



Pre-Reading Activities

A: Vocabulary

Match the words with their correct meanings.

1. When you **beat** someone,
2. If you are the **champion** of a competition,
3. A **title** is
4. A **tiebreaker** is
5. A **runner-up** is
6. **Geography** is

- a. ...the official position of best player, best student, etc.
- b. ...an extra question that is asked at the end of a competition when two people have the same score.
- c. ...the person who comes second in a competition.
- d. ...you are better than everyone else in the competition.
- e. ...you win a fight or game against that person.
- f. ...the study of the earth and its countries, climate, mountains, seas, etc.

B: Check Your Understanding

Read the short text and fill the gaps in the sentences with these words:

tiebreaker, geography, title, runner-up, champion

My friend Sarah loves 1._____. Last week her school, Washington High School, had a **geographic bee**. Sarah and 15 other students tried to win the title of Washington High School Geographic 2._____. Sarah and a boy called James were very good and there was a 3._____. Sarah knew the answer and she won the 4._____. James was 5._____.

Glossary: **geographic bee** - a competition testing students' knowledge of geography

Reading Activities

A: Sequencing

Look at the **first** sentence from today's article and put the lines into the correct order. (The first line is numbered for you.) Then do the same for the other sentences. Answer the question or questions that follow each sentence.

- to win the title of U.S. National
 - is taught at home by his
 - mother beat 54 other students
 - and a prize worth \$25,000
 - Geographic Bee champion
 - on Wednesday.
 - 1 A 14-year-old who
- a. *What title did the 14-year-old win?*

Here is the **second** sentence. (The first and fifth lines are numbered for you.)

- 5 which country controlled
 - difficult questions, James Williams from
 - Washington state correctly answered
 - a tiebreaker about
 - Goa until 1961.
 - the Indian state of
 - 1 After easily answering a list of
- b. *Where is James Williams from?*
c. *What was the tiebreaker question about?*

Here is the **third** sentence.

- the United Kingdom, but
 - James didn't stop to think
 - when he answered Portugal.
 - Runner-up Dallas Simons said
- d. *Who was the runner-up in the competition?*

Here is the **fourth** sentence.

- school but is taught at home
 - by his mother.
 - James has never been to
- e. *Who teaches James?*

Here is the **last** sentence.

- he won a \$25,000
 - to five hours a day
 - for the competition, where
 - college scholarship.
 - He said he studied up
- f. *Did James do a lot of study for the competition?*



B: True or False

Read today's article and decide if the sentences below are true **T** or false **F**.

1. James Williams has always studied at home.
2. There were 55 students in the U.S. National Geographic Bee.
3. Dallas Simons incorrectly answered the tiebreaker question.
4. James won a scholarship and \$25,000.
5. His mother is his teacher.

C: Complete The Interview

Here is a short imaginary interview with James Williams. Read the article again and fill the gaps in the interview with the correct information from the article. (Each gap could contain **one or two** words.)

- Interviewer:** *Today I am talking to 14-year-old James 1._____ from Washington state, the new U.S. National 2._____ champion. Congratulations James!*
- James:** *Thank you!*
- Interviewer:** *Did your family help you to get ready for this competition?*
- James:** *Yes. My 3._____ teaches me and she helped me study for this competition.*
- Interviewer:** *How does your school feel about your title?*
- James:** *Umm, sorry. I don't go to 4._____. I am home-schooled.*
- Interviewer:** *Oh sorry. My mistake. Are you going to go to college one day?*
- James:** *Yes. My prize was a \$25,000 college 5._____.*
- Interviewer:** *Tell me about the competition.*
- James:** *Well, there were 55 6._____ and we had to answer questions on 7._____. Dallas Simons and I answered all the questions correctly.*
- Interviewer:** *And then?*
- James:** *And then we had a 8._____. The question was about which 9._____ controlled Goa until 1961. Dallas answered the United Kingdom but I said it was Portugal.*
- Interviewer:** *Was it the correct answer?*
- James:** *10._____!*
- Interviewer:** *Congratulations again James and thank you for talking to me.*
- James:** *Thank you.*

D: Thinking Carefully

Answer these questions.

1. 'James has never been to school but is taught at home by his mother.'
Why does the article tell us this information?
2. The article's headline is '**Home-Schooled** Student Wins Geography Title'.
What is a **home-schooled** student?
3. '...James didn't stop to think when he answered Portugal.'
Did James think for a long time before he answered the question?

Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

A: Differences

Work in pairs. Your teacher will give you a picture. Your partner's picture and your picture have some differences. Ask your partner questions to find the differences in the pictures. **Do not** look at your partner's picture until you have finished.

B: Vocabulary

Discuss the questions below in your groups.

1. *Have you ever beaten anyone in a competition? What happened?*
2. *Have you ever been runner-up in a competition?*
3. *Do you like geography? What did / do you study in geography at school?*
4. *Have you ever won a title?*
5. *Have you ever been in a tiebreaker? What happened?*
6. *Do you think home schooling is a good idea? Why or why not?*

C: Word Find

Find these words from today's article in the puzzle below.

title; beat; win; geography; country; state; prize; studied; school

B	G	S	T	A	T	E	N	Y
S	E	D	U	Y	A	I	H	T
T	T	A	Z	K	W	P	Q	E
U	I	M	T	X	A	F	V	Z
D	T	V	Q	R	D	V	D	I
I	L	E	G	W	X	A	K	R
E	E	O	Q	K	U	U	C	P
D	E	S	C	H	O	O	L	Y
G	Z	Y	R	T	N	U	O	C

TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

Pre-Reading Activities

A: Vocabulary - Answers

1. e, 2. d, 3. a, 4. b, 5. c, 6. f.

B: Check Your Understanding - Notes

You may like to turn this into a listening and reading activity and ask students to listen and fill the five gaps as you read the completed text aloud.

B: Check Your Understanding - Answers

1. geography, 2. champion, 3. tiebreaker, 4. title, 5. runner-up.

Reading Activities

A: Sequencing - Answers

4. to win the title of U.S. National
 2. is taught at home by his
 3. mother beat 54 other students
 6. and a prize worth \$25,000
 5. Geographic Bee champion
 7. on Wednesday.
 1. A 14-year-old who
- a. U.S. National Geographic Bee champion.
5. which country controlled
 2. difficult questions, James Williams from
 3. Washington state correctly answered
 4. a tiebreaker about
 7. Goa until 1961.
 6. the Indian state of
 1. After easily answering a list of
- b. Washington state.
- c. Which country controlled the Indian state of Goa until 1961.
2. the United Kingdom, but
 3. James didn't stop to think
 4. when he answered Portugal.
 1. Runner-up Dallas Simons said
- d. Dallas Simons.
2. school but is taught at home
 3. by his mother.
 1. James has never been to
- e. His mother.
4. he won a \$25,000
 2. to five hours a day
 3. for the competition, where
 5. college scholarship.
 1. He said he studied up
- f. Yes. Up to five hours a day.

B: True or False - Notes

You may like to give students the copy of today's article on the next page once they have finished **Reading Activity A**.

B: True or False - Text To Be Given To Students

Text on the next page.

B: True or False - Answers

1. True, 2. True, 3. True, 4. False (The scholarship is worth \$25,000.), 5. True.

C: Complete The Interview - Answers

1. Williams, 2. Geographic Bee, 3. mother, 4. school, 5. scholarship, 6. students, 7. geography, 8. tiebreaker, 9. country, 10. Yes.

D: Thinking Carefully - Suggested Answers

1. James has never been to school but has done all his study at home. Some people think that studying at home and never going to school is a good idea. Other critics think that it isn't beneficial. This article provides support for those recommending homeschooling because obviously for James study at home with his mother as his teacher has been very effective.
2. A student who is educated at home; usually by a parent.
3. No. He didn't pause, but answered quickly.

Post-Reading Activities

A: Differences - Notes

Students work in pairs, one is Student A, the other Student B. They could sit facing each other, or even back to back to make sure they do not look at their partner's picture. You may like to go over some vocabulary before they begin, either writing words on the board or asking them to look at their own picture while you talk about the items. (Use the Answers below to help you pinpoint words that may be useful to them. You may wish to give them some help with phrases used to describe where something is: e.g. *on the left*, *in her right hand...* etc.)

Students aim to find the differences between the two pictures but must do this by asking their partner questions. They may like to circle each difference as they identify them so that at the end they can count the number they have found.

