



# National History Bee

## 2023-2024 Regional Finals Study Guide – Red Question Set

**Instructions:** This study guide should be your first resource in preparing for the National History Bee Regional Finals on the Red Question Set. Most of the facts below are found at some point in the 120 questions that compose the Red Question Set. Thus we have selected these facts for this study guide to help make your preparation easier and more efficient. 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 the introduction of a Wikipedia page on a topic to gain additional historical context about why it is significant. Please also use the National Capitals Study Guide and our past question sets (especially National History Bee Regional Finals questions from past years) which can all 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 Finals, and at the National Championships too. Good luck!

### African History

1. [Rwanda](#) was the site of a major [genocide](#) in 1994 perpetrated by the Hutu ethnic majority against the Tutsi population.
2. After the [Second Boer War](#), the Orange Free State and the Transvaal Republic were annexed into the British Empire.
3. [Idi Amin](#) (1924 or 1925-2003) was a Ugandan dictator who disintegrated the country's economy after he expelled all Asians, most of which were Indian-Ugandans.

### Asian History

1. The last Chinese imperial dynasty was the Manchu-led [Qing dynasty](#), which lasted between 1644 until 1911.
2. [Babur](#) (1483-1530) was the founder of the [Mughal Empire](#). His grandson and eventual emperor, [Akbar](#) (1542-1605), was credited with extending the empire across the Indian subcontinent.
3. The [Forbidden City](#) is a palace complex in [Beijing](#), China containing 9,999 rooms.
4. [Shinzo Abe](#) (1954-2022) served as the Prime Minister of Japan from 2012 until 2020. He was assassinated on July 8, 2022 while delivering a campaign speech in Nara.
5. The [Philippines](#) was the site of the first major engagement of the Spanish-American War, the 1898 [Battle of Manila Bay](#).
6. [Mahatma Gandhi](#) (1869-1948) led the 24-day [Salt March](#) to protest against British's monopoly of salt production in India.
7. [Al-Qaeda](#) is a militant Sunni Islamic organization founded by [Osama bin Laden](#) (1957-2011).

## Ancient History

1. The Greek city of [Thermopylae](#) was the site of a major 480 BCE battle between the Greek city-states and the [Achaemenid Persian Empire](#).
2. The [Library of Alexandria](#) in ancient Egypt was believed to contain over half a million documents.
3. [Julius Caesar](#)'s (100 BCE-44 BCE) crossing of the [Rubicon](#) in 49 BCE sparked his namesake civil war.
4. [Confucius](#) (551 BCE-479 BCE) was a Chinese philosopher whose teachings highlight love, morality, and respect. His principles are compiled in the [Analects](#).
5. The [Great Pyramid of Giza](#) is was commissioned by pharaoh [Khufu](#) ( 2620 BCE-2566 BCE), whose final resting place is at the Great Pyramid. It is the only surviving Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

## European History

1. World War I was formally ended in 1919 with the signing of the [Treaty of Versailles](#).
2. During World II, the Soviet Union was led by [Joseph Stalin](#) (1878-1953).
3. [Warsaw](#), Poland was the site of a failed 1944 [uprising](#), which resulted in the Home Army surrendering to German forces after 63 days.
4. Rome's third emperor was [Caligula](#) (12-41), whose four-year reign was marked by tyranny, paranoia, and cruelty.
5. The "Catholic Monarchs" refer to Queen [Isabella I](#) of Castille (1451-1504) and King [Ferdinand II](#) of Aragon (1452-1516), both whose marriage in 1469 unified Spain.
6. The [Provisional Irish Republican Army \(IRA\)](#) sought to end British rule in Northern Ireland and the reunification of Ireland. The IRA were responsible for the assassination of Lord Louis Mountbatten in 1979, as well as the attempted assassination of Margaret Thatcher amidst the Brighton hotel bombing in 1984.
7. The [Berlin Wall](#) that separated East and West Germany, beginning in 1961 until its demolition in 1989.
8. Characterized by geometric shapes, the art style called [Cubism](#) was introduced during the early 20th century by [Pablo Picasso](#) (1881-1973) and [Georges Braque](#) (1882-1964).
9. Beheading by the [guillotine](#) was the primary mode of execution during the [French Revolution](#). [Maximilien Robespierre](#) (1758-1794), [Louis XVI](#) (1754-1793), and [Marie Antoinette](#) (1755-1793) were all beheaded by the guillotine.
10. [Adam Smith](#) (1723-1790) was a Scottish moral philosopher whose book, *The Wealth of Nations*, is a fundamental piece of work in classical economics.
11. The [Crimean War](#) was fought between the Russians and an alliance comprised of the British, French, and the Ottoman Empire. One prominent figure of the war was [Florence Nightingale](#) (1820-1910), who led a team of nurses to care for wounded soldiers.
12. Queen [Victoria](#) (1819-1901) ruled the United Kingdom from 1837 until her death in 1901. She was the longest reigning monarch of the United Kingdom until she was surpassed by Queen [Elizabeth II](#) (1926-2022), whose death in 2022 ended her reign after 70 years.
13. Italian Fascism was founded by [Benito Mussolini](#) (1883-1945), who led Italy during World War II.

