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New York, Clarion Books, 64 p. (ISBN 0-395-52449-0)

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[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

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Geographunny is a humorous collection of cartoon drawings which relate to geographic names. This collection of 45 puns and riddles is organized according to 4 geographic areas: North America; South of the Border (Central and South America); Across the Atlantic (Europe and Africa) and Across the Pacific (east of Iran and west of North and South America). Each section, preceded by a map of the area, presents 11 cartoons, with the exception of North America which has 12. Most of the cartoons occupy one page (three are double page spreads), and all are bold and colourful with legible type. A wide range of mind-teasers and brain twisters are represented by the puns and riddles. Did you know there's a Mediterranean island which would make a good sandwich? Or that there are specific countries in which you are likely to find your parents? Can you answer "Why would you wear a lot of sweaters in a certain South American country?" Sometimes the clue for the answer can be found in the caption, at other times it is in the graphic. Frequent reference to the cartoon maps is a must — although the orientation of two of these (South of the Border and Across the Atlantic) makes easy reference awkward. With reference to the cartoon maps, as a cartographer, I was disturbed by the physical separation of contiguous geographic areas (pp. 22-23) for the apparent sole purpose of presenting the area within the format, and the difficulty of reading several of the printed names.

I would highly recommend this humorous book to a wide audience as, in addition to generating hours of fun, laughter, and groans it can assist relatively painless learning of general city locations and countries around the world. You will also be pleased to know, should all else fail, the answers are also provided (on page 64!).

Answers: Sardinia; Panama and Trinidad: Because it's Chile (chilly).

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