GeoWizard

1. **DESCRIPTION**: Participants will be assessed on their understanding of global geographic and cultural features.
2. **A TEAM OF UP TO**: 2   **APPROXIMATE TIME**: 50 minutes
3. **EVENT PARAMETERS**:
   - 3.1. Each team will need to bring a pen. No notes of any form are allowed. Competitors may bring unannotated copies of the official rules if they desire.
4. **THE COMPETITION**:
   a. Contestants will complete a written test and/or timed stations.
   b. Any reasonable location on Earth is fair game. For example, the middle of the Pacific Ocean would not be a valid location to expect competitors to identify.
   c. All photos must come with a compass in order to aid the competitors in orientation.
   d. Images of locations must come with at least two reasonable clues to allow for definitive identification. Reasonable clues may include <u>language</u>, <u>geographical structures and characteristics like mountains and landscape</u>, <u>flags</u>, <u>architecture</u>, <u>regionally specific cultural objects</u>, <u>road markings</u>, <u>non-obscure botanical characteristics</u>, <u>non-obscure infrastructure characteristics</u>, <u>topography</u>, and <u>explicit references to the location</u>.
      - i. At least one of the two minimum clues must be from the underlined list above.
      - ii. An example of an explicit reference to the location is provided below; the ".nz" on the sign indicates New Zealand.
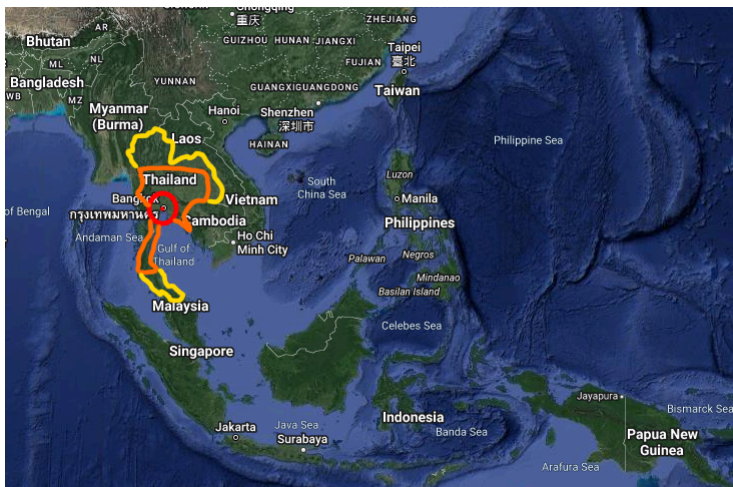

   e. Event supervisors may not make use of unreasonable clues which are overly dependent upon memorization or meta geography techniques not in the spirit of the competition when selecting images, such as camera and Google car peculiarities, seasonal coverage, regional telephone number codes, obscure flags, and other obscure metrics.
   f. Event supervisors may provide multiple images of the same location if desired. For example, if one angle of a location has a use of regional language, and another has a geographical structure, both images could be provided in conjunction for the minimum two clues.
   g. Event supervisors may not intentionally mislead competitors; images and clues should be in good-faith.
   h. At least 20% of the points of the exam should be allocated to identifying the location of geolocating pictures selected from the provided list of geographically and culturally significant locations below. Event supervisors are encouraged to have higher expectations for pinpointing the location if the image is from the provided list of significant locations below. Additionally, it should be explicitly communicated that the location is on the list.
   i. At least another 30% of the points of the exam must be allocated to identifying the location of geolocating pictures selected from throughout the world, excluding those in the list below. Effort should be made to distribute the pictures throughout the different continents and among different countries. Additionally, it should be explicitly communicated that the location is not on the list.

j. Sections may emphasize specific locations by asking competitors to identify the location of a photo from a specific, zoomed in map. For example, a section could emphasize identifying where in Italy a series of photos are based on clues and provide a map of Italy for the competitors to mark their answers.

k. Non location identification questions may emphasize geographically and culturally significant locations or linguistic properties from major languages around the world from the provided lists below. Obscure/trivial information should be avoided with regards to these questions.

    i. Questions about significant locations may cover geographical qualities, societal significance, historical significance, cultural aspects, architectural qualities, etc.

    ii. Linguistic properties may include grammar, alphabet systems, usage of loanwords, etc.

l. Non location identification questions may also emphasize broad overarching trends in geography and architecture. Obscure/trivial information should be avoided with regards to these questions.

m. At least 30% of the points of the exam must be allocated to non location identification questions, parameters for which are outlined in k. and l.

n. The remaining 20% of the exam should be distributed among the three question types as the ES decides suits their needs.

o. Selected clues for photo identification may rely on road markings, license plate qualities, power lines characteristics, architecture, language, and more.

p. Location identification questions may also have competitors employ photo analysis skills such as shadow direction, sun hemisphere, etc.

