

“TET is an important holiday celebrating the New Year in what country west of the Gulf of Tonkin? Cape Columbia, the northernmost point in Canada, is on what island?” These are a few of the questions that our students were asked during the School-level National Geographic Bee Competition held January 11, 2011. All students in 4th – 6th grade competed in the classroom to narrow down the finalist to the top four students at each grade level. Students answered oral and written questions on geography. This was the first round in the 23rd annual National Geographic Bee. Thousands of schools around the United States participate in local school-level bees. Pictured are the finalists of top four students in each grade: (first row) Riley, Dalton, Kaitlyn, Ayleen; (second row) Sam, Kyle, Clayton; (third row) Jessie, Samantha, Jose (2nd place winner), Michael (1st place winner), and Dylan (3rd place winner). Michael will now take a written test for qualification to the state level Bee held in Des Moines in April. State champions are provided an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to participate in the National Geographic Bee national championship on May 24- 25. The National first-place winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship.



Over the years, the Jr. High has sent several students to the state level competition. By starting earlier with this program we are encouraging students to learn geography for life skills. Who knows; perhaps someday one of our students will make it to the National Competition and earn the grand prize!