

VPA Geo-Bee Guide 2020

A Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Geography Program for VPA
Member Schools

Sponsored VT Governors Highway Safety Program

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Why Vermont GEO-BEE?

"I know this is a lot too late to be telling you. But I know nothing about maps. I mean absolutely nothing, not one thing. I don't know where the U.S. or L.A. is located . . . I don't know the difference between countries, cities or states. Can I have a little of your help please?" (10th grade student to her teacher -National Geographic Society)

The problem of geographic ignorance is serious. We believe that geography is integral to our ability to understand and function in our world. In response, the Vermont GEO-BEE Program was created to support the effort to put Vermont students on an equal footing with their counterparts in other nations. This effort will require the active participation of all educational decision makers. The success of this effort begins with our individual teachers who work to broaden the geographic understanding of their students in Vermont.

Vermont GEO-BEE: Program Structure

The **Vermont Geo-Bee Program** is a team competition for Vermont fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth-graders. The **VPA Vermont GEO-BEE** is sponsored by **VT Governors Highway Safety Program**. The VPA makes awards to team champions. For the state team competition, awards include individual student patches and team plaques. All participants at the regional competitions will receive certificates of participation. Appropriate plaques are awarded to regional team winners at State Finals.

Individual schools decide how to choose their team for this program. A team consists of four competing students and up to two alternates. Each supervisory union may send two school teams to the regional competition. Each team must represent one specific school. No more than one team can represent a school. If a school has fewer than 40 total students in the fifth through eighth grades, **then** two or more schools within the same supervisory union may combine to form a team. This is a local option.

There will be **4 or 5** regional competitions, based on the geographical division of the State for regional meetings of the superintendents/**headmasters and the # of schools that apply**. Please refer to the Vermont School Regions map in the Appendix. **If the number of teams competing in any region is excessively small or large, the VPA reserves the right to reorganize the regional competitions.**

At the regional competition, a regional winner (one team) is determined according to the procedures as outlined in "Description of Competition."

Important Dates

March 30th, 2020 is the deadline for sending the Registration Form indicating team representatives/competitors for the supervisory union - see Appendix- to:

The Geo Bee Team Registration Form can be filled out, saved and emailed to Mallori Longevin at mlongevin@vpaonline.org or faxed to VPA. VPA Fax# (802) 229-4801. Sender is responsible for confirming fax. Please consider hosting a regional. Each year we struggle to find host schools.

Regional Competitions

**Central - Saturday April 25 or Saturday May 2 – Location TBA
South - Saturday April 25 or Saturday May 2 – Location TBA
Northeast - Saturday April 25 or Saturday May 2 – Location TBA
Northwest - Saturday April 25 or Saturday May 2– Location TBA**

Regional competitions may be adjusted due to number of schools participating, and other variables. Time of regional competitions to be determined by host Principal and

regional VPA moderator. The regional winners, compete at a state site to determine state champions.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION IS ON SATURDAY MAY 16, @ Northfield High School

Description of Competition

1. The coaches will draw lots to **determine which** team **sits** in Row 1, Row 2, Row 3 etc. Students will stand while answering their questions. See page 9 for diagram.
2. Each student on a team will have an opportunity to answer questions. Students do not compete with other students for the opportunity to answer; this is not a Jeopardy-style competition.
3. The Quizzer **selects** questions from lists developed by the Geo Bee Committee (sample questions are provided in the Resource Material section of this guide). Questions will include skills **at** the first four of Bloom's six levels of learning taxonomy. Vermont's Framework of Standards & Grade Expectations will guide the construction of certain questions. Some questions may require an atlas, **map**, globe, charts, graphs, almanac or overhead projections.
4. The Quizzer will ask Player One of Team A the question. The student, while standing, will have a maximum of 30 seconds to answer the question. Within that time, the student may ask to have the question repeated no more than two times **and/or** the student may ask for assistance in locating a specific letter or number on a quiz map. The question will not be rephrased.
5. After the student answers the question, the quizzer will say "correct" or "Incorrect". If the student is correct the team will score two points. If the student is wrong, the quizzer will give the correct answer and the team will receive zero points. **Students are not eliminated for incorrect answers.**
6. Player one of Team B is given the next question to answer. This rotation **continues** with the Quizzer going from one team to the next, left to right.
7. Competition questions are grouped in multiples of five so that one row will get a question on the same topic and in the same general format. For example, there may be ten questions on African map locations, five questions on Vermont geography, etc. If there are fewer than five teams in the **competition**, the quizzer will use only that number of questions from that topic. If there are only three teams, the quizzer will ask only the first six questions on African map locations, three questions on Vermont geography etc.

