



2023-2024 Regional Tournament Study Guide – Question Beta Set

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 Beta 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. We particularly recommend participating in all-subject quiz bowl tournaments to gain more experience, as such tournaments have numerous questions on history. You can find quiz bowl tournaments near you by looking here: <https://hsquizbowl.org/db/tournaments/>.

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 Championships too.

Good luck!

African History

1. The Shona is the largest ethnic group inhabiting [Zimbabwe](#).
2. Tanzania was formed after Tanganyika merged with [Zanzibar](#) in 1964.
3. The [Angolan Civil War](#) was a 26-year conflict between the communist MPLA and the anti-communist UNITA.
4. [Mansa Musa](#) (? - c. 1337), the ruler of the Mali empire, is believed to have been the wealthiest person who ever lived.

Ancient History

1. The [Ark of the Covenant](#) is a holy relic, which, according to the Book of Exodus, contains the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments.
2. [Belisarius](#) (500-565) served as military commander under Justinian I. Known as "The Last Roman General," Belisarius conquered the Vandal Kingdom in the Vandalic War, as well as Italy during the Gothic War.
3. [Petra](#), the capital of the Nabataean Kingdom, is located in modern-day [Jordan](#).
4. The [Maurya Empire](#) was an ancient Indian empire that was founded in 322 BCE by Chandragupta.
5. [Nubia](#) was a region along the Nile River that was a major source of gold; the gold was the source of wealth for the Kushite Empire.
6. [Alexander the Great](#) (356 BCE - 323 BCE) and [Philip II](#) (382 BCE - 336 BCE) were notable members of the [Argead dynasty](#), which ruled Macedonia from about 700 to 310 BCE.
7. Dido was the first queen of [Carthage](#).

Asian History

1. The [Gobi Desert](#) lies on the border between China and Mongolia.
2. The [1948 Arab-Israeli War](#) resulted in Jordanian rule of the West Bank and Egyptian occupation of the Gaza Strip.
3. On May 2, 2011, [Osama bin Laden](#) (1957-2011) was assassinated by the U.S. Navy Seals in his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.
4. [Lee Kuan Yew](#) (1923-2015) served as the first prime minister of Singapore from 1959 to 1990.
5. In Chinese myth, [Pangu](#) is the creation deity who separated heaven and earth.
6. In 1869, Ezo was renamed [Hokkaido](#) following the [Meiji Restoration](#).
7. The [Boxer Rebellion](#) was a turn of the century uprising by anti-imperialists who sought to expel all foreigners from China.
8. Libya was ruled by [Muammar Gaddafi](#) (1942-2011) from 1969 until his assassination in 2011.
9. [Attila's](#) (c. 406 - c. 453) only defeat in his military career was in the Battle of the Catalaunian Plains.
10. The Manchus founded the [Qing dynasty](#), which was the last imperial dynasty in China.
11. [Aung San Suu Kyi](#) (1945 -) won the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize for her struggles in generating democracy in [Myanmar](#).
12. After her assassination in 1984, Indira Gandhi was succeeded by her son, [Rajiv](#) (1944-1991), as Prime Minister of India.
13. The religion of Islam was founded by [Muhammad](#) (c. 570 - 632) in 610 CE.
14. The semi-historical first Chinese dynasty, the [Xia dynasty](#), was supposedly founded by [Yu the Great](#).
15. The 1898 [Battle of Manila Bay](#) was the first major engagement of the [Spanish-American War](#).
16. The Avesta is a collection of religious texts of [Zoroastrianism](#).

