

TerraVoyage – Joke Book

A Spark & Anvil joke book. Groan-worthy puns, tricky riddles, silly nonsense, and real fun facts from the world of TerraVoyage – read them out loud and make someone laugh.

What's the smartest state in the US?

Alabama -- it has four A's and one B!

How to use this book

Read a joke, pause at the question, and try to guess the answer before you read on. Best of all: read them out loud to a friend, a grown-up, or your class. A good laugh makes the tricky stuff easier – that's real science.

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Puns

What's the smartest state in the US?

💡 Alabama -- it has four A's and one B!

Why did the map go to therapy?

💡 Because it had too many issues with its boundaries!

What do you call a country that only eats fast food?

💡 Greece! (Grease!)

Why is Europe like a frying pan?

💡 Because it has Greece at the bottom!

What did the Atlantic Ocean say to the Pacific Ocean?

💡 Nothing -- they just waved!

Why are mountains so funny?

💡 Because they're hill-arious!

What has a mouth but never speaks, a bed but never sleeps, and runs but never walks?

💡 A river! It has a mouth (where it meets the sea), a bed (the bottom), and a current that runs!

Why did the geographer get lost at the supermarket?

💡 Because they kept looking for the latitude and longitude of the cereal aisle!

What rock group has four members and none of them sing?

💡 Mount Rushmore!

Why do people in Finland always seem so happy?

💡 Because they're at the top of the world -- literally, they're way up north and consistently ranked happiest!

Why did the tectonic plate break up with the other tectonic plate?

💡 Because the relationship was on shaky ground and they kept drifting apart!

What did the tropical climate zone say to the temperate zone?

💡 "You're so mild-mannered! I'm way more extreme!"

Why did the longitude line feel more important than the latitude line?

💡 Because it goes all the way from pole to pole, while latitude just goes around in circles!

What do you call a lazy volcano?

💡 An extinct-tion event waiting to NOT happen!

Why did the Sahara Desert never feel lonely?

💡 Because it had Egypt on one side, Morocco on the other, and sand-millions of grains keeping it company!

Why did the glacier move so slowly?

💡 Because it had a lot of ice-olation to work through!

What did the refugee say to the border?

💡 "I've crossed more lines than a geographer's notebook!"

Why do geographers make great detectives?

💡 Because they always follow the clues to their coordinates and they never lose their bearings!

What did the cartographer say when they finished the world map?

💡 "I've really put the world into perspective -- using the Mercator projection, unfortunately!"

Why do trade routes never get bored?

💡 Because they're always moving goods and spreading culture -- they've been networking for thousands of years!

Riddles

I'm the largest continent by area and population. I stretch from Turkey to Japan. What am I?

💡 Asia! It covers about 44.6 million square km and is home to over 4.7 billion people -- about 60% of humanity.

I'm a line that goes around the middle of Earth like a belt. I divide the planet into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. What am I?

💡 The equator! It's at 0 degrees latitude and is about 40,075 km long.

I'm the tallest mountain on Earth, measured from sea level. Climbers dream of standing on my peak at 8,849 meters. What am I?

💡 Mount Everest! It sits on the border between Nepal and Tibet (China) in the Himalaya mountain range.

I'm a piece of land surrounded by water on all sides. Australia is the biggest version of me. What am I?

💡 An island! Australia is both the largest island and the smallest continent, depending on how you define it.

I'm the only continent where penguins live in the wild, and no country owns me. What am I?

💡 Antarctica! It's governed by the Antarctic Treaty, signed by 54 countries. Temperatures can drop below minus 89 degrees Celsius.

I flow through 10 countries and I'm the longest river in Europe. Beethoven wrote a famous waltz about me. What am I?

💡 The Danube River! It flows 2,850 km from Germany's Black Forest to the Black Sea.

I'm a climate zone where it's hot year-round, it rains almost every day, and more species live in me than anywhere else. What am I?

💡 The tropical rainforest climate! Found near the equator, tropical rainforests contain over 50% of Earth's plant and animal species.

I'm a structure visible from nearby hills (but not from space, despite the myth). I stretch over 21,000 km across northern China. What am I?

💡 The Great Wall of China! Built over many centuries starting around 700 BCE, it's the longest wall ever constructed.

I'm a narrow strip of water that connects two larger bodies of water. Ships pass through me to save weeks of travel. What am I?

💡 A strait! Famous examples include the Strait of Gibraltar (connecting the Atlantic and Mediterranean) and the Strait of Malacca.

I'm the most spoken native language in the world by number of speakers. About 920 million people speak me as a first language. What am I?

💡 Mandarin Chinese! English has more total speakers worldwide (including second-language speakers), but Mandarin has the most native speakers.

I'm an imaginary line at 23.5 degrees north. The Sun is directly overhead on my line on the summer solstice. What am I?

💡 The Tropic of Cancer! Its southern counterpart, the Tropic of Capricorn, is at 23.5 degrees south. Together they define the tropics.

I'm the driest, coldest, and windiest continent. I contain about 70% of all the fresh water on Earth, locked in ice. What am I?

💡 Antarctica! Its ice sheet is up to 4.8 km thick and contains 26.5 million cubic km of ice.

