



National History Bee

2025-2026 Regional Tournament Study Guide – Gold Question Set

Instructions: This study guide should be your first step in preparing for the [National History Bee Regional Tournaments](#) on the Gold Question Set. Many of the facts below are found in the 120 questions on the Gold Question Set. Other facts in the study guide will be found in the other Question Sets being used this academic year. **However, the majority of questions in the tournament are not referenced in the study guide.** The study guide is meant to help you get started. It is not meant to be fully comprehensive as the essence of academic competition is not memorizing a list, but having wide-ranging knowledge.

Please also note that as this set is to be played against students from around the world on March 13 and April 11, there is significantly less content (approximately 10-20% rather than the standard 35-45%) on the history of the USA than is otherwise found in the other sets of the National History Bee, including at the National Championships.

As the questions are all short paragraphs on a particular topic, if a topic is found below, then it is a good idea to learn more about it (since additional facts about a topic will also be referenced in the question). It is also helpful to read the introduction of a Wikipedia page on a topic. Please also use our past question sets which are [found here](#). Many of the topics that are found in past years' questions will come up this year too. Good luck!

Note 1: This academic year, the study guides are slightly shorter than in past years, but we are also including a list of additional terms at the end. These are also likely to be referenced at some point in the tournament, but you will need to do some research to learn about the significance of each of these.

Note 2: Dates of peoples' lives are provided mostly for reference. With very few exceptions (e.g. mentioning the year of an assassination), birth and death dates are almost never directly mentioned in questions. Please do not waste time trying to memorize any dates if they are only provided in parentheses below.

African History

1. The discovery of [gold](#) in the Witwatershed Basin in South Africa sparked the growth of [Johannesburg](#).
2. The [Ethiopian Empire](#) was extended to its greatest extent under Menelik the Second.

Asian History

1. While ruling Babylonia, [Hammurabi](#) (1810 BCE - 1750 BCE) established the earliest and most complete written legal code.
2. [Indira Gandhi](#) (1917-1984) was the first female prime minister of India.

Asian History (continued)

3. The current president of the [Philippines](#), Bongbong Marcos, is the son of the country's former dictator, Ferdinand Marcos.
4. An ancient trade network between China and the West was defined by the trading of [silk](#).
5. The city of [Baghdad](#) served as the capital of the Abbasid Caliphate.

Ancient History

1. [Sparta](#) was a powerful city-state in Greece where boys began military training at age seven.
2. In 336 BCE, [Alexander the Great](#) succeeded his father, Philip II, as King of Macedon.

European History

1. [Constantine the Great](#) was the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity.
2. [Henry VIII](#) broke from the Catholic Church to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon in order to marry [Anne Boleyn](#).
3. During World War II, the final major German offensive in the West occurred at the [Battle of the Bulge](#), which was fought mostly in Belgium and Luxembourg in December 1944..
4. The [Russo-Ukrainian War](#) has been the deadliest war in Europe since World War II.
5. [Leonardo da Vinci](#) created notable Italian Renaissance artworks such as *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*.
6. During World War II, the United Kingdom was led by Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#) (1874-1965).
7. [Frederick the Great](#)'s nearly 50-year reign in the 18th century led to the emergence of Prussia as a major European power.
8. [Martin Luther](#) (1483-1546) sparked the Protestant Reformation after criticizing the sale of indulgences in his *Ninety-five Theses*.

Latin American History

1. [Juan Péron](#) (1895-1974) was the president of [Argentina](#) from 1946 until his overthrow in 1955. He became president again in 1973 until his death the following year.
2. [Haiti](#) was the site of a successful slave revolt against French colonial rule.

U.S. History

1. Cuba's struggle for independence sparked the [Spanish-American War](#).
2. The Declaration of Independence was principally authored by the third president, [Thomas Jefferson](#).
3. [Barack Obama](#) (1961 -), the United States first African-American president, notably ran with the primary slogans "Hope" and "Forward" during his two presidential campaigns.
4. Lin-Manuel Miranda's 2015 musical, [Hamilton](#), covers the life of the Alexander Hamilton during the American Revolution. Hamilton was also the first Secretary of the Treasury.

Terms for Further Study

1. [War of 1812](#)
2. [The Odyssey](#)
3. [Glasnost](#)
4. [George Washington](#)
5. [Falklands War](#)
6. [Bohemia](#)
7. [Apollo program](#)
8. [Milton Friedman](#)
9. [Volodymyr Zelenskyy](#)
10. [Quiet Revolution](#)
11. [Battle of Borodino](#)
12. [Mao Zedong](#)
13. [Five Civilized Tribes](#)
14. [Cyrus the Great](#)
15. [Marco Polo](#)
16. [Iran Hostage Crisis](#)
17. [René Descartes](#)
18. [Zoot Suit Riots](#)
19. [Brexit](#)
20. [Lee Kuan Yew](#)
21. [Archduke Franz Ferdinand](#)
22. [Musket Wars](#)
23. [Estado Novo](#)
24. [French Revolution](#)
25. [Great Depression](#)
26. [Juan Ponce de Léon](#)
27. [NATO](#)
28. [Watergate scandal](#)
29. [Peloponnesian War](#)
30. [Buddhism](#)