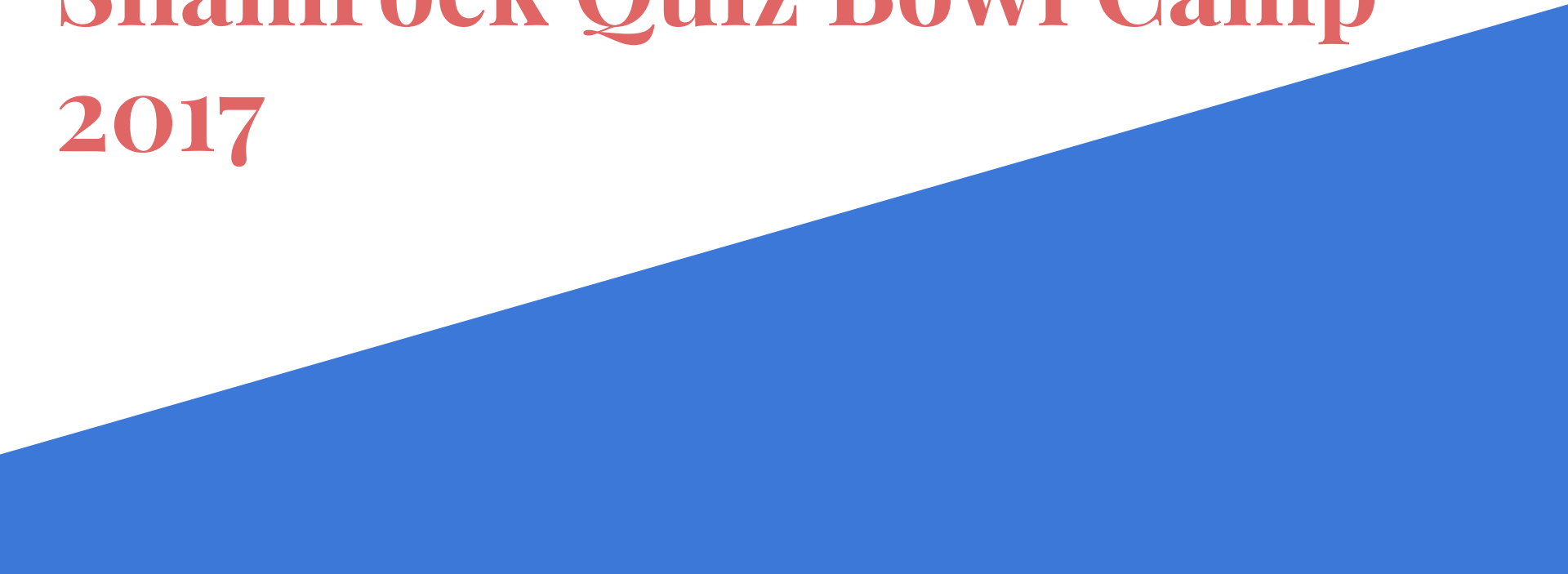


# Geography Shamrock Quiz Bowl Camp 2017

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# Studying Geography

## **Why study Geography?**

- Very accessible
- Ties into other subject areas (especially history)
- Questions appear in almost every packet

## **Useful resources (to get started)**

- Wikipedia/Encyclopedia Britannica
- Quizlet
- Quinterest
- Atlas Obscura
- US Geography Olympiad

## **How to study Geography**

- Cover certain areas and similar features instead of trying to learn everything at once
- Look at maps and atlases to get an understanding of where things are
- Learn “why” certain things are located where they are, and what significance they have
- Use supplementary info to enhance your knowledge (pictures, videos, travel, etc.)
- Try to avoid rote memorization, but do make an effort to remember what you study (flashcards are effective)

# Costa Rica



# Costa Rica

- Central American country bordered by Nicaragua to the north and Panama to the southeast
  - its capital is San José; the port of Limón on the Atlantic is its second-largest city
- its natives are often known as *ticos*, and they use the phrase “*Pura vida*” in many situations
- Cerro Chirripó is its highest point, while Irazú is the highest volcano in the country
- thousands of plant and animal species live in the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, which is shared by its provinces of Puntarenas and Alajuela
  - the golden toad used to live until the species disappeared in 1989
- the Osa Peninsula is separated from the mainland by the Golfo Dulce
- its city of Liberia, the capital of the Guanacaste province, is a major center for its tourism industry
- Cocos Island is designated as one of its national parks and does not allow inhabitants
  - supposedly home to the treasure of pirates Bennett Graham and Benito Bonito
- Lake Arenal, its largest, is overlooked by a volcano of the same name
- its Flamingo Beach turns a pinkish hue during certain times of the year



