona desert named for its distinct hues of shale and sandstone.

ANSWER: Painted Desert

8. **In this state, children and pregnant women without health insurance may qualify for the publicly funded Dr. Dynasaur program. Judith Steinberg, once first lady of this state, met her husband in a neuroanatomy class at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. This state's medical facilities include Morrisville's Copley Hospital, Randolph's Gifford Medical Center, and the former Fletcher (*) Allen Health Care, which was renamed for its flagship university in 2014.** This state was governed from 2011 to 2017 by Peter Shumlin, who claimed he lost "tremendous credibility" when his single-payer healthcare plan stalled in its legislature. For 10 points, name this New England state formerly led by Dr. Howard Dean.

ANSWER: Vermont

9. **Howler monkey populations grew rapidly after the construction of this country's Guri Dam eliminated their natural predators. This country's longest river, whose name derives from the Warao term "a place to paddle," empties into the ocean in the state of Delta (*) Amacuro.** According to a 2016 American Meteorological Society paper, a "deep nocturnal convection driven by locally forced convergent flow" is responsible for the dramatic lightning that occurs 300 days a year near the mouth of this country's Catatumbo River. In 2004, a major duckweed outbreak struck this country's largest "lake," an oil-rich inlet of the Caribbean Sea. For 10 points, name this country that includes Lake Maracaibo and most of the Orinoco River.

ANSWER: (Bolivarian Republic of) Venezuela

10. The regional peacekeeping force MISAB entered this country in 1997 in the wake of three army revolts. The epithet *la colonie poubelle* – or, the trashcan colony – was applied to the territory that would become this country. This country's Yakoma people include André Kolingba, who became its leader in a 1981 coup. The Muslim state Dar al-Kuti sold slaves from its base in Ndele [in-DAY-LAY], in this modern-day country. Operation Barracuda toppled this country's Emperor (*) Bokassa I, who had named it an "empire." A central plateau in this country and the river that forms most of its border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo are called Ubangi. For 10 points, what landlocked African country is governed from Bangui [BONG-ghee]?

ANSWER: **Central African Republic** (or **CAR**)

1. This group holds gatherings in modest meetinghouses called *moradas*. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this Catholic society, whose secretive ways stem in part from insensitive profiles penned by Federal Writers' Project staff in the 1930s. El Santuario de Chimayo [sahn-too-AH-ree-oh day chee-my-OH] is one of their holiest sites.

ANSWER: **Penitente** Brotherhood (or Los Hermanos **Penitentes**)

[10] The Penitentes, whose membership is largely patrilineal, live predominantly in this U.S. state, where they have a significant presence in Rio Arriba and San Miguel Counties.

ANSWER: **New Mexico**

[10] The Penitentes have generated controversy for this practice, a tradition central to their Holy Week. Members of the Catholic prelature Opus Dei engage in this practice, as referenced by Dan Brown in *The Da Vinci Code*.

ANSWER: **self-flagellation** (accept word forms; accept **mortification** of the flesh; accept corporal **mortification**)

2. It boasts three bars: the Coffee House, Gallagher's, and Southern Exposure. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this research base, the U.S.'s largest in Antarctica. It lies on Ross Island, just west of a namesake set of Martian-like arid valleys. It's of sufficient importance that it came up *three times* in Geography Monstrosity IX ["nine"].

ANSWER: **McMurdo** Station

[10] Most of McMurdo's residents – which can number more than 1,000 during the summer – are not scientists, but rather support staff. Until it sold its contract for \$5 billion in 2016, this military and aerospace technology company supplied those laborers.

ANSWER: **Lockheed Martin** (prompt on partial answers)

[10] In 2009, Germany's Alfred Wegener [VAY-guh-nur] Institute erected an Antarctic base atop a set of 16 hydraulic pillars used to control snow accumulation. Name that innovative base, which abuts the Weddell Sea.

ANSWER: **Neumayer-Station III** (prompt on "Neumayer")

3. The Xhosa [HOE-suh] practice a form of this technique called *eeŋing*, in which they produce two notes one tone apart, as well as higher overtones. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this vocal technique whose practitioners capitalize on the resonance capabilities of the lips, tongue, jaw, and larynx to harmonize with themselves.

ANSWER: **throat-singing** (accept **Khöömei**)

[10] Throat-singing is popular in this Russian region northwest of Mongolia, where it is called Khöömei [coo-may]. An historical taboo on women throat-singing here stemmed from a belief that it caused infertility.

ANSWER: **Tuva** (or **Tyva**; or **Tannu-Tuva**; accept **Tuvan** throat-singing)

[10] Among the subgenres of Tuvan throat-singing is *ezenggileer*, whose pulsing rhythm is meant to evoke this activity. Ayan-ool Sam, of the Alash Ensemble, is a master of the form.

ANSWER: **horseback riding** (prompt on partial answer; accept **hitting** a **horse's stirrups** or similar answers)

4. San Francisco wasn't the only city devastated by a 1906 earthquake. Answer these questions about another, for 10 points each:

[10] Conquistador Juan de Saavedra named this city on Point Angeles after his Spanish hometown. The 1906 earthquake struck during its heyday as the chief seaport of both Chile and South America's Pacific coast.

