



North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad

NACLO is a contest for high school and older middle school students involving linguistic puzzles. Students will apply their skills in logical analysis, learn about the diversity and consistency of language, and have fun. !

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No prior knowledge of linguistics or other languages is necessary!!

Open Round: January 23, 2020

About 1500 students will compete in the US and Canada.

Many high schools and universities host the contest for local students.

Invitational Round: March 5, 2020

The top 10% of students will be selected to compete.

International Linguistics Olympiad: Summer 2020

The top 8 students will represent the US at the international competition in Latvia.

The following are inscriptions in hieroglyphic *Luvian*, an ancient Anatolian language related to (and once thought to be) Hittite. These writings were totally incomprehensible until one scholar discovered the key: many of the words were names of regions, cities, and kings.

1.

4.

2.

5.

3.

6.

Above are six inscriptions that correspond to the names of two regions (*Khamatu*, *Palaa*), two cities (*Kurkuma*, *Tuvarnava*), and two kings (*Varpalava*, *Tarkumuva*). Your job is to match each inscription with the name that it represents. The process you use to solve this puzzle is very similar to what archeological linguists actually do when they discover writings and inscriptions in unknown languages.

Original problem by A. N. Zhurinskij. English adaptation by Valentin Vydrin.

Registration for NACLO is free and open to all students at nacloweb.org

SIU will host the contest on January 23, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Faner Hall Room 1005

Visit the website for more information:

nacloweb.org