I was built in Egypt about 4,500 years ago. I'm the only surviving member of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. What am I?

💡 The Great Pyramid of Giza! Built around 2560 BCE as a tomb for Pharaoh Khufu, it was the tallest human-made structure for over 3,800 years.

I'm a line that separates two time zones. When you cross me heading east, you lose an hour. What am I?

💡 A time zone boundary! Earth is divided into 24 standard time zones, roughly 15 degrees of longitude apart.

I'm a city that spans two continents. Part of me is in Europe and part is in Asia. I've been the capital of three empires. What am I?

💡 Istanbul, Turkey! Formerly Constantinople and Byzantium, it straddles the Bosphorus Strait connecting Europe and Asia.

I'm a circular pattern of wind caused by Earth's rotation. I make hurricanes spin counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere. What am I?

💡 The Coriolis effect! It deflects moving air to the right in the Northern Hemisphere and to the left in the Southern Hemisphere.

I'm the movement of people from one place to another to live. I can be forced (by conflict) or voluntary (for work). What am I?

💡 Migration! The UN estimates there are about 281 million international migrants -- about 3.6% of the world's population.

I'm a type of map that shows population density, rainfall, or economic activity using colors and shading. What am I?

💡 A thematic map! Unlike political or physical maps, I focus on a specific topic or theme. Choropleth maps are a common type that uses color intensity.

I'm a narrow waterway dug by humans to connect two larger bodies of water. Two of the most famous versions of me are in Panama and Egypt. What am I?

💡 A canal! The Panama Canal (opened 1914) connects the Atlantic and Pacific, saving ships a 12,900 km trip around South America.

I was a network of trade routes connecting East Asia to the Mediterranean for over 1,500 years. Silk, spices, and ideas traveled along me. What am I?

💡 The Silk Road! It wasn't a single road but a network of overland and maritime routes connecting China, India, Persia, Arabia, and Europe.

Silly Stuff

What if countries had to introduce themselves at a party? – "Hi, I'm Canada -- I'm really big but most of my population lives near the bottom. Also, sorry." "I'm Australia -- I'm a continent AND a country, and everything here can probably hurt you." "I'm Vatican City -- I'm the smallest but I have the most hats per capita."

Imagine if continents could move fast enough to watch. – They actually ARE moving -- just about 2-10 cm per year. Africa and South America used to be neighbors (they fit together like puzzle pieces). In 250 million years, all continents will merge into a new supercontinent. The real estate market will be wild.

What if you had to eat the national dish of every country you studied in geography? – Japan: sushi, easy. Italy: pasta, delicious. Iceland: hakarl (fermented shark). Philippines: balut (developing egg). Scotland: haggis (sheep stomach stuffing). By country #47, your taste buds would file for early retirement.

What if GPS suddenly stopped working worldwide? – An entire generation would discover that they cannot, in fact, navigate anywhere without a blue dot. Paper map sales would spike 10,000%. Someone would definitely try to fold a road map and give up after 20 minutes. Map-folding is actually harder than map-reading.

Imagine if the Amazon River had a tourism board. – "Visit the Amazon! We have 3,000 species of fish, including piranhas! Our river is so wide in some places you can't see the other side! And our rainforest produces about 6% of the world's oxygen! Please don't swim without a guide."

What if every city was named after what it's actually known for? – Paris would be "Baguette Eiffel Town." New York would be "Expensive Pizza Grid City." Tokyo would be "Efficient Train Neon Metropolis." Venice would be "Sinking Boat City." Reykjavik would be "Gesundheit."

A student was asked to label the continents on a blank map and wrote "big one" on Asia, "cold one" on Antarctica, and "the one that looks like a boot" on Europe. – The teacher took off points, but the student argued that Italy literally looks like a boot, Scandinavia looks like a tiger, and South America looks like a ice cream cone. Geographic pattern recognition is a skill. Just not the one being tested.

What if the Sahara Desert and Antarctica had a debate about which is more extreme? – Sahara: "I'm 9 million square km of scorching sand reaching 50 degrees Celsius!" Antarctica: "I'm 14 million square km of ice reaching minus 89 degrees Celsius." Sahara: "Well, at least I have camels." Antarctica: "I have penguins in tuxedos." It's a draw.

Imagine if time zones were based on how tired people feel instead of longitude. – Monday morning everywhere would be "Exhaustion Standard Time." Friday at 3 PM would be "Almost Weekend Zone." The International Date Line would be renamed the "International 'What Day Is It' Line." The current system of 24 zones based on 15-degree longitude intervals suddenly seems pretty reasonable.

What if mountains competed in height competitions? – Everest (8,849 m) would be the champion -- unless you measure from base to summit, in which case Mauna Kea in Hawaii (10,211 m from ocean floor) wins easily. Meanwhile, Olympus Mons on Mars (21,900 m) would look down on everyone. Earth mountains have an inferiority complex.

What if borders were drawn by a toddler with a crayon? – Actually, look at Africa's map. Many borders ARE suspiciously straight lines drawn by European colonizers at the Berlin Conference of 1884-85, ignoring ethnic, linguistic, and geographic boundaries. The consequences of those arbitrary lines are still felt today. Sometimes the absurd scenario is the real one.