8. If more than five teams are competing at the regional competition, an eight round elimination competition will be conducted (semi-final). Then the winners of each semi-final will compete in a 12-round completion to determine the regional championship.
9. When all four players on each team have had a question, there will be a bonus question. These are more difficult questions worth four points. The Quizzer will give a bonus question to Player One of Team A. Only this person has a chance at this question. If he/she misses, the Quizzer will give the correct answer. Player One of Team B will then receive a **new** bonus question. At the end of the second round, Player Two for each team receives a bonus question, etc.
10. When all four players on each team have had a turn and bonus questions have been given, the round will end. At the conclusion of a round, the total points for that round will be entered on a scoreboard. The scorekeeper will keep cumulative scores and announces them at the end of each round.
11. The team with the most points after twelve rounds will be declared the winner of the competition.
12. In case of a tie, the teams which are even will play one complete round, including the bonus question which will be asked of the students in Row 1. If the tie continues, a second complete round will be played with the bonus question asked of students in Row 2 and so on until the tie is broken. Substitutions will not be allowed after the regular competition is over. Tiebreak rounds will begin immediately after the regular competition.
13. Only the team's designated coach or advisor may appeal or challenge an answer. Any challenge must be made **to the quizzer** before the next question is asked.
14. At the end of every fourth round there will be a five-minute break. The coach may allow a substitute to enter the contest at this time. Substitutions must be reported to the quizzer by the coach during the break. The Quizzer will then introduce the new contestant(s). In the event of illness, a substitute can be made immediately. When a substitute takes over for another player because of illness, the player who was replaced will stay out for the balance of the contest including tiebreaker rounds.
15. The quizzer shall remind the contestants to speak so others can hear and to stand when answering questions. The Quizzer should clearly indicate if the answer is correct or incorrect. If a question has two or more accepted answers, both will be accepted as correct. If there is any question relating to the correct answer or to the time limit, the Quizzer shall ask the judges for a decision. The judges' decisions are final. If **the** judges cannot agree, then the question is thrown out and a new question is asked.
16. **Judges** will keep score **and act as a Court of Appeal**.

17. In the event that an action of a participant, coach or **team** supporter is deemed inappropriate by the monitor, the monitor after consultation with the Quizzer, may disqualify the team(s) involved.
18. Any pupil **with special needs**, as designated by state & federal law may participate in the competition in whatever mode of communication is appropriate for his/her handicapping condition. **Coaches** shall notify the VPA well in advance of competition of these handicapping conditions so appropriate accommodations can be made.
19. **Goodes' World Atlas** will be used for the 2020 Competition.

Role of the VPA Monitor (if possible)

1. The VPA monitor initiates contact with the host school and
 - a) sees that the building is open on time
 - b) ensures that enough rooms are available for the number of teams participating
 - c) ensures that there **are** enough personnel to take care of all needs – judges, janitors, etc.
 - d) brings back for reimbursement names and addresses of officials at the site
 - e) ensures that no microphones or recorders are in use
 - f) oversees preparation of the facility (overhead projector, screen, contest seating, etc.)
 - g) ensures that no written notes pertinent to specific questions are taken
 - h) points out the letter or number of a location on a quiz map as needed for the contestant.
2. The VPA monitor will see that all necessary items are available for the Vermont GEO BEE Contest such as:
 - a) chalkboards, yardstick, chalk and erasers
 - b) tables and a podium
 - c) chairs for student use
 - d) name tags for officials, coaches, judges, Quizzer and contestants
 - e) paper and pencils
 - f) extra forms (score sheets)
 - g) VPA certificates of participation for all contestants.
 - h) **Goodes' World Atlas**
3. The VPA Monitor will introduce the Quizzer and Judges prior to the competition.
4. The Monitor will review all rules and guidelines of the competition, explained in the "Description of Competition", to the contestants and audience prior to the competition. The Monitor and Quizzer should work closely to ensure that all rules and guidelines are followed.
5. The VPA monitor will make alternative arrangements (if necessary) by

