

MORTAL JEOPARDY (answer)

by Gordon Dow

A dodecahedral structure is built by sliding the slits in each pentagon together. The structure can be assembled without any of the token words; it is simply the Earth with all the land masses replaced by water, and the water replaced by land. In the below photo South America is reasonably visible:



Each token word was an eight-letter word which is entered onto the corresponding face. Each face has exactly one green square and 3 or 4 red squares.

Each of the green squares (except one) winds up with a compass direction, which is used to traverse the globe's twelve faces (since each face has five sides, compass points are provided on all faces, although they are not labeled, so the solver has to figure out for herself which way is north). The final green square contains an X, indicating that the traversal ends there.

The red letters, when traversed in sequence, spell out:

(HET) (RAL) (SEG) (TAN) (RUT) (BLA) (OODY) (AFL) (NDI) (CIN) (AWE) (TER)

If you reorder each cluster of letters, you get the message:

THE LARGEST NATURAL BODY OF LAND IN ICEWATER

Which doesn't make any sense until you remember that "land" and "water" are transposed, yielding:

THE LARGEST NATURAL BODY OF WATER IN ICELAND

Which is, of course, Lake

THINGVALLAVATN

(Our database isn't Unicode-friendly, so the Icewateric spelling, Þingvallavatn, can't be submitted. The English transcription is above. For people misreading and transcribing by hand we also accepted "Þingvallavatn.")