A LOGOLOGICAL GEOQUIZ·

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The pages of Word Ways have frequently featured articles and quizzes concerned with the logological peculiarities of place names. Most of these contributions have dealt with United States geography – with the names of the 50 states, for instance. Since the United States is only one of about 175 nations in the world, this heavy concentration on American place names is, to put it charitably, somewhat parochial. It is especially so because names elsewhere in the world are logologically just as interesting as United States names.

This quiz seeks to make amends for past negligence, by dealing with world geography: more specificially, with the nations of the world and/or their capitals. Each of the following fifty questions focuses on a logologically significant facet of the subject. To avoid the tiresome repetition of certain phrases, l have usually reduced the phrase "the name of what nation" to "what nation"; the phrase "the name of what capital" to "what capital"; and the phrase "the capital of what nation" to "what capital."

Answers to the questions can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

1. The capital of what nation is, or can be, written with two apostrophes?
2. What capital uses only three consonants among a total of eleven letters?
3. What city is the world's alphabetically first capital of an independent nation?

4. What city was, until recently, and by a large margin, the world's alphabetically last capital of an independent nation?
5. The name of what future nation is a tautonym or reduplication?
6. What capital includes an independent palindrome – one not merely a palindromic letter sequence within a longer name?

7. The citizen of what nation is a palindrome?
8. What nation has the scariest capital? There are two reasons for so describing its capital. Name both.
9. The citizens of what nation speak a language many of the words of which include odd letter combinations such as JJ, KK, QQ, WW, and/or XX?

10. What capital lends itself to an excellent (apposite, that is) anagram?

11. What capital begins with the letters MM?

12. What administrative capital begins with the letters MB? And what is the traditional capital of the same nation?

13. Why are the United States and the Soviet Union mutual adversaries?

14. The one-syllable name of what nation becomes a common three-syllable word when one of its letters is changed?

15. What nation's name is synonymous with nudity?

16. What capital is the only one that truly belongs on the map?

17. What nation is homonymous with two common English words?

18. In what capital should the Austrian composer Franz Schubert have been born, from a logological standpoint?

19. What nation is a transdeletion of a word describing an occasion of orgiastic revelry and licentiousness?

20. What capital has an almost moronic name?

21. What capital is, in a sense, close to yellowing?

22. The name of what nation is a transaddition upon the name of its capital?

23. What two non-nations are members of the United Nations?

24. What nation's name is a transposal of another nation's capital?

25. What nation has a blatantly sexual capital?

26. What capital is a reversal of the Latin word for "grandfather" (or, metonymically, for "ancestor")?

27. In what capital is it literally fun to be afoot? Why?

28. What capital is a transposal of what the citizens in a nation other than its own are called?

29. A name for what nation is a reversal of a doubly important geographic name in the United States?

30. What cpaital is a transposal of the lowly porcupine rat?

31. What nation is a transposal of turtles and tortoises?

32. Which two nations consist of four major subdivisions each?

33. What actual capital (as distinguished from an official capital) is a substitute-letter transposal of salamanders? What is the corresponding official capital?

34. What nation is a substitute-letter transposal of the capital of a neighboring nation?

35. What nation is also the first 5 letters of another nation?

36. What capital begins with the first six letters of a nation other than its own?

37. What two capitals are alphagrams (first-letter changes) of each other?

38. What nation is an alphagram of one of the largest non-national regions in the world?

39. What capital other than Washington, D.C. was named for a President of the United States?

40. What capital is a beheadment or decapitation of the name

of a famous Hindu philosopher and theologian – one who espoused the ancient, orthodox monism?

41. What capital is a transdeletion of what other capital?

42. What two – or, perhaps, three – nations comprise an area the name of which is a beheadment of another nation?

43. What capital is at the precise center of a nation other than its own?

44. Remove the middle letter of a recent capital, and you remain with a complete nation. What are the two names involved? By what city has the most recent capital been replaced?

45. What capital can be transformed into another capital by shifting both its fourth and its sixth letters forward three spaces along the alphabet?

46. What nation can be converted into another nation by shifting its second letter backward eleven spaces along the alphabet? How?

47. What nation becomes another nation – the same one – if you shift its fourth letter either forward or backward three spaces along the alphabet?

48. The names of what capitals not identical with the names of their nations rhyme with their respective nations' names? (Two correct sets of answers – find both!)

49. What two nations have rhyming names? (3 sets of answers, 2 correct and 1 incorrect; find all 3!)

50. What two capitals are sight rhymes or eye rhymes, but not true rhymes? (3 sets of correct answers – find all 3!)

There are many more logological curiosities among the names of nations and their capitals. However, I don't want to disturb the aesthetic beauty of the round number 50 by crossing the border it represents. I therefore leave the task of finding other curiosities to you. You may wish to start by looking for as many bona fide transposals of the name AMERICA as there may be – I know of five such transposals, but there may be more. Good luck!

ALPHAMAGIC SQUARES

Most people are familiar with a magic square, a square array of numbers in which the rows, columns, and diagonals all add to the same total. In the fall 1986 issue of Abacus, Lee Sallows reveals that some squares remain magic if one writes out the cardinal number-names for the numbers and substitutes for each number-name the number of letters it contains:

5	22	18	*five*	*twenty-two*	*eighteen*	4	9	8
28	15	2	*twenty-eight*	*fifteen*	*two*	11	7	3
12	8	25	*twelve*	*eight*	*twenty-five*	6	5	10

Using a computer, he discovered 217 such alphamagic squares in which each entry is 500 or less. Among these, he found one in which the process could be repeated to produce a third magic square! The process can be done in other languages.