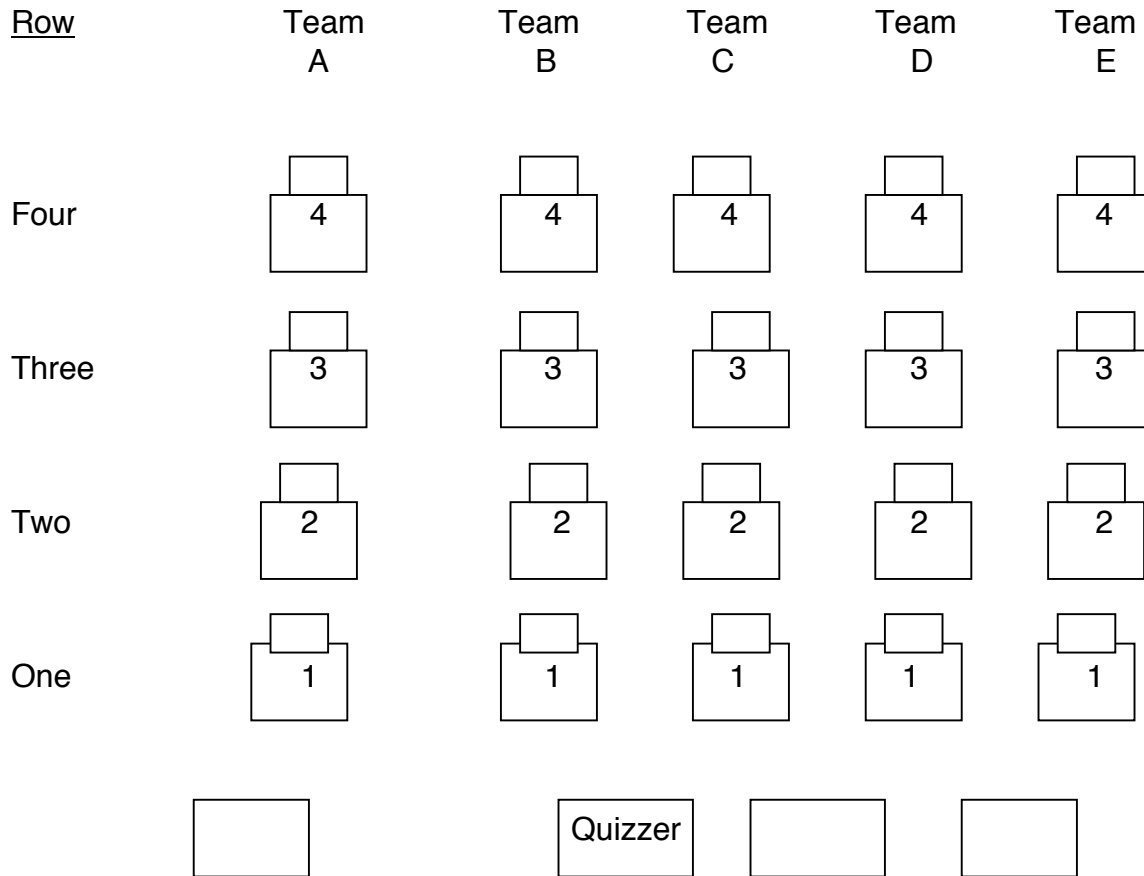
- a) setting a new date
 - b) notifying coaches, host school, host principal, and local radio stations
 - c) making sure that telephone numbers are obtained before the competition
6. The VPA monitor will ensure that no one actively coaches when a student is answering a question.
 7. The VPA monitor will be responsible for audience control with possible assistance from a representative of the hosting school **and/or a team coach**.