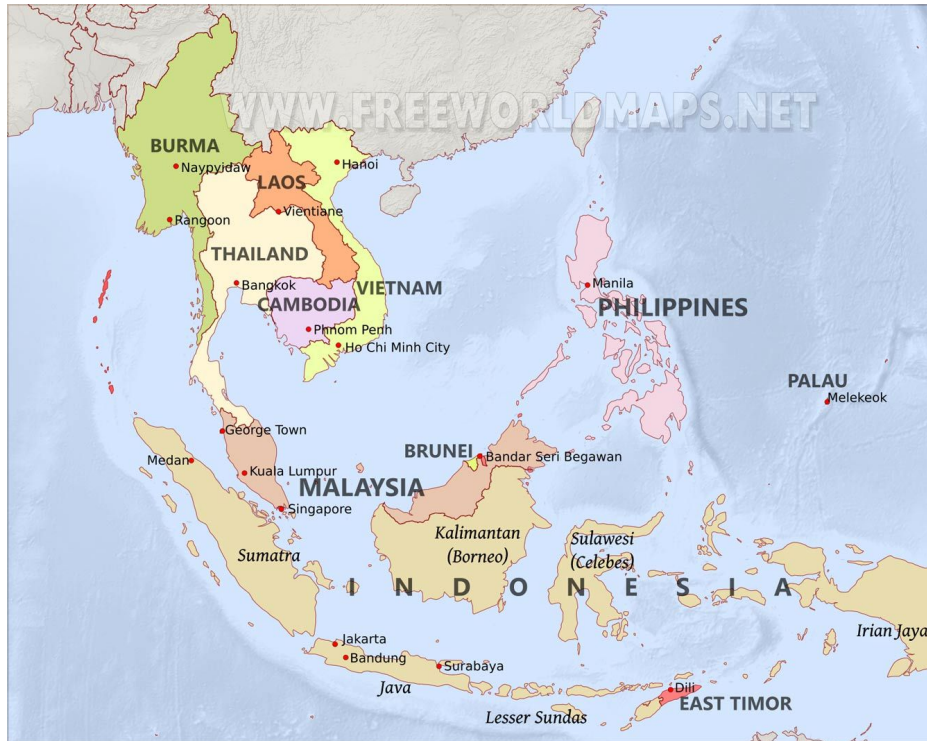
# Iran



# Iran

- also known as Persia, it is the second-largest country in the Middle East and its capital is Tehran
  - the monumental Azadi Tower marks the west entrance to the city
  - Golestan Palace was built in the 18th century and was the royal complex for the Qajar Dynasty
- Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Lut are two large deserts found in its east
- the Gilaki language is spoken in its city of Ramsar, where in 1971 an international treaty was signed for the protection and conservation of wetlands
- Lake Urmia used to be its largest and had 102 islands, but has since shrunk to 10% of its former size
- owns the island of Qeshm, which is in the Strait of Hormuz
  - that strait connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman
- other important cities include Mashhad, Isfahan and Tabriz
- its southwestern Khuzestan Province has the oldest history and is known as the “birthplace of the nation”
- the Alborz Mountains are shared by it and Azerbaijan, but are mostly in its north
  - Mount Damavand, the range’s highest peak, is also the highest point in the country

# Borneo



# Borneo

- the third-largest island in the world, it is shared by Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia
  - Malaysia owns the states of Sabah and Sarawak and the island of Labuan
  - the Indonesian portion of the island is known as Kalimantan
  - Brunei is a small sovereign state with capital at Bandar Seri Begawan
- the Makassar Strait separates it from the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, and the Karimata Strait separates it from the Indonesian island of Sumatra
- major rivers include the Kapuas, Mahakam and Rajang
- Malaysia's Gunung Mulu National Park is famous for its large cave systems
  - Deer Cave is home to over three million bats, with guano accumulated to over 300 feet deep
- Mount Kinabalu is the island's and Malaysia's highest point
- important cities include Samarinda and Banjarmasin in Indonesia and Kuching in Malaysia
- its native people are loosely organized as the Dayak
- the Crocker Range and the Meratus Mountains are two important mountain ranges