5. **SCORING**:

   5.1. Highest score wins.

   5.2. Location identification questions should be scored through a sliding scale based upon the distance from the exact location.

   5.3. Location identification of photos should be in the form of dotting the answer on a blank map; in order to determine the quality of the answer, stencils on transparent plastic such as sheet protectors for rings/shapes of answer quality can be overlaid on the competitor's responses to determine the points to be allocated in a quick manner.

   5.4. Points will be awarded for the quality and accuracy of responses.

   5.5. Selected questions may be used as tiebreakers.

6.   **SAMPLE QUESTIONS**:

1.   Dot with your pen on the provided blank map on this page where you believe the location to be. Next to the dot, write the question number of the corresponding photo.

A sample key has been provided for the photo. The number of rings/shapes of answer quality and point distribution is up to the discretion of what the event supervisor believes to be reasonable and fitting with their standards for the specific question. In the given example, within the red circle may correspond to 5 points, within the orange 3 points, and the yellow 1 point.

2.   Briefly explain why Tagalog has a lot of Spanish loanwords and word roots.
3.   Explain how hiragana, katakana, and kanji are used in tandem to construct the Japanese language.
4.   Explain some of the key differences between Spanish and Austrian architecture.
5.   Briefly describe the ancient lake hypothesis regarding the Borobudur Buddhist monument.

7. **NOTES FOR EVENT SUPERVISORS**:
    a. As a reminder, test writers should take care in selecting photos to provide sufficient clues for a prepared competitor to identify the location.
    b. Prior to running the event, have the stenciled keys prepared or some other methodology to allow for rapid grading.
    c. Some of the places in the significant locations list will be difficult to provide adequate identification photos for due to not being accessible on Google Street View and therefore difficult to provide a compass for. If and only if this is the circumstance, an image of the location without a compass may be provided; ES's must find an image with suitably fair clues in this situation.
8. **SUGGESTED RESOURCES**
    a. https://www.geoguessr.com/
    b. https://geohints.com/
    c. https://www.plonkit.net/
    d. https://fabiencelier.github.io/geoguessr-tips/
    e. https://geotips.net/
    f. https://www.reddit.com/r/geoguessr/comments/7efwsx/central_location_for_all_helpful_posts/
    g. https://www.scribblemaps.com/maps/view/Landscape-and-Vegetation-Guide-for-GeoGuessr/U1ZwTHRDGL
    h. https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/
9. **LANGUAGES LIST**
    i. Mandarin Chinese
    j. Spanish
    k. English
    l. Hindi
    m. Bengali
    n. Portuguese
    o. Russian
    p. Japanese
    q. Vietnamese
    r. Turkish
    s. Telugu
    t. Korean
    u. Tamil
    v. Egyptian Arabic
    w. German
    x. French
    y. Javanese
    z. Italian
    aa. Iranian Persian
    bb. Cantonese
    cc. Tagalog

Note: this languages list defines which languages non-identification linguistic questions can cover as mentioned in section 2.k. Language clues for identification questions are in no way restricted to this list.

10. GEOGRAPHICALLY AND CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT LOCATIONS LIST

North America

10.1.	Grand Canyon, USA
10.2.	Yellowstone National Park, USA
10.3.	Redwood National & State Parks, USA
10.4.	Mesa Verde National Park, USA
10.5.	Great Smoky Mountains, USA
10.6.	Everglades, USA
10.7.	Denali, USA
10.8.	'Iolani Palace, USA
10.9.	Banff National Park, Canada
10.10.	L'Anse aux Meadows, Canada
10.11.	Teotihuacan, Mexico
10.12.	Chichén Itzá, Mexico
10.13.	Blue Hole, Belize

South America

10.14.	Panama Canal, Panama
10.15.	Machu Picchu, Peru
10.16.	Nazca Lines, Peru
10.17.	La Casa Rosada, Argentina
10.18.	Iguazu Falls, Argentina & Brazil
10.19.	Christ the Redeemer, Brazil
10.20.	Amazon Rainforest
10.21.	Galápagos Islands, Ecuador
10.22.	Ciudad Perdida, Colombia
10.23.	Tatacoa Desert, Colombia
10.24.	Rapa Nui National Park, Chile
10.25.	Torres del Paine National Park, Chile
10.26.	Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia
10.27.	Tepuis, Venezuela
10.28.	Orinoco Delta, Venezuela
10.29.	Jesuit Missions of La Santísima Trinidad de Paraná and Jesús de Tavarangue, Paraguay
10.30.	Itaipu Dam, Paraguay & Brazil

