



National History Bee

2025-2026 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. [Mansa Musa](#) (1280-1337) was a 14th-century emperor of the [Mali Empire](#) who was known for his extreme wealth.
2. [Idi Amin](#) (1928-2003) was the military dictator of [Uganda](#) from 1971 to 1979. He is considered one of history's most brutal despots.
3. [Somalia](#) is a country located in the Horn of Africa. The site of the [Black Hawk Down](#) incident, it is often regarded as a [failed state](#).

Asian History

1. [North Korea](#) has been led since 1949 by the Kim family dynasty, including current dictator [Kim Jong Un](#).
2. The [Forbidden City](#) is the former palace of the Chinese emperors and consists of 980 buildings and courtyards inside the walls of Beijing.
3. [Angkor Wat](#) is a Cambodian monument and temple complex that appears on the country's flag and is the world's largest religious structure.
4. The [Han Dynasty](#) ruled China in ancient times (202 BC – 9 AD, 25–220 AD) and its name is used to refer to the majority ethnic group of China (Han Chinese).

Ancient History

1. [Sparta](#) was a Greek city-state that was famous for its warrior culture and its valiant loss at the [Battle of Thermopylae](#) during the Persian Wars.
2. The [Assyrian Empire](#) was an [Iron Age](#) empire in [Mesopotamia](#), governed from the city of Nineveh and once ruled by [Ashurbanipal](#).
3. [Pompeii](#) was a Roman town located in modern Italy that was destroyed by the [79 CE eruption of Mount Vesuvius](#).

European History

1. [Rishi Sunak](#) (1980 -) served as [Prime Minister of the United Kingdom](#) from 2022 to 2024, and was the United Kingdom's first Prime Minister of Hindu descent.
2. [Ukraine](#) is an Eastern European country and former Soviet republic that suffered under a man-made famine by Joseph Stalin called the [Holodomor](#) during the 1930s.
3. [Marie Antoinette](#) (1755-1793) was the Queen of France and wife of [King Louis the Sixteenth](#) who was executed by guillotine in 1793 during the [French Revolution](#).
4. The [Renaissance](#) was a period of intellectual and cultural rebirth that lasted from the 1300s to the 1600s. It was originally centered on the [Republic of Florence](#).

Latin American History

1. [Frida Kahlo](#) (1907-1954) was a Mexican surrealist painter who often painted self-portraits.
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. [Brown v. Board of Education](#) was a 1954 Supreme Court civil rights case that ended legal segregation in American education.
2. The [Spanish-American War](#) was triggered by the explosion of the ship [USS Maine](#) in Havana harbor in Cuba.
3. The [Cuban Missile Crisis](#) was a 1962 [Cold War](#) conflict between the U.S. and the Soviet Union that almost triggered nuclear war between those nations.
4. [Thomas Jefferson](#) (1743-1826) was the third President of the United States from 1801 to 1809. He lived at Virginia's [Monticello](#) plantation and founded the [University of Virginia](#).
5. [William Howard Taft](#) (1857-1930) was the 27th president of the United States from 1909 to 1913. He later served as [Chief Justice of the Supreme Court](#), the only president to have done so.
6. [Crazy Horse](#) (1840-1877) was a [Lakota Sioux](#) leader who won the [Battle of the Little Big Horn](#).
7. [Eli Whitney](#) (1765-1825) was the inventor of the [cotton gin](#), which greatly aided the growth of slavery in the American South by allowing cotton to be quickly processed.

Terms for Further Study

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| 1. Sikhism | 11. Henry VIII | 21. Taoism |
| 2. U.S. Capitol building | 12. Ming dynasty | 22. Osama bin Laden |
| 3. 1988 Winter Olympics | 13. Battle of Waterloo | 23. Nancy Reagan |
| 4. Squanto | 14. Boston Red Sox | 24. Brigham Young |
| 5. Salt March | 15. Parson Weems | 25. Frederick Law Olmsted |
| 6. Qing Dynasty | 16. George W. Bush | 26. Oliver Cromwell |
| 7. House of Tudor | 17. Ferdinand and Isabella | 27. Sir Isaac Newton |
| 8. Three Sisters | 18. Wimbledon | 28. Louvre |
| 9. Oracle of Delphi | 19. New York Times | 29. Battle of New Orleans |
| 10. Mother Teresa | 20. Space shuttles | 30. Diego Rivera |