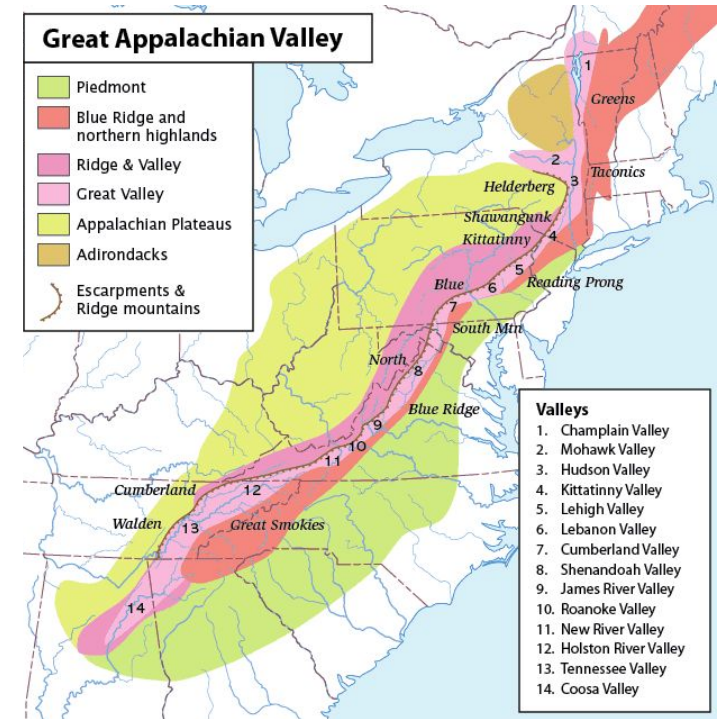
# Pyrenees Mountains



# Pyrenees Mountains

- southwest European mountain range that forms a natural border between France and Spain
  - extends from the Bay of Biscay to Cap de Creus on the Mediterranean
- its highest peak is Aneto, which is in the Spanish province of Huesca and known as *Pic de Néthou* in French
- the Aran Valley is in its central portion and contains the source of the Garonne River
- the French city of Pau has a notable boulevard named after the mountain range that was created at the suggestion of Napoleon
- the microstate of Andorra is located in its eastern section
  - its parish of La Massana contains its highest point, Coma Pedrosa
- Pico Posets and Monte Perdido are two of its highest summits
- the Cirque de Gavarnie is a large valley in its central portion and is known as “the Coliseum of Nature”
- it is home to Llívia, a Spanish town that is an enclave within a French department
- the Corbières Massif is the only foothill on its northern side
- Roncevaux Pass was the site of a 778 battle that was made famous by the French epic poem *The Song of Roland*

# Appalachian Mountains



# Appalachian Mountains

- highest peak is Mount Mitchell in North Carolina
- its many subranges include:
  - the Shick Shocks, Notre Dame Mountains, White Mountains, the Berkshires, Allegheny Mountains, Longfellow Mountains, the Catskills, Metacomet Ridge Mountains, the Adirondacks, Taconic Mountains, Blue Ridge Mountains, Great Smoky Mountains and many more
- both the Newfound and Cumberland Gaps pass through it
- the dialect of English native to it features verbs that end in -ing prefixed by an a
- Cades Cove is an isolated valley in Tennessee
- Skyline Drive runs the entire length of Virginia's Shenandoah National Park
- its namesake trail extends from Mount Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in Georgia



# Mount Everest



# Mount Everest

- the tallest mountain on Earth, it is in the Mahalangur subrange of the Himalayas
  - known in Nepali as Sagarmāthā and in Tibetan as Chomolungma
  - its previous names have included Peak XV and Mount Qomolangma
- one geological feature on it is a large rock buttress known as the Geneva Spur
- its Western Cym is known as the “Valley of Silence”
- the South Col separates it from Lhotse, the fourth highest mountain in the World
- the "Ballroom of Death" and the "Popcorn Field" are treacherous areas on the path through this mountain's Khumbu Icefall
- Rongbuk Monastery and the town of Lukla near its base
- George Mallory disappeared in 1924 while trying to climb it
- Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay were the first confirmed to have successfully ascended it
- Jon Krakauer was one of the climbers who experienced the 1996 disaster here firsthand (*Into Thin Air*)
- in 2005, Didier Delsalle landed a helicopter on its summit