European History

1. Roman villas such as Pompeii and Herculaneum were destroyed in the aftermath of the [Mount Vesuvius eruption in 79 CE](#).
2. [Eleanor](#) (c. 1122-1204) of [Aquitaine](#), was the Queen of France during her marriage with King Louis VII, and she became the Queen of England during her marriage with King Henry II.
3. [James Cook](#) (1728-1779) is credited as the first European to make contact with the Hawaiian islands and the eastern coast of Australia.
4. The [Magna Carta](#) was a 1215 document signed by [King John of England](#) in response to the demands of his barons.
5. [Enrico Fermi](#) (1901-1954) created the Chicago Pile-1, the world's first nuclear reactor.
6. Queen [Victoria](#) (1819-1901) was the longest-reigning British monarch until she was surpassed by Elizabeth II in September 2015.
7. [Conquistadors](#) were military explorers who were sent by the Spanish crown to claim land in the Americas. Hernán Cortés, Francisco Pizarro, and Juan Ponce de León were all conquistadors.
8. Basil II was known as the "Bulgar Slayer" after he led the [Byzantine Empire](#) in defeating the [First Bulgarian Empire](#) at the Battle of Kleidion.
9. [Marco Polo](#) (1254-1324) was a Venetian merchant who journeyed to Asia by traveling on the Silk Road. He documented his adventures in *The Travels of Marco Polo*.
10. The [Anschluss](#) refers to Austria's annexation into the German Reich in 1938.
11. [Charles de Gaulle](#) (1890-1970) was the president of France between 1959 to 1969. He previously led the French Free Forces during World War II.
12. [Golda Meir](#) (1898-1978) became the first and only woman to serve as prime minister of Israel, which she held from 1969 until 1974.
13. The [Visigoths](#) were Germanic people who sacked Rome in 410 CE under Alaric I.
14. [Otto von Bismarck](#) (1815-1898) was a key figure in the unification of Germany in 1871 and served as the nation's first chancellor.
15. [Hernando de Soto](#) (1500-1542) was a Spanish explorer who was the first European to cross the Mississippi River.
16. Philip V's ascension as king following the death of Charles II in 1700 led to the [War of the Spanish Succession](#).
17. [Hermann Göring](#) (1893-1946) was a prominent figure of the Nazi Party who served as the Supreme Commander of the [Luftwaffe](#), the German air force.

- World War I was formally ended by the [Treaty of Versailles](#).
- [Leif Erikson](#) (970s - 1018 or 1025) was a Norse Viking who was believed to have been the first European to reach the Americas.
- [Niels Bohr](#) (1885-1962) was a Danish physicist who theorized that electrons move around an atom's nucleus in fixed orbits.
- Jacques-Louis David created one of the most commonly reproduced images of [Napoleon Bonaparte](#) (1769-1821) with a [painting](#) depicting him on horseback crossing the Alps.
- The [Socialist Republic of Romania](#) dissolved as a result of the 1989 Christmas Revolution, which included the overthrow and execution of dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu.
- [David Lloyd George](#) (1863-1945) led the United Kingdom through the end of World War I.
- [Franz Joseph I](#) (1830-1916) was the Emperor and King of the Austro-Hungarian Empire from 1848 until his death in 1916.
- [William the Conqueror](#) (c. 1028-1087) fought Harold Godwinson (c. 1022-1066) during the Battle of Hastings for a succession struggle upon the death of [Edward the Confessor](#) (c. 1003-1066).
- [Sigmund Freud](#) (1856-1939) developed psychoanalysis, a discipline which evaluates the unconscious mind.
- Calculus was independently invented by [Isaac Newton](#) (1642-1726/27) and [Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz](#) (1646-1716).

Latin American and Caribbean History

- The 1828 Treaty of Montevideo secured the independence of [Uruguay](#) after a three-year conflict with Brazil and the dissolution of its federation with Argentina.
- The [Guatemalan Revolution](#) ended in a 1954 coup d'état which resulted in the overthrow of Jacobo Árbenz.
- [Francisco "Pancho" Villa](#) (1878-1923) was a Mexican revolutionary who was a key figure in the ousting of President Porfirio Díaz from power. Villa's capture was the subject of a 10-month U.S. expedition after he led an attack on Columbus, New Mexico.
- The [War of the Triple Alliance](#) was fought between Paraguay and a union that consisted of Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay.
- [Brazil](#) gained independence from Portugal on September 7, 1822 under the leadership of Emperor Pedro I.
- Between 1932 to 1935, Bolivia and Paraguay engaged in a [war](#) to gain control of the northern part of the Gran Chaco region.

U.S. History

- [J. Robert Oppenheimer](#) (1904-1967) was the director of the Los Alamos Laboratory, which was responsible for designing the atomic bomb.
- [Jesse Owens](#) (1913-1980) was an African-American track and field athlete who won four gold medals at the [1936 Summer Olympics](#).