A: Differences - Pictures to be Given to Students

Pictures on following page

A: Differences - Answers

1. In Student B's picture it is nine o'clock. In Student A's picture it is 3 o'clock.
2. In Student B's picture four glasses are on the right with one glass on the left. In Student A's picture there are five glasses in a line on the right.
3. In Student B's picture the sign 'Geographic Bee' is in the center of the picture.
4. In Student A's picture the sign is a little to the right.
5. In Student B's picture the girl with the ponytail isn't wearing glasses. In Student A's picture she is.
6. In Student B's picture the boy in the middle has his arms behind his back. In Student A's picture he has his arms by his sides.
7. In Student B's picture the girl next to him has her arms behind her back. In Student A's picture she has her arms folded.
8. In Student B's picture the woman is wearing a skirt. In Student A's picture the woman is wearing trousers.
9. In Student B's picture she is holding a microphone in her right hand and a clipboard in her left. In Student A's picture the microphone is in her left hand and the clipboard in her right.
10. If the pictures have been printed in color, students will also notice that the girl on the right is wearing blue (Student B's pic) / red (Student A's pic.)

C: Word Find - Answers

Extra Activity: You may like to organize a geography competition for your students. Students could write their own questions or do an online quiz on the Internet. You will need to search for online geography quizzes first and remember to try them out yourself before giving them to your students.



Home-Schooled Student Wins Geography Title

WASHINGTON Thu May 22 (Reuters) - A 14-year-old who is taught at home by his mother beat 54 other students to win the title of U.S. National Geographic Bee champion and a prize worth \$25,000 on Wednesday.

After easily answering a list of difficult questions, James Williams from Washington state correctly answered a tiebreaker about which country controlled the Indian state of Goa until 1961.

Runner-up Dallas Simons said the United Kingdom, but James didn't stop to think when he answered Portugal.

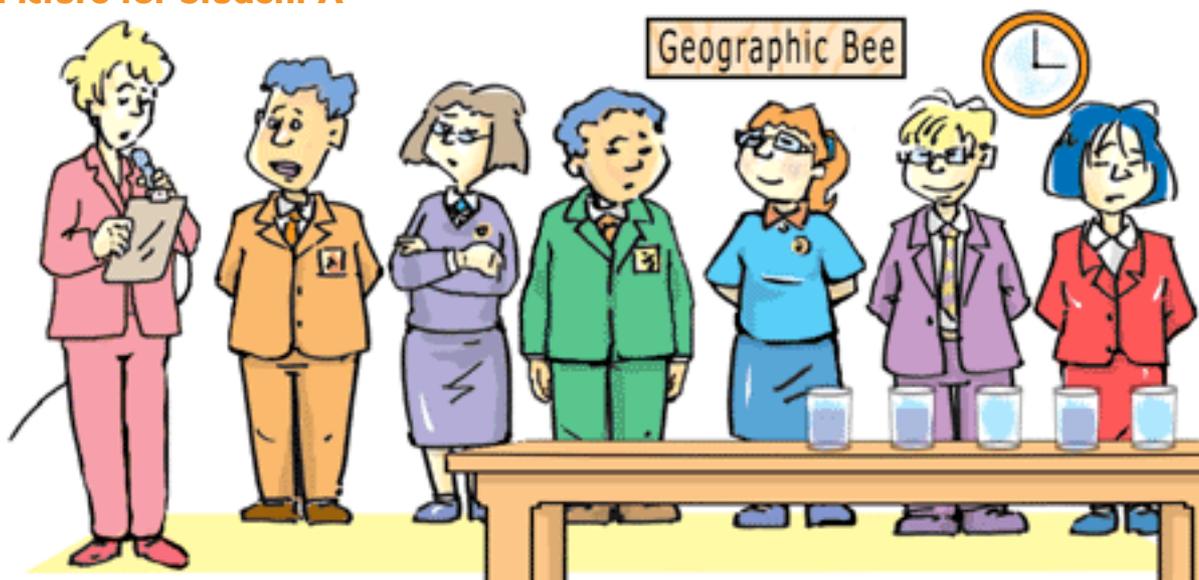
James has never been to school but is taught at home by his mother. He said he studied up to five hours a day for the competition, where he won a \$25,000 college **scholarship**.

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scholarship - money that is given to a student to pay for their study

A: Differences - Pictures to be Given to Students

Picture for Student A



Picture for Student B

