2026-2027 Regional Tournament Study Guide – Question Set B

Instructions: This study guide should be your first step in preparing for the National History Bee and Bowl Regional Tournaments on the B Set of questions. Many of the facts below are found in the questions in this 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 people's 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 Zulu Kingdom in southern Africa existed from 1816 to 1897 and was notably led by Shaka (circa 1787-1828)
2. A West African empire inspired the post-colonial name of Ghana, which was first led by Kwame Nkrumah (1909-1972).
3. Robert Mugabe (1924-2019) led Zimbabwe, formerly Rhodesia, from its independence in 1980 until 2017, first as prime minister and then as president.

Ancient History

1. One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Hanging Gardens were legendarily built by Nebuchadnezzar the Second (c. 642-562 BCE) in what is now Iraq.
2. A tribune represented the political interests of Rome's commoner class, the plebeians.
3. As ruler of Persia, Darius the Great (circa 550-486 BCE) was succeeded by his son, Xerxes the First (circa 518-465 BCE).

Asian History

1. Beginning in 1975, Cambodia endured brutal communist rule under Pol Pot (1925-1998) and the Khmer Rouge.
2. *The Art of War* is a military treatise from the Spring and Autumn period, which is attributed to Sun Tzu (544-496 BCE), a general and strategist who served the state of Wu during the Eastern Zhou dynasty.

3. The Salt March to Dandi was led by Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) in 1930 and exemplified satyagraha, the leader's practice of non-violent resistance.
4. Deng Xiaoping (1904-1997) served as leader of China from 1978 to 1989, during which time he oversaw a program of economic reforms and the repression of the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests.
5. Mongol conquerors led by Kublai Khan (1215-1294) established the Yuan dynasty in China, which was eventually supplanted by the Ming dynasty.
6. The Yom Kippur War was a 1973 conflict between Israel and an Arab coalition mainly led by Egypt and Syria.

European History

1. Serfdom was officially abolished on royal lands in France in 1779 by Louis the Sixteenth (1754-1793).
2. Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim (1867-1951) led the military forces of Finland in the 1939 to 1940 Winter War against the Soviet Union.
3. Operation Barbarossa was the codename for the 1941 attempted Axis invasion of the Soviet Union, led by Nazi Germany.
4. The Habsburgs ruled the Holy Roman Empire, which was officially dissolved in 1806 by Emperor Francis the Second under pressure from Napoleon (1769-1821).
5. Charles the Tenth (1757-1836) was the last king of France from the main line of the House of Bourbon. He was overthrown in the July Revolution of 1830 and replaced by Louis-Philippe the First (1773-1850).
6. At the Yalta Conference in 1945, Allied leaders agreed to divide postwar Germany into four zones of occupation.
7. The KGB functioned as the main security agency of the Soviet Union from 1954 to 1991, handling both domestic security and foreign intelligence.
8. Several periods in history have been marked by iconoclasm, a movement to destroy depictions of religious figures for varied reasons. In the Byzantine Empire, this movement was led by those who renounced physical representations of Christ and the saints.
9. The red poppy is a symbol of Remembrance Day throughout the British Commonwealth.
10. The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) was ended by the Peace of Westphalia.

Latin American and Caribbean History

1. Rio de Janeiro served as the capital of the Portuguese Empire from 1808 to 1821, when the Portuguese royal court was based in Brazil.
2. The Columbian exchange brought crops such as tomatoes and potatoes to Europe from the New World.
3. Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie (1892-1975) is venerated in Rastafari, a religious movement that developed in Jamaica.
4. The War of the Pacific took place between 1879 and 1884 and resulted in Bolivia losing direct access to the ocean.
5. Giant stone heads were constructed by the Olmecs, a pre-Columbian civilization in Mesoamerica.

U.S. History

1. The first iteration of the Ku Klux Klan, a white supremacist hate group, was founded by Confederate veterans in 1865 and later led by Confederate general Nathan Bedford Forrest (1821-1877), its first Grand Wizard.
2. Death Valley was named by a group of lost pioneers who struggled to cross it in 1849, during the 1848 to 1855 California gold rush.
3. Atlanta was burned at the start of the March to the Sea, an 1864 scorched earth campaign led by Union general William Tecumseh Sherman (1820-1891).
4. Harvard University was founded in 1636, making it the oldest university in the United States.
5. Dealey Plaza in Dallas was the site of John F. Kennedy's 1963 assassination.

6. George Armstrong Custer (1839-1876) died at the Battle of the Little Bighorn, an 1876 defeat for U.S. forces at the hands of the Sioux, led by Sitting Bull (circa 1831-1890) and Crazy Horse (circa 1840-1877).
7. Known for its holiday bell-ringers, the Salvation Army was founded in 1865 as a Christian mission in London.
8. Francis Scott Key (1779-1843) wrote what would become the lyrics of "The Star-Spangled Banner" while detained near Fort McHenry in Baltimore.
9. Harry S. Truman (1884-1972) signed off on the first use of nuclear weapons when the U.S. bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.
10. Four months after his inauguration, James A. Garfield (1831-1881) was shot by Charles J. Guiteau (1841-1882). He died of his wounds that September, becoming the second U.S. president to be assassinated.

Terms for Further Study

1. Robber barons
2. Scottish independence
3. Joseon dynasty
4. Anglo-Saxons
5. American folk tales
6. Open Door Policy
7. Thomas Nast
8. Alaric the First
9. Cuban independence
10. American Indian Movement
11. samsara
12. Mujahideen
13. Corps of Discovery
14. Mysore Kingdom
15. flappers
16. Robert Fulton
17. League of Corinth
18. Pedro Cabral
19. Sarah Ferguson
20. *The Red Record*
21. Albania
22. Keith Haring
23. Battle of Jutland
24. Ivan Pavlov
25. Inca Empire
26. *Ulysses*
27. North Vietnam
28. María Corina Machado
29. Battle of Breitenfeld
30. *Loving v. Virginia*