## Latin American History

1. The [Incan Empire](#) was the largest empire to ever exist in the Americas. It extended from modern-day Argentina to southern Colombia.
2. [Ernesto “Che” Guevara](#) (1928-1967) was an Argentinian Marxist revolutionary. A key figure in the [26th of July Movement](#) that brought [Fidel Castro](#) to power in Cuba, Guevara also authored [The Motorcycle Diaries](#) and is still a countercultural symbol. He was executed in Bolivia in 1967 after being captured by CIA-backed forces.
3. [Simón Bolívar](#) (1783-1830) was a military leader who led the effort in South America's independence from the Spanish Empire.
4. [Frida Kahlo](#) (1907-1954) was a Mexican surrealist painter whose notable works include *Memory, the Heart and Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*.
5. [Mexico](#) was home to five major civilizations, including the [Aztec](#), [Maya](#), and the [Olmec](#).

## U.S. History

1. Between 1848 and 1855, the [California Gold Rush](#) saw the migration of prospectors, or “forty-niners”, after gold nuggets were found in the Sacramento Valley.
2. The “[I Have a Dream](#)” speech was delivered by [Martin Luther King Jr.](#) (1929-1968) on August 28, 1963.
3. [Henry Kissinger](#) (1923 - ) served as the secretary of state under Richard Nixon.
4. The [Whig Party](#) was a political party that rivaled the Democratic Party between the mid-1830s to the mid-1850s. Prominent politicians in the Whig Party included Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and John Quincy Adams.
5. [Geronimo](#) (1829-1909) was an Apache leader who led resistance against American and Mexican incursions of the Apache homeland.
6. [Kit Carson](#) (1809-1868) was an American frontiersman who lends his name to the capital of Nevada.
7. [Henry Clay](#) (1777-1852) was a prominent politician and statesman who represented Kentucky during the early to mid-1800s. His incredible negotiation skills earned him the nickname “The Great Compromiser.”
8. The [American Red Cross](#) was founded by [Clara Barton](#) (1821-1912).
9. The [Louisiana Purchase](#) was the 1803 acquisition of land west of the Mississippi River. Thomas Jefferson purchased the Louisiana territory from France for \$15 million. Consequently, this deal doubled the size of the United States.
10. [Frederick Douglass](#) (1817 or 1818-1895) was an abolitionist who published the *North Star*.
11. The inaugural First Lady of the United States was [Martha Washington](#) (1731-1802).
12. In January 2002, [George W. Bush](#) (1946 - ) established the [Guantánamo Bay](#) detention camp as part of the War on Terror following the 9/11 attacks. When the facility first opened, the number of people detained there reached 780. Only 30 people reside at the facility as of April 2023.
13. [Robert E. Lee](#) (1807-1870) was the commander of the Confederate States Army during the American Civil War. On April 9, 1865, General Lee surrendered to Union Lieutenant General [Ulysses S. Grant](#) (1822-1885) at Appomattox Courthouse.