ANSWER: **Valparaíso** [vahl-pah-RYE-zoh]

[10] ENAP, Chile's state oil company, operates a refinery at the mouth of this river in the northern Valparaíso suburb of Concón [kun-CONE]. This river shares its name with South America's tallest peak, in whose foothills it rises.

ANSWER: **Aconcagua** River

[10] The harrowing Caracoles [KAH-rah-KOH-lace] Pass awaits those who drive the cross-Andean route between Valparaíso and this city in western Argentina, the onetime headquarters of revolutionary José de San Martín.

ANSWER: **Mendoza**

5. It features a motion-controlled waterfall, which pauses to allow boats to pass. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this artificial waterway running from Sheikh Zayed Road past Safa Park. Its construction rendered a chunk of its namesake city – including the neighborhoods of Satwa and Karama – an island.

ANSWER: **Dubai** Water **Canal**

[10] Scheduled to open in 2021, this six-building Damac Properties complex will overlook the Dubai Water Canal. It is slated to include a ledge-walk attraction modeled on the CN Tower's.

ANSWER: **Aykon City**

[10] Aykon City lies about three miles southwest of this Dubai icon, the tallest free-standing structure in the world.

ANSWER: **Burj Khalifa**

6. In testing performed in conjunction with the Archdiocese of Huancayo [wan-KYE-yoh], public health expert Fernando Serrano found 97 percent of this town's children had elevated levels of lead in their blood. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this town high in the Peruvian Andes where for decades a metals refinery, most recently operated by the Renco Group, released toxic amounts of arsenic, antimony, and cadmium into the air.

ANSWER: La **Oroya**

[10] Renco Group operated another recently closed lead refinery in this Missouri town; the pollution it generated was so severe it had to buy out 160 homes in the early aughts. This town shares its name with a city destroyed in the AD 79 eruption of Vesuvius.

ANSWER: **Herculaneum**

[10] In 2001, the Justice Department sued Renco's Magnesium Corporation of America for releasing toxic pollution near this lake, from whose brine it extracted magnesium. This Utah lake is a remnant of the prehistoric Lake Bonneville.

ANSWER: **Great Salt Lake**

7. Albania's flag consists of a black, double-headed eagle on a dark-red background. For 10 points each:
[10] It was raised by this national hero in 1443 at Krujë [CREW-ee] in an act of nationalistic rebellion; Albania successfully resisted Ottoman control until this man's death 25 years later.

ANSWER: **Skanderbeg** (or George **Kastrioti**)

[10] On another European flag, two green olive branches frame this country's silhouette, which resembles a person dabbing. Few residents fly this country's flag, preferring instead to fly Greek or Turkish ones.

ANSWER: **Cyprus**

[10] Speaking of Greece, its flag consists of a white cross and this many horizontal blue and white stripes, which corresponds to the number of syllables in an independence slogan meaning "freedom or death."

ANSWER: **nine**

8. In January 2015 this landmark's lights were shut off in response to demonstrations by the anti-Islam group PEGIDA. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this 13th-century cathedral with twin, 515-foot-tall towers. Dozens of craftsmen are employed full-time to restore sculptures damaged by World War II bombing of this Gothic church, one of the largest in northern Europe.

ANSWER: **Cologne** Cathedral (or **Kölner** Dom)

[10] Cologne Cathedral houses this six-foot-tall crucifix in its Chapel of the Holy Cross. It was housed in the cathedral's pre-Romanesque predecessor after being donated by a namesake archbishop circa 970.

ANSWER: **Gero** Crucifix

[10] Cologne Cathedral is in this western German state, which contains other historic cathedrals in its cities of Paderborn [pah-dur-BOHRN], Aachen [AH-kin], and Münster [MOON-stir].

ANSWER: **North Rhine-Westphalia** (or **NRW**)

9. It includes Victoria, Snake, and Tin Can Islands. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this most populous city on the African continent, replaced as state capital by Ikeja in 1975 and as national capital by Abuja in 1991.

ANSWER: **Lagos**, Nigeria

[10] In 2008, the real estate company South Energyx Nigeria began dredging the Bight of Benin to create this artificial, six-square-mile island adjoining Victoria Island. Its name references a former appellation for Lagos.

ANSWER: **Eko Atlantic**

[10] The Lebanese-descended Chagoury brothers, the pair behind Eko Atlantic, also own a flour mill, furniture factory, and the luxury Hotel Presidential in this capital of Nigeria's Rivers state. This manufacturing hub is also home to the 2,500-acre Trans-Amadi Industrial Estate.

ANSWER: **Port Harcourt**

10. They were installed as a public-safety measure after a serial killer – dubbed the "Servant Girl Annihilator" – slew eight people in 1884 and 1885. For 10 points each:

[10] Name these 165-foot-tall structures, purchased from Detroit and lit initially with carbon arc lamps. Seventeen of them still adorn the streets of Austin.

ANSWER: **moonlight towers**

[10] In 2016, Enertech Resources conducted a deep clean of this venue's moonlight tower, which is decorated with holiday lights during the Advent. The annual Austin City Limits Music Festival takes place here.

ANSWER: **Zilker** Metropolitan Park

[10] The Austin Independent Business Alliance promotes the city's eccentric character with the phrase, "Keep Austin [this adjective]." In the early 2000s, Portlanders began appropriating the slogan.

ANSWER: **weird**