Imagine if all 7,000+ languages in the world were spoken in the same school. – Papua New Guinea alone has over 840 languages. The cafeteria would need menus in 7,000 languages. Morning announcements would take 3 weeks. On the bright side, "Language Arts" would be the most epic class ever.

What if climate zones had customer service reviews? – Tropical: "5 stars, always warm, but the humidity is aggressive." Temperate: "3 stars, can't commit to a season." Polar: "1 star, would give zero if I could. My water pipe froze. Also I am the water pipe." Mediterranean: "5 stars, dry summers, mild winters, would recommend."

A student asked, "If the Earth is spinning at 1,670 km/h at the equator, why don't we fly off?" – The teacher explained that gravity holds us down and we're moving WITH the Earth. The student then asked, "But what about the people in Australia? They're upside down." The teacher needed a moment. There is no "up" or "down" in space -- gravity pulls toward the center.

What if the Silk Road had been a literal road made of silk? – At roughly 6,400 km long and let's say 5 meters wide, you'd need about 32 million square meters of silk. Since one silkworm produces enough silk for about 0.09 square meters of fabric, you'd need roughly 356 million silkworms. The ancient Chinese kept silk production secret for a reason.

Fun Facts

Did you know? Russia is so large it spans 11 time zones. – When it's midnight in Kaliningrad (western Russia), it's already 10 AM in Kamchatka (eastern Russia). Russia covers over 17 million square km -- more than Pluto's surface area!

Did you know? There's a town in Norway called "Hell," and it freezes over every winter. – So yes, "when Hell freezes over" happens annually. Hell, Norway has a population of about 350 and is a popular tourist stop for the name alone.

Did you know? The Nile and the Amazon compete for the title of longest river. – The Nile is traditionally listed at about 6,650 km, but recent measurements suggest the Amazon may be longer at about 6,992 km. It depends on where you measure the source -- river length is surprisingly hard to pin down.

Did you know? More than half the world's population lives in Asia. – About 4.7 billion out of 8 billion people. China and India alone account for over 2.8 billion. If Asia were a school, it would have more students than the rest of the world's schools combined.

Did you know? Iceland is green and Greenland is icy -- and the names were possibly chosen on purpose to confuse people. – Viking legend says Erik the Red named "Greenland" to attract settlers to the icy island, while "Iceland" got its name from a Viking who saw ice in a fjord during a harsh winter.

Did you know? The Dead Sea is so salty that you float without trying. – It's about 10 times saltier than the ocean, with a salinity of roughly 34%. No fish can survive in it -- hence the name. It's also the lowest point on Earth's land surface, at about 430 meters below sea level.

Did you know? There are more people living inside a small circle around Bangladesh than outside it. – Draw a circle with a radius of about 3,300 km centered on Bangladesh, and you'll capture over 4 billion people -- more than half of humanity. South and East Asia are extraordinarily densely populated.

Did you know? The Pacific Ocean is larger than all the land on Earth combined. – The Pacific covers about 165 million square km, while Earth's total land area is about 149 million square km. You could fit every continent into the Pacific with room to spare.

Did you know? Africa has 54 recognized countries -- more than any other continent. – Africa is also the second-largest continent and has over 2,000 languages spoken across it. Nigeria alone has over 500 languages.

Did you know? The International Date Line isn't straight -- it zigzags to avoid splitting countries into two different days. – It roughly follows the 180-degree meridian in the Pacific Ocean but detours around Kiribati, Samoa, and other island nations. Kiribati actually moved the line in 1995 so the entire country would be on the same day.

Did you know? Mount Chimborazo in Ecuador, not Mount Everest, is the closest point to the Sun? – Because Earth bulges at the equator, Chimborazo's summit (6,263 m elevation) is about 2,168 m farther from Earth's center than Everest's peak. Everest wins for elevation above sea level; Chimborazo wins for distance from Earth's core.

Did you know? Vatican City is the smallest country in the world at only 0.44 square km. – That's about the size of 60 soccer fields. It has its own post office, radio station, and army (the Swiss Guard, with about 135 members). Monaco is the second smallest at 2.02 square km.

Did you know? The Mariana Trench is so deep that if you put Mount Everest at the bottom, its peak would still be over 2 km underwater. – The Mariana Trench reaches about 10,994 meters deep. Everest is 8,849 meters tall. The pressure at the bottom is over 1,000 times atmospheric pressure at sea level.

Did you know? About 80% of the world's food supply comes from just 12 plant species and 5 animal species. – Rice, wheat, and maize alone provide about 60% of the world's food energy. This lack of crop diversity makes the global food supply surprisingly vulnerable to disease and climate change.

Did you know? There are more than 500 million people who speak Spanish as a first language, spread across 20+ countries. – Spanish is official in countries on four continents (Europe, North America, South America, and Africa). It's the fourth most spoken language by total speakers, after English, Mandarin, and Hindi.

Keep laughing

That's **70 jokes** from TerraVoyage. Made someone laugh? Try making up your own – the best jokes are the ones you tell.

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