



National History Bee

2025-2026 Regional Tournament Study Guide – Blue Question Set

Instructions: This study guide should be your first step in preparing for the [National History Bee Regional Tournaments](#) on the Blue Question Set. Many of the facts below are found in the 120 questions on the Blue 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. [Singapore](#) is a Southeast Asian city-state off of the [Malay Peninsula](#), led for decades by [Lee Kuan Yew](#).
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. [Genghis Khan](#) (1162-1227) was the founder and first leader of the [Mongol Empire](#).
4. Although [Mohandas Gandhi](#) (1869-1948) led the fight for the independence of [India](#), its first prime minister was [Jawaharlal Nehru](#) (1889-1964).

Ancient History

1. [Romulus and Remus](#) were the semi-mythical twin brothers who are considered to have founded [Rome](#) in 753 BC.
2. The [Persian Empire](#), also known as the Achaemenid Empire, was founded by [Cyrus the Great](#) (c. 600-530 BC) and was centered in what is now the modern nation of [Iran](#).
3. Temples such as the [Parthenon](#), on the [Acropolis](#) in [Athens](#), are where statues of ancient Greek gods were found.

European History

1. [Attila](#) (c. 406-453) led the [Huns](#) during their frequent raids of the [Western Roman Empire](#).
2. [Joseph Stalin](#) (1878-1953) was the dictator who succeeded [Vladimir Lenin](#) (1870-1924) as leader of the [Soviet Union](#) and led that nation through [World War Two](#).
3. The [Congress of Vienna](#) was a 1814-15 diplomatic meeting which reorganized Europe after the [Napoleonic Wars](#).
4. [Winston Churchill](#) (1874-1965) was the prime minister of the [United Kingdom](#) during most of World War Two. He succeeded [Neville Chamberlain](#) (1869-1940) in that office in 1940.

Latin American History

1. [Brazil](#) is a former Portuguese colony in South America that has been led by two different emperors named Pedro.
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. [Cotton](#) was the main cash crop grown in the [antebellum](#) American southern states.
2. The [Pentagon](#), located in [Arlington](#), VA, and the world's largest office building, has been the headquarters of the [US Department of Defense](#) since 1943.
3. The [Wright Brothers](#), Orville (1871-1948) and Wilbur (1867-1912), made the first powered airplane flight in 1903 in [Kitty Hawk, North Carolina](#).
4. [Benjamin Franklin](#) (1706-1790) is a US Founding Father whose portrait appears on the US [100 dollar bill](#).
5. [Abraham Lincoln](#) (1809-1865) led the Union through the [Civil War](#) and was assassinated by [John Wilkes Booth](#).
6. The [Cherokee Nation](#) is a [Native American](#) tribe that was expelled from northwest [Georgia](#) along the [Trail of Tears](#).
7. [John F. Kennedy](#) (1917-1963) was a [Massachusetts](#) politician who defeated [Richard Nixon](#) in the Presidential [election of 1960](#).

Terms for Further Study

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| 1. Adventures of Huckleberry Finn | 11. Qin Shi Huang | 21. Washington Crossing the Delaware |
| 2. Benjamin Henry Latrobe | 12. Tigris River | 22. Rosa Parks |
| 3. Ray Kroc | 13. Smoot-Hawley Act | 23. Lyndon B. Johnson |
| 4. Battle of the Milvian Bridge | 14. Boer Wars | 24. Herod the Great |
| 5. Politburo | 15. Macbeth | 25. John III Sobieski |
| 6. "I Have a Dream" speech | 16. North Korea | 26. Black Plague |
| 7. Green Eggs and Ham | 17. Appomattox Court House | 27. Polyphemus |
| 8. Anthony Albanese | 18. Plato | 28. Battle of Waterloo |
| 9. Mobutu Sese Seko | 19. Sequoyah | 29. Sabines |
| 10. Battle of Manila Bay | 20. Abu Bakr | 30. Monticello |