# A Geography Quiz

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The questions below require not only a high degree of geographical prowess, but also knowledge of the logology of country names and names of languages. Even with the aid of an atlas most of these questions will prove to be quite challenging. The term 'country' refers henceforth only to the 195 independent states recognized by the United States Department of State (as of 1 December 2011). The names of the countries are the short-form names and not the official names, e.g. CHINA and not PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. The official languages referred to below are the ones listed in the aforementioned source. My source for question [1] is the 50 Euro note in my wallet.

[1]    What is the only member of the European Union not depicted on the map of Europe on Euro notes? [Yes, I know that this question has nothing to do with logology, but I believe that readers of this journal will appreciate it nonetheless].

[2]    You decide to travel from the country you identified in [1] to a country which shares its second letter without passing through a third country. There is only one possible destination given these conditions. Where are you now? Name the only other country in the world which shares the same second letter with [1] but which cannot be your goal given the conditions listed above. Identify the one country which calls itself by a name which shares the same second letter with [1], but which – according the aforementioned source – is referred to by another name (with a different second letter).

[3]    There are thirteen European countries whose names end in IA, but only two of them border on at most one other country whose name also ends in IA. Identify those two countries.

[4]    When this country changed its name in 1997 there were sad consequences for logology. Prior to that date there were exactly three countries in the world that were adjacent alphabetically (without any intervening countries) and geographically contiguous. Which of these countries changed its name and what are the names of the other two countries?

[5]    There are exactly two European countries whose official languages end in a palindromic suffix. Identify the one that is closer to the country identified in [1] and the language spoken in that country.

[6]    Take the phrase A MOLDY PLUM, delete five letters and then add four vowels to create a logologically interesting language name.

[7]    There are five geographically contiguous countries which have at least one official language each whose names end in one of the five vowels A, E, I, O, U. Name the countries and the languages.

[8]    Among the official languages of the world there exists a seven letter palindromic language name. Identify the country and its language. [Hints: The name of the country is embedded within the name of the language. This country also has the distinction of being the only one in the world without a capital city].

[9]    While residing in the country identified in [5] you determine that the sum of the numerical values of the letters (A = 1, B = 2 etc) of that county's name adds up to 47. You feel inspired to travel in a straight line to the only other European country whose name also adds up to 47. Name that country and any countries you will cross to achieve your goal.

[10]   A number of countries have names containing exactly three of the five vowel letters (e.g. MEXICO). Of those countries, eight have three identical vowels. Identify the one which borders on what is probably the only sea in the world whose name contains a five letter anchored palindrome. What is the name of that sea? [Note: An anchored palindrome is a palindrome at one edge of the word, e.g. OBOE]. Identify the remaining seven countries with three identical vowels.

[11]   A number of official languages are embedded within the name of the country in which they are spoken, e.g. MALAY-MALAYSIA. In the preceding example there are three letters in the name of the country which do not belong to the name of the language (i.e. SIA). There is one official European language and one official Asian language which differ from their respective countries by a single letter. Identify the languages and countries.

[12]   Many countries have names that are embedded within their official languages, e.g. CROATIA-CROATIAN, LATVIA-LATVIAN, MONGOLIA-MONGOLIAN. It is not difficult to find similar examples in which the language is derived from the country by affixing N to the right edge. Identify the only country-language pair in Eurasia which differs by a single letter which is not N.

[13]   Country-language pairs like CROATIA-CROATIAN and LATVIA-LATVIAN mentioned in question [12] are similar in two respects: The language is derived from the country by the addition of N, and the country's name ends in IA. Identify the only European country not ending in IA, whose official language is derived from the country name by adding N to the latter.

[14]   A number of countries have names containing exactly five vowels, e.g. VENEZUELA. Identify the only one in which those vowels are A, E, I, O, U (not necessarily in that order). There is exactly one capital city which contains those five vowels. Name it.