Role of The Quizzer

1. The Quizzer is the M.C. for this event. **PLEASE BEGIN ON TIME.** The Quizzer will ask contestants to stand and introduce themselves and their coaches.
2. The Quizzer will use a list of questions (including bonus questions) that are provided by the VPA. These questions should be reviewed by the Quizzer for correctness and pronunciation prior to the competition.
3. If a coach challenges a response during the competition the Quizzer will ask the judges for a decision. **The decision of the judges shall be final.**
4. The Quizzer must keep the contest moving. He/she may have to periodically remind the contestants to speak out so the Quizzer, judges and audience can hear, and to stand while being quizzed.
5. Remind teams at the start of the competition that any challenges (alternate answers, etc.) must be made BEFORE the next question is given. Only the coach may make an appeal or challenge.
6. At the end of the competition, the Quizzer should thank all contestants and officials. The Quizzer should encourage all coaches to complete and turn in a GEO-BEE Competition Evaluation Form. A sample of this form is found in the Appendix. Also, remind all of the date & location of the Vermont GEO-BEE Championships.

Seating Chart for Geo-Bee Competition

Audience should be 45 degrees to 90 degrees angled from competition.



Role of the Coach

1. The coach shall organize and assist students in their preparation for competition.
2. The coach shall have reviewed the Guide with the team.
3. The coach shall make plans for arriving on time, be involved in the seating selection and make substitutions in accordance with the rules.
4. The competition, by its nature, moves quickly. The coach must remain intent on the proceedings and make challenges promptly before the next question is given.
5. The coach shall monitor the behavior of his/her contestants **and assist the monitor in maintaining audience decorum.**

Resource Material

It is widely recognized that a geographically literate student must be able to do much more than just locate the nations of the world or the states of the United States of America on a map. The geographically literate student demonstrates knowledge, skills and critical analysis as they apply to the five central themes of geography: location, place, relationships within places, movement and regions.

- A. CONTENT AND LOCATION
- B. GEOGRAPHIC TERMS AND CONCEPTS
- C. GEOGRAPHIC SKILLS
- D. SAMPLE QUESTIONS
- E. ANSWERS TO SAMPLE QUESTIONS
- F. SPECIFIC REFERENCES

A. CONTENT AND LOCATION

The Vermont GEO-BEE Program will generally focus on world geography to include:

1. Location of major features
 - a. oceans and major seas
 - b. continents and major islands
 - c. major continental land-form features (e.g. mountains, plains, etc.)
 - d. major environmental zones (e.g. deserts, savannas, etc.)

2. Political map of the world
 - a. location of sovereign nations
 - b. areas of major conflict and change
 - c. **significant current events.**

3. Major population concentrations

4. Major natural resource regions

5. Major urbanized regions

6. Major cultural regions
 - a. major religions
 - b. major linguistic areas
 - c. major forms of economy
 - d. major migrations

The program will also generally focus on the geography of the United States, New England and Vermont. **(Questions will include the significance of the history of the state as it relates to Vermont geography.)**

B. Geographic Terms and Concepts *(This list is not all inclusive)*

absolute locations	earth	Judaism	radius
Antarctic Circle	earthquake		rain forest
Arctic Circle	ecology	key	raw material
acid rain	economics		region
air pollution	ecosystem(ecological system)		relative location
agriculture	elevation	lake	relative humidity

