



International
History Bee



International
History Bowl

2026-27 Regional Tournament Study Guide – Gamma History Set - Europe

Instructions: This study guide should be your first step in preparing for the [International History Bee and Bowl tournaments](#) on the Gamma Set of questions. 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: 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. Egypt became the first Arab state to recognize Israel under the leadership of President [Anwar Sadat](#) (1918-1981).
2. In 2003, Sudanese dictator [Omar al-Bashir](#) (1944 - present) launched a [Darfur](#) counter-insurgency campaign, killing 300,000 civilians.
3. The government of South Africa has been led by the [African National Congress](#) since the end of [apartheid](#) in 1994.

Ancient History

1. The [Crisis of the Third Century](#), a destructive 50-year period, was ended by [Diocletian](#) (242/243-311/312).
2. [Mycenae](#) is an archaeological site in Greece that was home to the legendary king [Agamemnon](#).
3. [Theodosius the Great](#) (347-395) was a Roman emperor who made [Nicene Christianity](#) the official state religion of the Roman Empire.

Asian History

1. [Bangladesh](#) was led by [Sheikh Hasina](#) (1947 - present) from 1996 to 2001 and again for four consecutive terms from 2009 until her resignation in August 2024.
2. The [eruption of Krakatoa](#) in 1883 created the loudest sound recorded in history.
3. The collapse of the [Han dynasty](#) was followed by an era of civil war called the [Three Kingdoms](#) period.
4. The [Mongol Empire](#) was established by [Genghis Khan](#).
5. The [Indus Valley Civilization](#) spanned modern-day Pakistan, northwestern India, and northeastern Afghanistan.
6. [Sukarno](#) (1901-1970) led the [nationalist movement of Indonesia](#) before becoming the country's first president in 1945.
7. The beginning of the [Korean War](#) was marked by an invasion by North Korean forces as they crossed the 38th parallel.

8. A noblewoman named Murasaki Shikibu wrote what is widely considered the world's first novel, the [Tale of Genji](#).
9. The nonviolent resistance philosophy called *satyagraha* was utilized by [Mahatma Gandhi](#) (1869-1948) to mobilize the people of India against British rule.
10. The [Forbidden City](#) is a palace in Beijing that served as the imperial seat for 24 emperors.
11. The [Kingdom of Mysore](#) was located in the modern Indian state of [Karnataka](#).
12. The [Umayyad Caliphate](#) ruled as the first Muslim dynasty before giving way to the [Abbasids](#).

European History

1. The [Velvet Divorce](#) of 1993 resulted in the dissolution of [Czechoslovakia](#) into the Czech Republic and Slovakia.
2. The [RAF](#) successfully defended the United Kingdom against the [Luftwaffe](#) during the [Battle of Britain](#).
3. [Maria Theresa](#) (1717-1780) was the only female ruler to govern the [Habsburg](#) Domain.
4. The [Hanseatic League](#) consisted of a network of merchant guilds in Northern and Central Europe.
5. England's Catholic king [James the Second](#) was replaced with Protestant Mary the Second and William the Third in the [Glorious Revolution](#).
6. The [Spanish Armada](#) was sent by King [Philip the Second](#) of Spain in 1588 to overthrow Queen Elizabeth the First of England.
7. The [British East India Company](#) was established in 1600 and held a monopoly on trade with Asia until it was dissolved in 1874.
8. The [Reign of Terror](#) during the French Revolution was primarily led by radical [Jacobin](#) leader [Maximilien Robespierre](#).
9. British explorer [James Cook](#) (1728-1779), the first European to visit the Hawaiian Islands, mapped New Zealand and the eastern coastline of Australia.
10. The Provisional Government of Russia was overthrown by the [Bolsheviks](#) in the [October Revolution](#).
11. The [Iron Curtain](#) was a physical, political, and ideological barrier that split Europe into two separate halves during the Cold War.
12. The [Warsaw Pact](#) was a military alliance between the Soviet Union and seven Eastern Bloc socialist republics during the Cold War.
13. The [Crimean War](#) was a conflict from 1853 to 1856 where Russia fought against an alliance of the Ottoman Empire, France, Great Britain.
14. [Peter the Great](#) (1672-1725) founded the port city of Saint Petersburg in 1703, which served as Russia's capital for 200 years.
15. The [French national anthem](#) is named for revolutionary supporters from [Marseille](#).
16. The Nazis used a [1933 fire at the Reichstag](#) as a [pretense to assume power](#).
17. [Brussels](#) serves as the headquarters of the [European Union](#).

Latin American and Caribbean History

1. The [Sandinistas](#), a guerilla group and political party in Nicaragua, overthrew the [Somoza family](#) dictatorship in 1979.
2. [Juan Perón's](#) (1895-1974) namesake political movement, Peronism, focused on three pillars: social justice, economic independence, and political sovereignty. It is still popular today in Argentina.
3. Disputes over the ownership of the [Falkland Islands](#) resulted in a 1982 war between the United Kingdom and Argentina. The vast majority of its citizens are descended from British settlers.
4. Beginning in 1667, the Dutch colonized [Suriname](#) and ruled it for nearly 300 years until the country achieved full independence in 1975.
5. [Toussaint Louverture](#) (1743-1803) led the enslaved people of [Haiti](#) in a successful revolt against French colonial rule and slavery.

U.S. History

1. [Theodore Roosevelt](#) (1858-1919) formed the [Bull Moose Party](#) in 1912 after losing the Republican Party presidential nomination to [William Howard Taft](#) (1857-1930).
2. Soldiers of the [Continental Army](#) endured a harsh winter while encamped at [Valley Forge](#) during the American Revolution.

Terms for Further Study

1. [Zoroastrianism](#)
2. [Prussia](#)
3. [Wu Zetian](#)
4. [English Civil War](#)
5. [Ishtar / Inanna](#)
6. [Sir Christopher Wren](#)
7. [Camp David Accords](#)
8. [Trajan](#)
9. [Nicaragua](#)
10. [Suleiman the Magnificent](#)
11. [Huldrych Zwingli](#)
12. [Zhou dynasty](#)
13. [95 Theses](#)
14. [Shah Jahan](#)
15. [British Parliament](#)
16. [Neil Armstrong](#)
17. [Peloponnesian War](#)
18. [Sir Francis Drake](#)
19. [Jammu](#)
20. [Laozi](#)
21. [Madagascar](#)
22. [Edouard Manet](#)
23. [Samarkand](#)
24. [Holy Roman Empire](#)
25. [Tenochtitlan](#)
26. [Homer](#)
27. [Haile Selassie](#)
28. [Simon Bolivar](#)
29. [1683 Siege of Vienna](#)
30. [Battle of Mactan](#)