



2023-2024 Regional Tournament Study Guide – Question Set Alpha

Instructions: This study guide should be your first resource in preparing for the International History Bee and Bowl regional tournament that is run on the Alpha Set of questions for the 2023-2024 academic year. Most of the facts below are found at some point in the preliminary rounds of this Set. Thus we have selected these facts for this study guide to help make your preparation easier and more efficient. No questions from the Bee Finals or the Bowl Playoffs were referenced in creating this study guide. This study guide is particularly meant to help new players and teams – not to determine the ultimate winner of the tournament. For that, you will need to do more preparation.

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, at a minimum, the introduction of a Wikipedia page on a topic to gain additional historical context about why it is significant. For the International History Bowl, we strongly recommend that your team divide up the topics here among the players who will be competing, so that at least one person on the team is responsible for knowing each of the various topics. On the other hand, remember that some of the topics below will be referenced in the questions in the International History Bee preliminary rounds, where students play individually, so it behooves students playing in the Bee to know all of the information contained below here.

Please also use the [National Capitals Study Guide found here](#) and our past question sets (especially National History Bee and Bowl Regional Tournament questions from past years) [which can 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 Tournaments, and at the European Championships too. Good luck!

African History

1. [South Africa](#) was the setting for a pair of wars between the British and [Boer republics](#).
2. [Charles Taylor](#) served as president of [Liberia](#) from 1997-2003 before being convicted of war crimes.

Ancient History

1. [Circe](#) was a mythical Greek sorceress best known for her appearance in [Homer's Odyssey](#).
2. [Cincinnatus](#) was a Roman dictator who is celebrated for voluntarily relinquishing power. Cincinnatus inspired the name of the [Ohio](#) city [Cincinnati](#).
3. [Chariot racing](#) in Ancient Greece and Rome was viewed at [hippodromes](#) such as the [Circus Maximus](#).
4. Modern knowledge of the [Minoan Civilization](#) began with [Arthur Evans'](#) discovery of a [Bronze Age](#) palace at [Knossos](#).
5. The [River Styx](#) was a mythical waterway of the Greek underworld [Hades](#).

Asian History

1. [The British East India Company](#) took control of much of South Asia after a victory in the 1757 [Battle of Plassey](#).

2. The [Golden Horde](#) was a [khanate](#) of the [Mongol empire](#) that was named for the color of their tents.
3. The 1954 [Battle of Dien Bien Phu](#) was a victory for the [Viet Minh](#) that resulted in the expulsion of [French colonial interests](#) in Southeast Asia.
4. [Chiang Kai-shek](#) led the [Republic of China](#) for 20 years before suffering defeat in the [Chinese Civil War](#) and relocating to [Taiwan](#).
5. The expansion of [Buddhism](#) was helped by [Mauryan](#) emperor [Ashoka the Great](#).
6. The [Iran-Iraq War](#) lasted from 1980-1988 and began when Iraq, under [Saddam Hussein](#), invaded Iran to challenge the ideology of theocratic ruler [Ruhollah Khomeini](#).
7. [Jawaharlal Nehru](#) served as the first prime minister of [India](#) from 1947-1964 who survived multiple assassination attempts and fathered [Indira Gandhi](#), the first female prime minister of India.
8. The [Four Great Classical Novels of China](#) include [Dream of the Red Chamber](#), [Journey to the West](#), [Water Margin](#), and [Romance of the Three Kingdoms](#), the latter of which focuses on the power vacuum left by the dwindling [Han Dynasty](#).

Latin American History

1. [Eva Peron](#) served as first lady of [Argentina](#) and prompted political action from working-class voters in support of her husband, [Juan Perón](#).
2. Until 1990, the [Sandinistas](#) led a junta, whose political hold on [Nicaragua](#) was challenged by the U.S.-backed [Contras](#).
3. [Pedro the Second](#) was the final emperor of [Brazil](#) prior to the dissolution of the monarchy. Pedro's daughter, [Isabel](#), signed the [Golden Law](#), which made Brazil the final western country to abolish slavery.
4. [Bolivia](#) is a country in South America that was named in honor of the liberator [Simón Bolívar](#).

European History

1. The [Charge of the Light Brigade](#) was an unsuccessful action taken by British cavalry during the [Crimean War](#).
2. The [Hanseatic League](#) was a European union that originated in northern Germany and fostered trade and mutual security among members.
3. From 1965-89, [Romania](#) was led by the dictator [Nicolae Ceaușescu](#) until his overthrow and execution.
4. [Marie Antoinette](#) reigned alongside [Louis the Sixteenth](#) as queen of France until her execution at the dawn of the [French Revolution](#).
5. The [Glorious Revolution](#) overthrew [James the Second](#), the last [Stuart](#) king of [England](#).
6. The reign of Empress [Catherine the Great](#) bolstered Russia's position on the international stage.
7. The Southern German state of [Bavaria](#) celebrates [Oktoberfest](#) and has its historical center and capital at [Munich](#).
8. The [Great Northern War](#) was an early eighteenth century conflict between Russia and the [Empire of Sweden](#) that ended in triumph for [Peter the Great](#).
9. The 1066 [Battle of Hastings](#) was fought as part of the [Norman Conquest of Britain](#) and resulted in the coronation of [William the Conqueror](#).
10. [Switzerland](#) has historically been partitioned into various subdivisions known as [cantons](#).
11. The [Baroque](#) era of music was epitomized by German composer [Johann Sebastian Bach](#) and his works such as the Brandenburg Concertos.
12. The [Kingdom of Great Britain](#) formed during the reign of [Queen Anne](#), whose death in 1707 put a permanent end to the Stuart dynasty.

US History

1. The [New Deal](#) was a set of federal programs under President [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) that created agencies such as the [National Recovery Administration](#) and the [Tennessee Valley Authority](#).
2. [Totem Poles](#) were constructed in the [Pacific Northwest](#) by native tribes of the United States.
3. The [Civil Rights Movement](#) ignited in [Montgomery, Alabama](#) when [Rosa Parks](#) refused to give up her seat on a [segregated](#) bus to a white passenger.
4. [Abraham Lincoln](#)'s cabinet included [Secretary of State William H. Seward](#), who negotiated the [purchase of Alaska](#) from Russia and was widely mocked for the large acquisition.
5. [Pocahontas](#) was a [Powhatan](#) woman who married [Jamestown](#) colonist and tobacco farmer [John Rolfe](#).