



# National History Bee

## 2023-2024 Regional Finals Study Guide – White Question Set

**Instructions:** This study guide should be your first resource in preparing for the National History Bee Regional Finals on the White Question Set. Most of the facts below are found at some point in the 120 questions that compose the White Question Set. Thus we have selected these facts for this study guide to help make your preparation easier and more efficient. Remember that the questions are all short paragraphs on a particular topic, so if a topic is referenced below, then it is a good idea to learn a bit more about it on your own than what is listed here (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 to gain additional historical context about why it is significant. Please also use the National Capitals Study Guide and our past question sets (especially National History Bee Regional Finals questions from past years) which can all be found [here](#). Many of the topics that are found in past years' questions will again be found in the questions at this year's Regional Finals, and at the National Championships too. Good luck!

### African History

1. [Diamonds](#) are an important African resource that were controlled by cartels such as the de Beers group. The “[blood](#)” variety was used to fund revolutions and sectarian violence in west Africa.
2. [Morocco](#) is an African nation located directly south of the Strait of Gibraltar. Ruled by the [Alawi](#) dynasty, it claims the neighboring territory of [Western Sahara](#).
3. The white-dominated [apartheid](#) system ruled [South Africa](#) until the election of former political prisoner [Nelson Mandela](#) as the nation's first black president in 1994.

### Ancient History

1. [Tutankhamun](#) was the “boy king” of Egypt who ruled as pharaoh from 1332 to 1323 BCE, until his death at age 18. His supposedly-cursed tomb was discovered in 1922 by [Howard Carter](#).
2. The [Senate](#) was the legislative body of the Roman Republic.
3. [Nero](#) was the fifth emperor of Rome from 54 to 68 CE. A notorious oppressor of Christians, he supposedly played a fiddle during the [Great Fire of Rome](#).
4. [Sparta](#) was a militaristic Greek city-state that was the chief rival of Athens. The doomed stand of its king [Leonidas](#) at the [Battle of Thermopylae](#) was the subject of the movie *300*.
5. The [Battle of Marathon](#) was a 490 BCE Greek victory that ended the first Persian invasion of Greece. The runner Pheidippides legendarily dropped dead of exhaustion after running 26 miles to deliver news of the victory to Athens.

### Asian History

1. The [Vietnam War](#) lasted from 1955 to 1975, when Saigon was finally captured by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces.
2. [Mohandas \(Mahatma\) Gandhi](#) (1869-1948) was the best-known advocate of Indian independence. He was known for the nonviolent philosophy of [satyagraha](#), passive resistance, and fasting to achieve his goals.
3. [Buddha \(Siddhartha Gautama\)](#) was the founder of [Buddhism](#), containing sects such as Zen and Mahayana. He became enlightened while meditating under the Bodhi tree.
4. [The Philippines](#) are an island republic in Asia. Its capital of [Manila](#) is located on the island of [Luzon](#), and it was led from 2016 to 2022 by the populist president [Rodrigo Duterte](#).
5. [Mecca](#) is a Saudi Arabian city that is the holiest city in Islam.
6. The [Sepoy Mutiny](#) was an 1857 revolt by Indian mercenaries against British rule, primarily caused by rumors of the use of animal fat in the mercenaries' rifle cartridges.
7. The [Ottoman Empire](#) was the forerunner empire of the modern nation of [Turkey](#). Known in its last days as “The Sick Man of Europe”, its ruler [Mehmed II](#) conquered [Constantinople](#) from the Byzantines in 1453.

## Latin American History

1. [Fidel Castro](#) (1926-2016) was the dictator of Cuba from 1959 to 2008. He rose to power in 1959 after overthrowing [Fulgencio Batista](#) in the Cuban Revolution.
2. The [Panama Canal](#) was opened in 1914 in Central America, and connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

