

2024-2025 Regional Tournament Study Guide – Gamma Set

Instructions: This study guide should be your first resource in preparing for the International History Bee and Bowl regional tournaments that are run on the Gamma Set of questions for the 2024-2025 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, beyond 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 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 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 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 National Championships too. Good luck!

African History

1. [Rwanda](#) suffered a [1994 genocide](#) when members of the [Hutu ethnic group](#) killed hundreds of thousands of members of the [Tutsi](#) and [Twa](#) ethnic groups.
2. The [Arab Spring](#), a collective uprising against undemocratic practices in Middle Eastern and North African countries, began in [Tunisia](#) in 2010.
3. [Zanzibar](#) is an island group that united with mainland [Tanganyika](#) to form [Tanzania](#) in 1964.
4. [Biafra](#) was a breakaway state that existed from 1967-70 and fought [Nigeria](#) in a namesake [civil war](#).
5. [Algeria](#) is a country in Northern Africa that gained its independence after [war](#) with [France](#).

Ancient History

1. [Cyrus the Great](#) (c. 600-530 B.C.E.) founded the [Achaemenid Empire](#) in Persia (modern [Iran](#)).
2. The Western Roman Empire's fifth-century [collapse](#) is closely linked to the 455 [Sack of Rome](#) by the [Vandals](#).
3. In Greek myth, the inventor [Daedalus](#) was imprisoned by [King Minos](#), who ordered Daedalus to build a [labyrinth](#) for the [minotaur](#).

Asian History

1. The [Tamil Tigers](#) (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or LTTE) were a separatist group that sought an independent Tamil state in [Sri Lanka](#) from 1976 to 2009.
2. Nobel Peace Prize winner [Malala Yousafzai](#) (b. 1997) is a [Pakistani](#) advocate for women's education.
3. Malaysia forcibly expelled Singapore in 1965, making the island city-state the first country to be granted involuntary independence.
4. The [Battle of Dien Bien Phu](#) (1954) was a decisive victory for Vietnamese forces and marked the end of colonial [French influence in Southeast Asia](#).
5. The [Forbidden City](#) is a complex in [Beijing](#) that was inhabited by the emperor of China for over 500 years, beginning with the [Yongle Emperor](#) (1360-1424).
6. [The Great Wave off Kanagawa](#) is an 1831 woodblock print created by Japanese artist [Hokusai](#) (1760-1849).
7. [Akbar the Great](#) (1542-1605) of the [Mughal Empire](#) founded a syncretic religion called [Din-i-Ilahi](#).
8. [Lady Murasaki](#) (c. 973-1025) wrote the early novel [The Tale of Genji](#) during the [Heian Period](#).
9. The [Six-Day War](#) (1967) was a brief conflict between [Israel](#) and a coalition of [Arab states](#) over shipping access via the [Straits of Tiran](#).
10. [Sukarno](#) (1901-70) was a dictator who held power as president of [Indonesia](#) from 1945-67 before being overthrown and succeeded by [Suharto](#) (1921-2008).

European History

1. The [Brothers Grimm](#) (1785-1863) were a pair of German siblings who recorded and popularized such fairy tales as "[Sleeping Beauty](#)" and "[Cinderella](#)."
2. In 1990, the Baltic states [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), and [Estonia](#) declared their independence after the fall of the [Soviet Union](#).
3. The [Bourbon](#) king [Philip the Fifth](#) (1683-1746) assumed the throne following the [War of the Spanish Succession](#) (1701-1714).
4. The [unification of Germany](#) occurred under the rule of [Otto von Bismarck](#) (1815-1898), the 'Iron Chancellor.'
5. Modern nursing began with approaches developed by [Florence Nightingale](#) (1820-1910) during the [Crimean War](#).
6. French composer [Claude Debussy](#) (1862-1918) is best known for impressionist piano pieces such as [La mer](#) and [Claire de Lune](#).
7. The [Battle of Lepanto](#) was a 1571 naval battle and victory for the [Holy League](#) over the forces of the [Ottoman Empire](#).
8. Political dissidents in the Soviet Union were imprisoned in [gulags](#) by an agency called the [NKVD](#).
9. The [Borgias](#) were an influential Italian family whose most powerful members included [Rodrigo](#) (1431-1503), [Cesare](#) (1475-1507), and [Lucrezia](#) (1480-1519).
10. [Benjamin Disraeli](#) (1804-1881) was a [Conservative](#) prime minister of the United Kingdom noted for his rivalry with [William Gladstone](#) (1809-1898).
11. [Iceland](#), which was once controlled by [Denmark](#), is home to one of the world's oldest parliaments, the [Althing](#).
12. The [Beer Hall Putsch](#) was a 1923 coup against the [Weimar Republic](#) and an early bid for power by [Adolf Hitler](#).
13. The [Champs-Élysées](#) is a historical thoroughfare in Paris that features the [Arc de Triomphe](#).
14. The rule of [Prime Minister Antonio Salazar](#) of [Portugal](#) ushered in a period of the country's history known as the [Estado Novo](#).
15. [Giuseppe Garibaldi](#) (1807-82) was an Italian revolutionary who fought during the [Risorgimento](#) movement and earned the nickname 'The Hero of Two Worlds.'

16. Russian author [Fyodor Dostoevsky](#) (1821-1881) wrote novels including [Crime and Punishment](#) and [The Brothers Karamazov](#).
17. [Thor](#), the [Norse](#) god of thunder, is known for wielding the hammer [Mjolnir](#).
18. King [Richard the Lionheart](#) (1157-1199) fought the [Ayyubid](#) ruler [Saladin](#) (c. 1137-1193) while leading the [Third Crusade](#).
19. Scottish explorer [David Livingstone](#) (1813-1873) was the subject of a search of British colonial Africa led by [Henry Morton Stanley](#) (1841-1904).
20. Twelfth-century England was blighted by a lawless civil war called [the Anarchy](#).

Latin American and Caribbean History

1. The [Inca Empire](#) was founded in modern [Peru](#), which had its historical center at [Cusco](#) prior to being conquered by [Francisco Pizarro](#) (1478-1541).
2. From 2006-19, [Bolivia](#) was governed by [Evo Morales](#) (b. 1959), the country's first indigenous president.
3. In recent history, gangs have become a major problem in [Haiti](#), particularly in the capital, [Port-au-Prince](#).
4. The United States launched a 1983 [invasion of Grenada](#) on the pretense of supporting American medical students in the country.
5. Modern [Mexico City](#) was founded on the site of [Lake Texcoco](#) and the [Aztec](#) ruins of [Tenochtitlan](#).

U.S. History

1. The First [Battle of Bull Run](#) (First Battle of Manassas) in 1861 established that the escalation of disagreements between the [Union](#) and [Confederacy](#) had become a [full-blown civil war](#).
2. [Herman Melville](#)'s (1819-1891) experience in the [whaling industry](#) informed the content of his 1851 novel [Moby-Dick](#).
3. [Manifest Destiny](#) was a belief in the ordained right of the United States to [expand westward](#) during the nineteenth century.