2026-2027 Regional Tournament Study Guide – White Question Set

Instructions: This study guide should be your first step in preparing for the National History Bee Regional Tournaments on the White Question Set. Many of the facts below are found in the 120 questions on the White 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. Since 1994, politics in South Africa have been dominated by the African National Congress, a political party once led by Nelson Mandela (1918-2013).
2. Hosni Mubarak (1928-2020) resigned as president of Egypt in 2011, in part due to protests in Cairo.

Asian History
1. Three members of the Nehru-Gandhi family have served as prime minister of India since the country gained independence in 1947.
2. The Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) preceded the final imperial dynasty of China, the Qing (1644-1912).
3. Attila the Hun (c. 406-453) was defeated at the Battle of the Catalaunian Plains, ending his attempted invasion of the Western Roman Empire.
4. Aung San Suu Kyi (1945-) was placed under house arrest when a military junta launched a coup to take over Myanmar in 2021.
5. Brahma is the creator god in Hinduism.

Ancient History
1. Plato (428-347 BCE) was a Greek philosopher and student of Socrates (470-399 BCE) who wrote the *Republic*.
2. During the month of March, the Romans once held a festival honoring Mars, the god of war.
3. In chronological order, the three ages in the development of material cultures are the Stone Age (ending c. 4000-2000 BCE), Bronze Age (c. 3000-1200 BCE), and Iron Age (c. 1200-550 BCE), though the Copper Age (c. 6500-3000 BCE) describes a more disparate global development prior to the Bronze Age.

European History
1. Napoleon's (1769-1821) Hundred Days campaign ended with an 1815 defeat at the Battle of Waterloo.
2. Though it attached the word socialism to its name, the Soviet Union was a communist state that existed from 1922 until 1991.

3. The Anglo-Saxons were the dominant people group of Britain until the eleventh century, when William the First (1028-1087) arrived and began the Norman Conquest.

Latin American History

1. Mexico City was originally founded in 1325 as the island-bound Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan.
2. Centered in Peru's Andes with its capital at Cusco, the Inca Empire was the largest pre-Columbian civilization in the Americas until Spanish conquest in the 1530s.

U.S. History

1. Mount McKinley was officially renamed Denali in 2015 to honor its Indigenous Athabascan heritage and reverted back to Mount McKinley via executive order in January 2025.
2. Created by the Judiciary Act of 1789, the U.S. Attorney General serves as the head of the Department of Justice and the chief law enforcement officer of the federal government.
3. The Kingdom of Hawaii saw its monarchy illegally overthrown by American and European businessmen in 1893 before its territory became the 50th U.S. state in 1959.
4. The U.S. Navy SEALs are an elite special operations force trained to execute high-priority, unconventional warfare missions across Sea, Air, and Land environments.
5. Patrick Henry (1736-1799) was a governor of Virginia best known for his fiery "Give me liberty, or give me death!" speech that rallied support for the American Revolution.
6. *The New York Times* is an influential American newspaper that notably exposed the corruption of Boss Tweed in 1871 and defended press freedoms by publishing the Pentagon Papers in 1971.
7. The Battle of Yorktown was a 1781 joint Franco-American siege in Virginia that trapped General Cornwallis's British army and effectively ended the American Revolution.

Terms for Further Study

1. Hull House
2. Kublai Khan
3. Ada Lovelace
4. Sepoy Rebellion
5. Calvin Coolidge
6. Capetian Dynasty
7. Ian Fleming
8. Oklahoma City bombing
9. Helots
10. Prohibition
11. Alan Turing
12. Empress Dowager Cixi
13. Reconstruction
14. “Checkers” speech
15. Munich
16. Edmund Randolph
17. Amelia Earhart
18. First Great Awakening
19. Valley Forge
20. Transatlantic cable
21. Yuri Andropov
22. Joan of Arc
23. Fifth Amendment
24. Dido
25. Gregor Mendel
26. Eleanor of Aquitaine
27. Tecumseh
28. Kabuki
29. Haitian Revolution
30. Georgia O’Keeffe