# Missouri River



# Missouri River

- the longest river in North America and most important tributary of the Mississippi River
- the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin Rivers all rise to form its headwaters
  - it officially starts at the confluence of those three rivers near Three Fork in Montana
- receives the Milk and Musselshell Rivers at Fort Peck Dam
- flows into Lake Oahe before its confluence with the Cannonball River
- Fort Mandan was built on it by the Lewis and Clark Expedition near present-day Washburn, North Dakota
- important tributaries include the Niobrara, Marias, Platte, Yellowstone, Chariton, Gasconade and Sun Rivers
- the Garrison Dam forms Lake Sakakawea on it
- the Fort Randall Dam forms Lake Francis Case on it
- the Big Bend Dam forms Lake Sharpe on it
- flows past the cities of Bismarck, Pierre, Sioux City, Omaha, and Kansas City
- the Pick-Sloan Basin Program was created by the government in 1944 to control and conserve it
- flows through Ponca State Park in Nebraska



# Danube River



# Danube River

- Europe's second largest river, it flows through ten countries before emptying into the Black Sea
  - major cities on it include Ulm, Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest and Belgrade
- the town of Donaueschingen is near the confluence of its two sources, the Brigach and the Breg
- it is connected to the Main River in Germany and the Tisza River in Serbia by two separate canals
- a gorge on it known as the Iron Gates forms part of the boundary between Serbia and Romania
  - construction of the Djerdap Dam submerged the island of Ada Kaleh and the Golubac Fortress
- the Route of Emperors and Kings is a touristic route that follows the river from Regensburg to Budapest
- in 105, Trajan ordered the construction of a bridge over it to move troops during his conquest of Dacia
- it divides the Pannonian Basin roughly in half
- the huchen is its namesake species of freshwater salmon
- other important tributaries are the Drava, Sava, Inn and Prut Rivers
- in 2015, the micronation of Liberland was created and claimed to own a piece of disputed land on its banks
- Lake Razelm is a large freshwater lagoon in Romania on its delta

# Ganges River



# Ganges River

- the most sacred river to Hindus, it flows through India and Bangladesh before emptying into the Bay of Bengal
  - begins at the confluence of the Bhagirathi and Alaknanda rivers in the Indian state of Uttarakhand
- Kumbh Mela is the common name for a mass Hindu pilgrimage to bathe in it
  - the city of Varanasi attracts many pilgrims, and therefore the waters near are extremely polluted
- at the pilgrimage town of Haridwar, some of its waters are diverted into a canal that irrigates the Doab region of Uttar Pradesh
- it joins the Yamuna near Allahabad at the Triveni Sangam, a holy confluence
- its first distributary, the Hooghly, begins to branch away from it at Pakur
  - the Farakka Barrage also diverts some of its waters into the Hooghly via the Feeder Canal
- after entering Bangladesh, its main branch is known as the Padma
  - the Padma is joined by the Jamuna River, the largest distributary of the Brahmaputra
- the Sunderbans are a vast mangrove forest located in its delta region
- its namesake species of freshwater river dolphin is the “National Aquatic Animal” of India



# Lake Victoria



# Lake Victoria

- the largest lake in Africa by area, it is divided among Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania
- it was named after the then-reigning British monarch by John Hanning Speke in 1858
- its primary inflow is the Kagera (or Alexandra Nile) River
  - the largest rivers that flow into it from Kenya are the Nzoia and Migori
- the Water hyacinth has become a major invasive plant species in it
- drained solely by its namesake section of the White Nile near Jinja, Uganda
- Uganda and Kenya fought over ownership of its Migingo Island due to lucrative fishing rights
- Winam Gulf extends it to the northeast
- Ripon Falls at its northern end used to be formally considered as the source of the Nile
- its largest island, Ukerewe, is home to a large population of Africans with albinism
- the Nalubaale Hydroelectric Power Station lies on its primary outflow
  - formerly known as Owen Falls Dam
- the Ssese Archipelago is in its northwestern part
- important cities on its shore include Kampala, Entebbe and Mwanza