apartheid	emigration	land forms	renewable resource
archipelago	environment	latitude and longitude	revolution (earth/sun)
atlas	equator	lava	river
atmospheric pressure	equinox	location	rotation(earth/sun)
	ethnic group	legend(map)	rural
bayou	evaporation	ocal relief	
biosphere	extended family	magnetic north	satellite
Buddhism		manufacturing industry	scale (map)
	Fahrenheit	Marxism	sea
cape	fauna	meridian	service industry
capitalism	fjord	metropolitan area	settlement pattern
cardinal directions	flood control	migration	shifting cultivation
Celsius	flood plain	mobility	solar energy
census	food chain	monsoon	solar system
Christianity	forest	Moslem	solstice
city/town/village	fossil fuel	mountain	South Pole
climate	free enterprise		Southern Hemisphere
cold front	free trade	nationalism	spatial distribution
collective farm	freezing point	natural vegetation	standard of living
colonialism	front(frontal zone)	nonaligned nation	steppes
commodity		North Pole	subsistence farming
communism	geography	Northern Hemisphere	suburban
compass	ghetto	Northern Lights	
communication	glacier	nuclear energy	table
confucianism	global warming		taiga
conservation	globe	oasis	tariff
continent	graph	ocean	technology
continental drift	grassland		tenant farming
continental shelf	grid	parallel	terrace
contour lines	gross	peninsula	thematic map
coral reef	greenhouse effect	per capita	
country	Greenwich Mean Time	physical geography	time zone
crater	Gross Domestic Product	physiographic regions	topography
culture	ground water	piedmont	topsoil
cultural diversity		plain	tornado
	habitat	planet	trade wind
decertification	hail	plate tectonics	transportation
deforestation	hemisphere	plateau	Tropic of Cancer
delta	Hinduism	pluralism	Tropic of Capricorn
democracy	hurricane	political geography	tundra
demography	hydroelectric power	pollution	typhoon
deposit	hydrosphere	population distribution	
desalinization	immigration	precipitation	United Nations
desert ideology	imperialism	prevailing westerlies	urbanization
detente	industrialization	prime meridian	
developed (country)	intermediate directions	province	valley
developing (country)	internationalism		village
diffusion	irrigation		volcano
division of labor	Islam		
drought	island		watershed
dust bowl	isolationism		water pollution
	isthmus		weather
			zoning

Geographic Skills

1. Students should be able to use map and globe skills:
 - a. orient a map and note directions; **(use grid to locate features)**
 - b. identify places on map and globe;
 - c. use scale and compute distances;
 - d. interpret map symbols;

- e. compare and contrast maps and make inferences (using political, topographic, population and climatic maps); and,
 - f. express relative location.
2. Students should be able to read and interpret graphs and charts.
 3. Students should be able to use and interpret maps to evaluate current events.
 4. Students should be able to use a variety of geographic resources: atlases, roadmaps, globes, almanacs, geographic dictionaries and weather charts from newspapers.
 5. Students should be able to relate Vermont history to its geographical context.
 6. Students should be able to identify **photos** in the media and answer questions related to those **photos**.
 7. Students should be able to identify and match flags to corresponding countries.

D. These are sample questions only. They are not used in the regionals or finals.

The following sample questions are provided for guidance and are not all inclusive. The nature of the questions that will be utilized will include skills in recall, application, analysis, and the first four levels of Bloom's taxonomy of learning.

1. What is the term used to refer to the region of the state that includes Orleans, Caledonia and Essex Counties?
2. The first point in Vermont to be occupied by Europeans was a fort built by the French Military in 1666 on Lake Champlain. Name the place where Fort St. Anne was built.
3. The first large cash crop in Vermont emerged in the 1780's. It was made from the ashes of burned logs. What is its name?
4. Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Oman are some of the countries located on this peninsula.
5. The largest tropical rain forest in the world occupies this continent that also contains an area which is the driest in the world.
6. This continent is the only one that has every kind of climate.
7. This lake in Siberia is the deepest in the world.
8. Describe the Greenhouse Effect.

9. How could global warming affect coastlines and farming?
10. What is the name of the only colonial possession located on the South American Continent?
11. What is the largest state by land area in New England?
12. This river is the longest permanently flowing river in Australia.
13. When areas affected by drought for long periods of time are subjected to high winds, they form hills of windblown sand. What are these hills called?
14. What is the term used to identify the crest line of a ridge or mountain range separating the flow of water into opposite directions?
15. What term is used to describe cutting a series of horizontal steps into a hillside to provide more favorable land and to reduce soil erosion?
16. What bay is found on the northern coast of Spain and the western coast of France?
17. What is the term used to describe the temperature and precipitation of a place over a long period of time?
18. What lines of latitude determine the tropics?
19. Would you most likely find a scale of 1 inch equals 1,500 miles on a map of your city, state or world?
20. If it is twilight in the western United States, what is it in the eastern United States? Why?
21. What river runs west to east across the northern part of Italy?
22. Which continent has the larger land area, North or South America?
23. Name the major peninsula in Southeast Asia that was the setting for a war between Vietnam and the United States.
24. What is a person who moves from place to place in search of food and water.
25. Islam is a major religion that is not dominant on which continent?
 - a. Africa
 - b. Asia
 - c. South America
26. The largest language minority in Latin America lives in one country. Name the country and the language spoken there.