Europe

10.31.	Stonehenge, England
10.32.	Hadrian's Wall, England
10.33.	Meteora, Greece
10.34.	Acropolis of Athens, Greece
10.35.	Santorini, Greece
10.36.	Mount Athos, Greece
10.37.	Grand Canal (Venice), Italy
10.38.	Mount Etna, Italy
10.39.	Colosseum, Italy
10.40.	Vatican City
10.41.	Eger Castle, Hungary
10.42.	Jelling, Denmark
10.43.	Amsterdam, Netherlands
10.44.	Ziller Valley, Austria
10.45.	Loch Ness, Scotland
10.46.	Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland
10.47.	Blarney Castle, Ireland
10.48.	Wrocław Market Square, Poland
10.49.	Chernobyl, Ukraine
10.50.	Neuschwanstein Castle, Germany
10.51.	Berlin Wall, Germany
10.52.	Black Forest, Germany
10.53.	Dubrovnik, Croatia
10.54.	Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia
10.55.	Kutná Hora, Czech Republic
10.56.	Grindelwald, Switzerland
10.57.	Čičmany, Slovakia
10.58.	Kremlin and Red Square, Russia
10.59.	Lake Baikal, Russia
10.60.	Belém Tower, Portugal
10.61.	Montserrat, Spain
10.62.	Alhambra, Spain
10.63.	Palace of Versailles, France
10.64.	Louvre Museum, France
10.65.	Lascaux, France
10.66.	Chartres Cathedral, France
10.67.	Þingvellir (Thingvellir) National Park, Iceland
10.68.	Göta Canal, Sweden
10.69.	Visby, Sweden
10.70.	Grand-Place, Belgium
10.71.	Geirangerfjord, Norway
10.72.	Suomenlinna Fortress, Finland

Africa

10.73.	Pyramids of Giza, Egypt
10.74.	Serengeti National Park, Tanzania
10.75.	Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania
10.76.	Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania
10.77.	Victoria Falls, Zambia
10.78.	Timgad, Algeria
10.79.	Sahara Desert
10.80.	Nile River
10.81.	Table Mountain, South Africa
10.82.	Cape of Good Hope, South Africa
10.83.	Great Mosque of Djenné, Mali
10.84.	Tomb of Askia, Mali
10.85.	Nyungwe Forest National Park, Rwanda
10.86.	Mount Nyiragongo, Democratic Republic of Congo
10.87.	Djemaa el-Fna, Morocco
10.88.	Mount Elgon, Uganda & Kenya
10.89.	Sossusvlei, Namibia
10.90.	Lalibela Churches, Ethiopia
10.91.	Zinder, Niger
10.92.	Cape Coast Castle, Ghana
10.93.	Lake Tanganyika, Burundi
10.94.	Ambohimanga, Madagascar

Asia

10.95.	Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, UAE
10.96.	Petra, Jordan
10.97.	Dead Sea, Jordan
10.98.	Jerusalem
10.99.	Persepolis, Iran
10.100.	Masuleh Village, Iran
10.101.	Ali Qapu Palace, Iran
10.102.	Hagia Sophia, Turkey
10.103.	Cappadocia, Turkey
10.104.	Mecca, Saudi Arabia
10.105.	Mount Everest, Nepal & China
10.106.	Mohenjo-daro, Pakistan
10.107.	Rohtas Fort, Pakistan
10.108.	Taj Mahal, India
10.109.	Kerala Backwaters, India
10.110.	Monuments at Mahabalipuram, India
10.111.	Rani ki Vav, India
10.112.	Sonargaon Historical City, Bangladesh
10.113.	Angkor Wat, Cambodia
10.114.	Jiufen, Taiwan
10.115.	Taroko National Park, Taiwan
10.116.	Gobi Desert, Mongolia & China
10.117.	Great Wall of China, China
10.118.	The Forbidden City, China
10.119.	Giant Wild Goose Pagoda, China
10.120.	Wulingyuan Scenic Area, China
10.121.	Huangshan, China
10.122.	Korean Demilitarized Zone, Korean Peninsula
10.123.	Changdeokgung, South Korea
10.124.	Bulguksa Temple, South Korea
10.125.	Himeji Castle, Japan
10.126.	Historic Villages of Shirakawa-gō and Gokayama, Japan
10.127.	Bolaven Plateau, Laos
10.128.	Pha That Luang, Laos
10.129.	Komodo National Park, Indonesia
10.130.	Borobudur, Indonesia
10.131.	Mayon Volcano, Philippines
10.132.	Intramuros, Philippines
10.133.	Gardens by the Bay, Singapore
10.134.	Ayutthaya Historical Park, Thailand
10.135.	Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca, Malaysia
10.136.	Bagan, Myanmar
10.137.	Ha Long Bay, Vietnam
10.138.	Temple of Literature, Vietnam

Oceania

10.139.	Great Barrier Reef, Australia
10.140.	Great Ocean Road, Australia
10.141.	Uluru (Ayers Rock), Australia
10.142.	Tongariro National Park, New Zealand
10.143.	Hobbiton Movie Set, New Zealand
10.144.	Bora Bora, French Polynesia
10.145.	Rarotonga, Cook Islands