# Lake Superior



# Lake Superior

- the largest of the Great Lakes, which borders Ontario, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan
  - cities on its shores include Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Duluth and Marquette
- Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is near the city of Munising, Michigan
- it drains into Lake Huron via the St. Marys River
  - the Soo Locks enable ships to travel on the river
- Wisconsin owns the Apostle Islands in it
- the largest rivers that flow into it include the Nipigon, Bois Brule and Pigeon
- Isle Royale is the largest island on it, and is north of Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula
  - notable for the unique relationship between the wolves and moose that live on the island
- the SS *Edmund Fitzgerald* remains the largest ship to have sunk in the Great Lakes
- Sibley Peninsula is home to a formation of mesas and sills known as the "Sleeping Giant"
- according to the Ojibwe peoples, a mythical creature known as the "Great Lynx" lives on Michipicoten Island
- the Porcupine Mountains are located on its southern shore



# Caspian Sea



# Caspian Sea

- classified as the world's largest lake
- surrounded by Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan
- has been called the Hyrcanian Ocean, Mazandaran Sea, Gilan Sea or Khazar Sea
- the Volga, Ural and Kura Rivers flow into it
- Ogurja Ada is its largest island
- the Tengiz Oil Field in its northeast belongs to Kazakhstan
- Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, is the largest city on it
  - located on the Absheron Peninsula
  - the Oily Rocks, the world's first offshore oil platform, is on the sea
  - the world's first successful oil tanker, the *Zoroaster*, was built here
- the proposed Manyash Ship Canal would connect it to the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov
- the island of Boyuk Zira/Nargin was home to a Soviet gulag
- its namesake "Sea Monster" was a Soviet experimental vehicle that flew close to the ground

# Gobi Desert



# Gobi Desert

- large Asian desert that covers parts of China and Mongolia
  - it is bounded by the Altai Mountains to the north and the Taklamakan Desert to the west
- it is the native habitat of the wild Bactrian camel
- Roy Chapman Andrews was an American explorer who led several expeditions to it
  - his party was the first to discover dinosaur eggs, which they did at a site known as the Flaming Cliffs
  - he described local tales of a creature known as the “Mongolian death worm” in one of his books
- Khongoryn Els is a region known as the “Singing Sands”
- it is home to the only species of desert-dwelling bear, the *mazaalai*, of which there are only 22 left
- its southwestern portion is on the Alashan Plateau
- the Three-North Shelter Forest Program, or the Great Green Wall, is a plan by China to stop its expansion
- although it surrounds the Gurvan Saikhan Mountains, a deep gorge known as Yolyn Am contains a semi-permanent ice field
- the Turquoise Hill mine contains large deposits of copper and gold



# Angel Falls



# Angel Falls

- the world's highest uninterrupted waterfall, located in Venezuela
- it drops over the edge of the Auyán-tepui mountain in the Canaima National Park
  - a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is located in the Gran Sabana region of Bolívar State
- in 1937, Jimmie Angel crashed his Flamingo monoplane into the falls and managed to descend them by foot, leading them to be named in his honor
- Venezuelan explorer Ernesto Sánchez La Cruz supposedly spotted it in 1912 but did not publicize his discovery
- the first recorded European reach the base of the falls was Latvian explorer Aleksandrs Laime
- it is along a fork of the Rio Kerepacupai Meru, which flows into the Churun River
  - that river is a tributary of the Carrao River, which itself a tributary of the Orinoco River
- it is near Mount Roraima, which is shared by Brazil, Guyana and Venezuela
- the Mirador Laime is a popular viewpoint