27. Canada possesses more physical coastline than any other country in the world with the exception of Russia. Historically, why hasn't this asset been of great value to the Canadian people?
28. Why was the Hydro Quebec James Bay project controversial?
29. What term is used to generally describe the surface features of a place or region?
30. Name the term which describes the upward or downward movement of the earth's crust, accompanied by continental drift when the earth's crust moves over the mantle.
31. What is the name of the man-made feature which is located where Asia and Africa end meet.
32. The end of political power for many Vermont towns occurred when the House of Representatives of the General Assembly was redistricted from 246 to 150 members. How was the number of 246 established prior to redistricting?
33. Which two Vermont counties are completely surrounded by other Vermont counties?
34. The Berkshire Hills are in which New England state?
35. What is the name of the seasonal winds in India.

E. Answers to the Sample Questions

1. Northeast Kingdom
2. Isle La Motte
3. Potash
4. Arabian Peninsula
5. South America
6. North America
7. Lake Baikal
8. Carbon dioxide pollution acts as the glass in a greenhouse and does not let the energy of the sun escape the atmosphere of the earth - it gets hotter.
9. Melting ice caps could change coastlines, flooding coastal cities; climate patterns could change effecting agricultural production.
10. French Guiana
11. Maine
12. Murray River
13. Dunes
14. Watershed (divide)
15. Terracing
16. Bay of Biscay
17. Climate

18. Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn (23 1/2 degrees N to 23 1/2 degrees S)
19. World
20. The eastern United States would be in darkness because the Earth rotates from west to east.
21. Po
22. North America
23. Indo- Chinese Peninsula
24. Nomad.
25. South America
26. Brazil, Portuguese
27. Most coastal areas are frozen much of the year.
28. Construction of one of the largest hydro-electric projects in the World has caused major environmental damage and displaced both wild life and human settlements. Furthermore questions have arisen about its economic value to those receiving electricity from Hydro-Quebec.
29. Topography
30. Plate Tectonics
31. The Suez Canal
32. One representative came from each town and each city.
33. Lamoille and Washington
34. Massachusetts
35. Monsoons

Appendix

A. GEO-BEE Forms

15. Geo-Bee Superintendency Representation and Registration Form

16. GEO-BEE Competition Evaluation Form

17. GEO-BEE Score Sheet

B. Reference Maps

- a. United States**
- b. North America**
- c. South America**
- d. Africa**
- e. Europe**
- f. Asia**
- g. Australia**
- h. The World**
- i. Vermont - Physiographic Regions**
- j. Vermont - Outline of Counties**
- k. Vermont - Important Settlements & Rivers**
- l. Central America and Caribbean**
- m. Central and Southwest Asia**
- n. New England**
- o & p. Latitude & Longitude Projections**
- q. Canada**
- r. Mexico**

GEO-BEE Competition Evaluation Form - 2020

TO: COACHES AND ADVISORS

Please comment on the administration of this competition and forward to: Geography Chairman, Vermont Principals' Association, 2 Prospect St., Suite 3, Montpelier, Vermont 05602. Please circle the number which best applies - with **one being poor** and **five being excellent**.

1. The facility for the State GEO-BEE Contest was adequate:

Comment: 1 2 3 4 5

2. The audience was respectful during the competition:

Comment: 1 2 3 4 5

3. The rules and procedures were clearly stated and administered during the competition:

Comment: 1 2 3 4 5

4. The quizzer was articulate and clear in providing the questions:

Comment: 1 2 3 4 5

5. Any suggestions for improvement:

Comment:

6. What did you like best about the competition?

Comment:

Name _____ School _____

School Name:	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
Seat 1														
Seat 2														
Seat 3														
Seat 4														
Bonus														
Round Total														
Cumulative														
School Name:														
Seat 1														
Seat 2														
Seat 3														
Seat 4														
Bonus														
Round Total														
Cumulative														
School Name:														
Seat 1														
Seat 2														
Seat 3														
Seat 4														
Bonus														
Round Total														
Cumulative														
School Name:														
Seat 1														
Seat 2														
Seat 3														
Seat 4														
Bonus														
Round Total														
Cumulative														

Winning Team: _____ Winning Score: _____