

# International Academic Competitions

## 2023-2024 International History Bee and Bowl Regional Tournament Study Guide Question Set Gamma

**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 Gamma 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. 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, in particular we recommend reviewing the past questions that are posted on the website at [www.ihbbeurope.com](http://www.ihbbeurope.com), [www.iacompetitionsasia.com](http://www.iacompetitionsasia.com), or [www.ihbbcanada.com](http://www.ihbbcanada.com) as well as the other resources there, such as the National Capitals Study Guide.

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). On the other hand, it is generally not helpful to memorize the dates of events or of famous people's birth and death years - those are provided below for historical context, not because we will likely ask for those. 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. Good luck!

### African History

1. The [Central African Republic](#) (CAR) is a country that was once led by Jean-Bédél Bokassa, who declared himself emperor.
2. [Jollof rice](#) is a culturally significant dish that is popular in West Africa and named for the [Wolof](#) people of modern-day Senegal.
3. [Lake Chad](#) is a body of water in Central Africa. The lake has been depleted since the 1970s by water rerouting plans.

### Asian History

1. The [Song dynasty](#) (960-1279) was an imperial Chinese dynasty that included the first use of paper currency, the perfection of the first compass, a treatise on the composition of gunpowder, and a porcelain form of movable type.
2. [Nineveh](#) was the capital of the [neo-Assyrian empire](#). The empire's peak was overseen by rulers such as Ashurbanipal and Sargon the Second.
3. [Sejong the Great](#) (1397-1450) was a leader of Korea during the [Joseon dynasty](#).
4. The presence of the [sepoy](#), a term for an Indian soldier, was common during the rule of the [British East India Company](#) until Bahadur Shah the Second's involvement in the [Indian Rebellion of 1857](#), or Sepoy Mutiny.

5. The only female empress of China to rule in her own right was [Wu Zetian](#) (624-705), an influential Queen Consort of the [Tang Dynasty](#) (618-907).
6. The [Tokugawa shogunate](#) (1603-1858) was a Japanese government founded by [Tokugawa Ieyasu](#) after the Battle of Sekigahara.
7. The [national flag of India](#) is based on the *Swaraj* flag, which was designed by Mahatma Gandhi and depicts a spinning wheel in its center.
8. The [House of Wisdom](#) was an [Abbasid](#) library in Baghdad and academic institution of the [Islamic Golden Age](#).
9. The third Emperor of the [Ming Dynasty](#) (1368-1644) was the [Yongle Emperor](#) (1360-1424), who ordered the construction of the Forbidden City and Porcelain Tower, as well as sponsoring the expeditions of [Zheng He](#).

### **Ancient History**

1. [Carthage](#) was the capital of Roman North Africa. Located in modern-day Tunisia, Carthage was also the capital of the Carthaginian empire, whose greatest general was [Hannibal Barca](#).
2. [Greek Fire](#) was a type of weapon using flammable liquids and chemicals that was used by the [Byzantine](#) empire during its defense from [Arab sieges](#).
3. The [Year of the Four Emperors](#) (68-69 CE) preceded the [Flavian dynasty](#) and included successive rulers [Galba](#), [Otho](#), [Vitellius](#), and [Vespasian](#).

### **U.S. History**

1. [Lyndon Baines Johnson](#) (1908-1973) acceded to the presidency upon the assassination of [John F. Kennedy](#) (1917-1963).
2. [Area 51](#) is a U.S. Air Force base that is conjectured to contain remains of aliens and alien spacecraft.
3. The [Battle of Iwo Jima](#) was a 1945 battle in the Pacific Theater of World War II, in which U.S. Marines overran a heavily-entrenched Japanese Army position at high cost.