# Grand Canyon

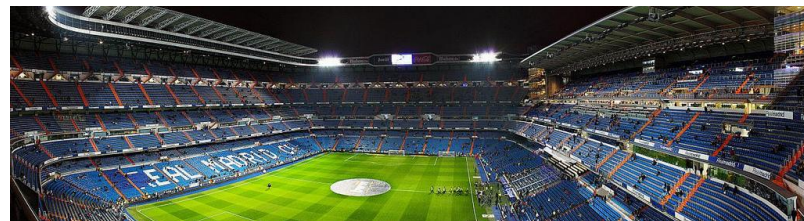


# Grand Canyon

- 277-mile long canyon in Arizona carved by the Colorado River
- the first European to see it was García López de Cárdenas
- John Wesley Powell led the first recorded passage through its entirety in 1869
- it bisects the Kaibab Plateau
- the oldest rocks at the bottom are known as the Vishnu Basement Rocks
  - includes the Brahma and Rama schists
- in 1956, a TWA Lockheed Super Constellation and a United Airlines Douglas DC-7 collided above the canyon, killing all 128 passengers and crew members aboard both planes
- Buckey O'Neill, one of the Rough Riders, built a famous cabin in 1890 on its south rim
- the El Tovar Hotel is also on the south rim
- the architect Mary Colter built many buildings near it, including Hermit's Rest and Lookout Studio
  - her Hopi House and Desert View Watchtower were built to resemble Pueblo structures
- in 2007, the Hualapai Tribe opened the glass-bottomed "Skywalk" on their property



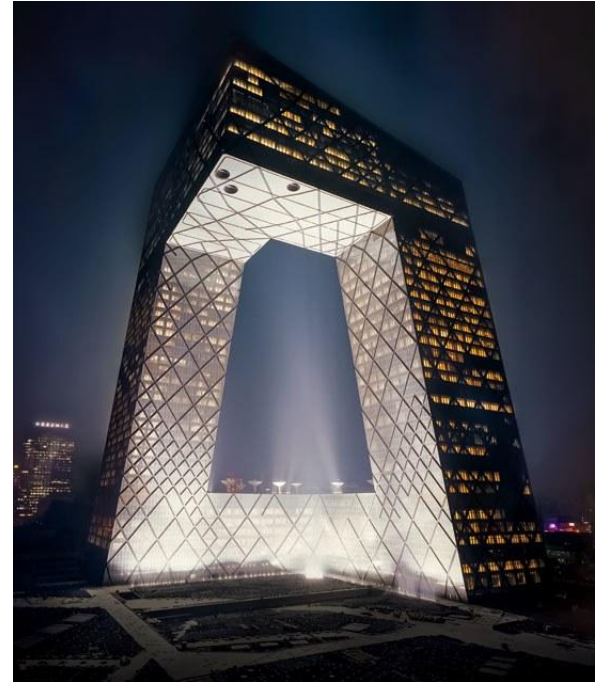
# Madrid



# Madrid

- the capital of Spain and the third-largest city in the European Union after London and Berlin
- it lies on the Manzanares River, which is an eventual tributary of the Tagus River
- Gran Vía is an ornate and upscale shopping street known as “the Spanish Broadway” located in its center
- the Puerta del Sol and Plaza Mayor are two of its famous public squares
  - “the Twelve Grapes of Luck” is a tradition that started in the Puerta del Sol
- the Cybele Palace is an emblematic monument of the city and the seat of the city council
- AZCA and CTBA are acronyms for two of its most important business districts
- the Prado, Reina Sofía and Thyssen-Bornemisza Museums make up the “Golden Triangle of Art”
- El Escorial, which is about 30 miles northwest of it, was the historical residence of the King of Spain
  - Philip II engaged the architect Juan Bautista de Toledo to oversee the complex’s design and construction
- the Gates of Europe are two twin office buildings that are also known as the KIO Towers
- Atocha is its largest railway station and contains a memorial for the victims of the 2004 train bombings
- the Puerta de Alcalá is a triumphal arch in the Plaza de la Independencia

# Beijing





# Beijing

- one of the three divisions that make up the Jingjinji national capital region
  - surrounded by the Hebei Province
- bordered by the Jundu Mountains to the northwest
- the Hai River flows through it
- the Grand Canal links it to the city of Hangzhou
- the Imperial City is at its center
  - contains the Forbidden City
    - the Meridian Gate is the largest entrance
  - the Tiananmen is the main entrance
    - means “Gate of Heavenly Peace”
  - Jade Flower Island is in the center of Beihai Park
- Wangfujing is a famous shopping street
- the CCTV Headquarters looks like half a square with an open center (nicknamed “big boxer shorts”)
- 798 Art Zone is an art gallery in a decommissioned military factory
- The “Bird's Nest” stadium was built for the 2008 Olympics
- Incense Burner Peak is the largest in its Fragrant Hills Park