## European History

1. [Finland](#) is a Scandinavian nation that fought against the Soviet Union in the 20th century [Continuation](#) and [Winter Wars](#).
2. [Nazi Germany](#), led by dictator [Adolf Hitler](#), existed from 1933 to 1945 and was the leading member of the Axis Powers during World War II.
3. [Magna Carta](#), or the "Great Charter", was an early English "constitution" sealed at Runnymede in 1215 by [King John](#).
4. The [Light Brigade](#) was a British cavalry unit in the [Crimean War](#) that made an ill-advised charge at the 1854 [Battle of Balaclava](#). It was immortalized in a poem by [Alfred, Lord Tennyson](#).
5. [Ferdinand Magellan](#) (1480-1521) was the Portuguese leader of the first expedition to circumnavigate the Earth. He did not complete the journey himself, as he was killed in battle against natives in the Philippines.
6. [Florence Nightingale](#) was a British nurse who tended to soldiers fighting in the Crimean War.
7. [Czechoslovakia](#) was a nation that existed from 1917 to 1992, when the [Velvet Divorce](#) split it into the current nations of Czechia and Slovakia. It was stripped of its Sudetenland region in 1938 by the [Munich Agreement](#).
8. [Vatican City](#) is the smallest nation in the world in area, completely surrounded by the city of Rome inside Italy. It is ruled by the [pope](#), the head of the Roman Catholic Church.
9. The [Treaty of Versailles](#), signed in 1919, was the treaty that ended World War I, named for the palace outside Paris in which it was negotiated and signed.
10. [Charlemagne](#) (747-814), was the first [Holy Roman Emperor](#) and the founder of the [Carolingian Empire](#).
11. The [Tower of London](#) is an English prison, the site of numerous executions throughout British history and also the home of the British [Crown Jewels](#). King [Edward V](#) was likely murdered while a prisoner in the Tower.
12. [Winston Churchill](#) (1874-1965) was prime minister of the United Kingdom during most of World War Two, and again in the early 1950s, when he was Queen [Elizabeth II](#)'s first prime minister.
13. [Peter the Great](#) (1682-1725) was the modernizing tsar of Russia who founded the city of St. Petersburg.
14. Iceland and the UK had a series of disputes over fishing rights in the 20th century that were known as the Cod Wars.

## US History

1. [Jimmy Carter](#) (1924- ) was the President of the United States from 1977 to 1981. A Democrat who is the longest-lived President in U.S. history, he lost the 1980 election to [Ronald Reagan](#).
2. The [New Deal](#) was a set of 1930s economic relief programs passed under [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#), intended to help the U.S. recover from the [Great Depression](#).
3. [John Marshall](#) (1755-1835) was the longest-serving [Chief Justice](#) of the U.S. Supreme Court, whose majority decision in [Marbury v. Madison](#) established the principle of judicial review in American law.
4. [Alexander Hamilton](#) (1755-1804) was the first U.S. [Secretary of the Treasury](#). He was killed by [Aaron Burr](#) in an 1804 duel.
5. in Weehawken, New Jersey. [Baltimore](#) is the largest city in Maryland. The bombing of its Fort McHenry inspired [Francis Scott Key](#) to write the current U.S. national anthem, "[The Star-Spangled Banner](#)".
6. [Huey Long](#) was a Louisiana governor who was assassinated by Carl Weiss in Baton Rouge in 1935.
7. [Sam Houston](#) (1793-1863) was the first president of the [Republic of Texas](#) and also the only person to have served as governor of two separate U.S. states (Texas and Tennessee).
8. [Harriet Tubman](#) (1822-1913) was an abolitionist who led nearly 70 slaves to freedom through the Underground Railroad.
9. The [Battle of the Alamo](#) was an 1836 battle of the Texas Revolution in which the Mexican forces of [Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna](#) wiped out all of the Texan defenders of the San Antonio fort.
10. Harper Lee wrote [To Kill a Mockingbird](#), a famous novel that deals with themes of racism in 20th century Alabama.
11. The [Lewis and Clark Expedition](#), officially known as the Corps of Discovery Expedition, was an 1804-1806 expedition commissioned by [Thomas Jefferson](#) that explored the lands acquired by the [Louisiana Purchase](#).
12. [Indentured servants](#) were people who agreed to work without being paid in exchange for passage to the British colonies.
13. The election of [Rutherford B. Hayes](#) as the 19th president marked the end of the historical period known as [Reconstruction](#).