



International
History Bee



International
History Bowl

2025-2026 Regional Tournament Study Guide – Gamma History Set

Instructions: This study guide should be your first step in preparing for the [International History Bee and Bowl tournaments on the Gamma Question Set](#). Many of the facts below are found in the questions on the Gamma 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 on the website](#). 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. [Muammar Gaddafi](#) (1942-2011) was removed from power following a four-decade rule as dictator of [Libya](#).
2. [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](#).
3. The [Library of Alexandria](#) was a vast storehouse of books constructed by [Ptolemy the Second Philadelphus](#) (309–246 BCE).
4. The [Aksum Kingdom](#) (c. 200-960 CE) once controlled land in modern [Ethiopia](#) and [Eritrea](#).

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. Evidence of [Viking](#) settlers in North America was found in [L'Anse aux Meadows](#) in modern Newfoundland.
3. The [Second Triumvirate](#) included [Mark Antony](#), a lover of [Cleopatra](#).

Asian History

1. The [Forbidden City](#) is the former palace of the Chinese emperors and consists of 980 buildings and courtyards inside the walls of Beijing.
2. [Tokyo](#) was the chief target of the [Doolittle Raid](#) in 1942 following the [attack on Pearl Harbor](#).
3. [Ho Chi Minh](#) (1890-1969) was a revolutionary who founded the [Democratic Republic of Vietnam](#), better known as North Vietnam.
4. [Independence for the Philippines](#) from the United States was first officially signaled by the [Tydings-McDuffie Act](#) (1934). The USA had earlier annexed the Philippines after winning the [Spanish-American War](#) (1898).
5. Nobel Prize laureate [Muhammad Yunus](#) (b. 1940) founded [Grameen Bank](#) in [Bangladesh](#).
6. [Sikhism](#) is a religion that was founded in 15th-century India by [Guru Nanak](#) (1469-1539).
7. 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).
8. [Angkor Wat](#) is a Cambodian monument / temple complex that appears on the country's flag. It is the world's largest religious site.

European History

1. [Diana, Princess of Wales](#) (1961-1997) was the first wife of the current king of the United Kingdom, [Charles III](#) (b. 1948).
2. [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](#).
3. [Josip Broz Tito](#) (1892-1980) was a member of the [Non-aligned Movement](#) who led [Yugoslavia](#) in various posts from 1945 to 1980 after leading the [Partisans](#) during World War Two.
4. Since 1968, the [European Space Agency](#) has launched from [French Guiana](#), an overseas department of France in South America.
5. The [Parliament Act of 1911](#) gave more legislative power to the [House of Commons](#), the lower house of the Parliament of the United Kingdom.
6. The [RMS Lusitania](#) was carrying civilian passengers when it was sunk by a [German U-boat](#) in 1915.
7. The [Book of Kells](#), an [illuminated manuscript](#), was compiled around 800 CE and is now on display at [Trinity College](#) in [Dublin, Ireland](#).
8. [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.
9. [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.

Latin American History

1. [Frida Kahlo](#) (1907-1954) was a Mexican surrealist painter who often painted self-portraits.
2. [FARC](#) was a radical guerrilla group that existed from 1964 to 2017 in [Colombia](#).
3. [Chile](#) was once led by dictator [Augusto Pinochet](#) (1915-2006).
4. Large sculptures of heads known as [moai](#) have long been constructed on [Easter Island](#).
5. 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](#).

USA History

1. The [Hollywood sign](#) is a historical monument in [Los Angeles](#) that has long served as a symbol of the [American film industry](#).
2. The [March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom](#) took place in 1963 and was highlighted by [Martin Luther King Jr.'s](#) (1929-1958) "[I Have a Dream](#)" speech.
3. [James K. Polk](#) (1795-1849) served as the eleventh president of the United States from 1845 to 1849. He is generally well-ranked among historians due to the successful implementation of his agenda, including settling the [Oregon Dispute](#) and winning the [Mexican-American War](#).

Terms for Further Study

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| 1. Sikhism | 18. The Beatles |
| 2. Salt March | 19. Appian Way |
| 3. Qing Dynasty | 20. Mandate of Heaven |
| 4. Oracle of Delphi | 21. Kublai Khan |
| 5. Mother Teresa | 22. Suleiman the Magnificent |
| 6. Henry VIII | 23. Doctors' Plot |
| 7. Ming dynasty | 24. Zaibatsu |
| 8. Battle of Waterloo | 25. Frederick Douglass |
| 9. Ferdinand and Isabella | 26. Yugoslavia |
| 10. Taoism | 27. George McClellan |
| 11. Osama bin Laden | 28. Hugh Capet |
| 12. Marco Polo | 29. Mary Cassatt |
| 13. Tamil Tigers | 30. Nero |
| 14. John Macdonald | |
| 15. Vandals | |
| 16. Charlemagne | |
| 17. Titanomachy | |