### **Latin American and Caribbean History**

1. Rafts were used by pre-Columbian civilizations to travel along the coast of South America, as proved possible by Thor Heyerdahl's 1947 [Kon-Tiki expedition](#).
2. [Vasco Núñez de Balboa](#) (1475-1519) was a Spanish conquistador who, in 1513, crossed the Isthmus of Panama, becoming the first European to see the Pacific Ocean.
3. [Ernesto "Che" Guevara](#) (1928-1967) was an Argentinian Marxist revolutionary who was a key figure in the [26th of July Movement](#) that brought [Fidel Castro](#) to power in Cuba.
4. [Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier](#) (1907-1971) was the president and autocratic dictator of Haiti from 1957 until 1971.
5. A full third of the male population of [Paraguay](#) was killed during the [War of the Triple Alliance](#), which was started by its president, [Francisco Solano Lopez](#).

### **European History**

1. [Leonardo da Vinci](#) (1452-1519) and [Amerigo Vespucci](#) (1451-1512) were born in [Florence](#), the center of the Italian [Renaissance](#) (c. 1400). In the 1430s, the [Medici](#) family of bankers became the most powerful house in Florence, patronizing [Raphael](#), [Michelangelo](#), and many others.

2. [Sir Isaac Newton](#) (1642-1726/27) formulated his [Three Laws of Motion](#) in the 1687 work [Principia Mathematica](#).
3. [Gladiators](#) were Roman armed combatants who fought public duels in venues like the [Colosseum](#) for the amusement of the Roman public.
4. [Wernher von Braun](#) (1912-1977) was a German scientist who was extracted to the United States as part of [Operation Paperclip](#).
5. Austrian [Kurt Waldheim](#) (1918-2007) served as the fourth secretary-general of the United Nations from 1972 until 1981, succeeding U Thant of Myanmar.
6. The [Berlin Airlift](#) (1948-1949) was an American operation following World War Two to resupply the blockaded city of Berlin.
7. [François Mitterand](#) (1916-1996) served as president of France from 1981 until 1995.
8. [King George III](#) (1738-1820) was the King of Great Britain and Ireland during the [American Revolution](#).
9. The [Ustaše](#) was a Fascist organization that operated in Croatia from 1929 until 1945.
10. The [Battle of Leipzig](#) was an 1813 engagement between the [Sixth Coalition](#) and [Napoleon Bonaparte](#) (1769-1821).
11. [Francisco Franco](#) (1892-1975) was a Spanish general who became dictator of Spain after the [Spanish Civil War](#), ruling from 1939 until 1975 under the title *Caudillo*.
12. [Leif Erikson](#) (c. 970-1025) was a Norse explorer who founded Norse settlements on Greenland and gave the modern Labrador coast of Canada the name [Vinland](#). That expedition made him the first European to set foot in North America.
13. The [House of Bourbon](#) is a ruling dynasty that originated in the Kingdom of France. Notable rulers from this house include Henry IV, Louis XIV, and Louis XVI.
14. [Leon Trotsky](#) (1879-1940) was a [Bolshevik](#) revolutionary and theorist. Trotsky and the Bolsheviks supported [Vladimir Lenin](#) (1870-1924) and opposed the [Mensheviks](#).
15. The [Warsaw Pact](#) (Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance) was a collective defense agreement led by the [Soviet Union](#) and consisted of the USSR and seven other allied Eastern European nations.
16. [Benjamin Disraeli](#) (1804-1881) served as prime minister of the United Kingdom in 1868, then again from 1874 until 1880.
17. The [Hungarian Revolution of 1956](#) aimed to topple the country's Soviet-guided government, resulting in the short-lived leadership of [Imre Nagy](#) (1896-1958).
18. The [Risorgimento](#) is the term for the political movement that culminated with the kingdoms of the Italian peninsula unifying into a single [Kingdom of Italy](#) in 1861.
19. The [Irish Potato Famine](#) (1845-1852) was a period of mass starvation in Ireland that was exacerbated by the [Corn Laws](#).
20. [Hildegard of Bingen](#) (1098-1179) was a Benedictine abbess and German polymath who was accomplished as a writer, philosopher, and composer.
21. [Florence Nightingale](#) (1820-1910) was a British woman who is best-remembered for her role in providing aid during the [Crimean War](#) (1853-1956).