



National History Bee

2026-2027 Regional Tournament Study Guide – Red Question Set

Instructions: This study guide should be your first step in preparing for the [National History Bee Regional Tournaments](#) on the Red Question Set. Many of the facts below are found in the 120 questions on the Red 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.

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. [Apartheid](#) was a system of racial segregation enforced in South Africa between 1948 until 1994. Its name comes from the Afrikaans word for "apartness."
2. The [Sahara Desert](#) served as a vital trade route connecting North and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Asian History

1. Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay were the first people to reach the summit of [Mount Everest](#) in 1953.
2. India is the birthplace of several religions, including [Hinduism](#), [Jainism](#), and [Sikhism](#).
3. [Tenzin Gyatso](#) (1935 - present) was recognized as the 14th [Dalai Lama](#) in 1938 at the age of two.
4. [Angkor Wat](#) is a Cambodian monument and temple complex that appears on the country's flag and is the world's largest religious structure.
5. The [samurai](#) class emerged during the 10th century as private guards for wealthy landowners and ended in the late 1800s when Japan modernized their military.

Ancient History

1. [Mesopotamia](#) was a historical region known as the Fertile Crescent because it was situated in the floodplains of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, making it ideal for agriculture.
2. [Cleopatra](#) (51 BCE - 30 BCE) was a pharaoh of ancient Egypt whose death marked the start of Roman rule in Egypt.
3. The [Punic Wars](#) were a series of conflicts between the [Carthaginian Empire](#) and [Roman Republic](#) over influence in the Mediterranean.

European History

- 1 The Houses of Lancaster and York engaged in the [Wars of the Roses](#) for control of the English throne.

2. France abolished its monarchy in the midst of an ongoing [revolution](#), leading to the overthrow of King [Louis XVI](#) and [Marie Antoinette](#).
3. The [Magna Carta](#), signed by King John in 1215, ruled that the king was not above the law.

Latin American History

1. The [Maya](#) were an indigenous Mesoamerican civilization that spanned modern-day Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador.
2. The [Aztec Empire](#) was governed in modern-day Mexico from the city of [Tenochtitlan](#), now Mexico City. It was conquered by the Spanish in the early 16th century under [Hernan Cortes](#).

U.S. History

1. The [Interstate Highway System](#) was established under the Eisenhower presidency as a network of roads across the United States.
2. The Department of Defense is headquartered in the [Pentagon](#).
3. [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) (1882-1945) enacted the [New Deal](#) between 1933 and 1938, which led to the creation of programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Social Security Act.
4. The settlement of [Jamestown](#) in Virginia interacted closely with the Powhatan Confederacy, which included key figures such as [Pocahontas](#) (c. 1596-1617).
5. The [Underground Railroad](#) was a secret network of routes and safe houses that helped enslaved people escape to freedom.
6. A 13-day siege in which a group of Texian and Tejano defenders were overrun by the Mexican Army occurred at the [Alamo](#) Mission in San Antonio.
7. The [Pony Express](#) was a horse-mounted mail delivery service that connected Missouri to California from 1860 to 1861.
8. [Paul Revere](#) (1735-1818) was a legendary folk hero of the American Revolution who legendarily went on a “midnight ride” to alert colonial militias that the British troops were advancing.

Terms for Further Study

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| 1. NAACP | 11. Charles Darwin | 21. Vladimir Lenin |
| 2. Qin dynasty | 12. Ming dynasty | 22. Hundred Years' War |
| 3. Johannes Gutenberg | 13. American Civil War | 23. U.S. Constitution |
| 4. Mughal Empire | 14. Day of Infamy speech | 24. Helen of Troy |
| 5. Richard Nixon | 15. Mexico City | 25. Heliocentrism |
| 6. Carolingian Empire | 16. John Marshall | 26. House of Hapsburgs |
| 7. Roald Dahl | 17. Christianity | 27. Plymouth Colony |
| 8. JFK assassination | 18. Jane Goodall | 28. Impressionism |
| 9. Gladiator | 19. American Revolutionary War | 29. Reign of Terror |
| 10. Abolitionism | 20. Space shuttles | 30. Leonardo da Vinci |