

The International History Bee and Bowl

Asian Division Study Guide



Welcome to the International History Bee and Bowl Asian Division Study Guide!

To make the Study Guide, we divided all of history into 5 chapters: Middle Eastern and South Asian History, East and Southeast Asian History, US American History, World History (everything but American and Asian) to 1789, and World History from 1789-present. There will also be specific questions about the history of each of the countries where we will hold tournaments. A list of terms to be familiar with for each country is included at the end of the guide, but in that section, just focus on the country where you will be competing at your regional tournament (at least until the Asian Championships).

Terms that are in bold should be of particular focus for our middle school division, though high school competitors should be familiar with these too. This guide is not meant to be a complete compendium of what information may come up at a competition, but it should serve as a starting off point for your preparations. Certainly there are things that can be referenced at a tournament that are not in this guide, and not everything that is in this guide will come up. At the end of the content portion of the guide, some useful preparation tips are outlined as well.

Finally, we may post additional study materials, sample questions, and guides to the website at www.ihbbasia.com over the course of the year. Should these become available, we will do our best to notify all interested schools.

Good Luck, and see you at your regional tournament!

-David and Nolwenn Madden for The International History Bee and Bowl

US American History

What are the great events of US American History?

The United States began as a collection of thirteen colonies under the rule of England. Early settlers often got into fights with the Native American population; this would last on-and-off until the late 1800s. The new country declared its independence on July 4, 1776, from England in the midst of a war whose biggest hero was **George Washington**, who would become the first president of the United States. After the War, **The U.S. Constitution** was created, outlining the structure of government and guaranteeing certain rights through the accompanying Bill of Rights. England invaded in 1812, but were defeated. Perhaps the most significant event in the 1800's in America was the **Civil War**. Lasting from 1861-1865, it saw eleven Southern states leave the country over the issue of slavery. **Abraham Lincoln** served as president during the war.

After the Civil War and the period of **Reconstruction** that followed, the United States entered into what is known as the Progressive Era, which ended with America's entry into the first World War. The U.S. was only active in **World War I** for one year, and fought with the victorious Allied Powers against the Central Powers. Following World War I, the U.S. saw a period of great economic success and cultural change known as the Roaring Twenties. The '20s came to an end with the stock market crash of 1929 and the crippling effects of the **Great Depression**.

Mired in the Great Depression, the American people elected Franklin D. Roosevelt president. His New Deal was a series of federal programs to stimulate the economy and advance the country. While it's still unclear whether his New Deal was an economic success, there's no doubt that America's involvement in **World War II**, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, got its economy back on track. Following World War II, in which the U.S. defeated the Axis powers—with many lives lost, though—the new threat was the Cold War, a long period of weak relations between the Communist Soviet Union. The Cold War manifested itself most notably in the **Korean War** (1950-1953) and the **Vietnam War** (1955-1975).

The post-World War II-era was also known for the Civil Rights Movement, in which minorities and oppressed groups—most importantly African-Americans and women—fought for equality. The work of leaders such as Malcolm X and **Martin Luther King, Jr.** brought an end to segregation in the South and encouraged equality among blacks and whites.

Focus on Famous US Americans:

- **Alexander Hamilton** was a Founder and the first Secretary of the Treasury. He established the First Bank of the U.S., helped write the *Federalist Papers*, espoused Federalist ideas, and was killed in a duel by Aaron Burr.
- **Benjamin Franklin** was a Founder who wrote *Poor Richard's Almanack*, and worked on scientific projects concerning bifocals and electricity.
- **George Washington** was the first American president, and before that, led the Continental Army. He encouraged the US to stay out of foreign affairs and avoid the political party system.
- **Thomas Jefferson** was the third U.S. president. He authored the Declaration of Independence, completed the Louisiana Purchase, sent Lewis and Clark west, supported separation of

(**Thomas Jefferson continued**) church and state, and founded the University of Virginia.

- **John F. Kennedy** was the first Catholic president. He was elected in 1960 and assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963. He oversaw the Bay of Pigs invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis, and fought for America's space program.
- **Martin Luther King Jr.** was an important leader in the effort for equality between whites and African Americans known as the Civil Rights Movement. He was assassinated in Memphis in 1968.

- **Ronald Reagan** was a conservative Republican president who urged Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall, was in office during the Iran-Contra scandal, supported supply-side economics, and was shot by John Hinckley. Before he turned to politics, Reagan was a Hollywood actor.

What You Should Also Know

- Jamestown
- Pilgrims
- Thanksgiving
- Mayflower
- Puritans
- French and Indian War
- George Washington
- Harvard / Yale / Princeton Universities
- New York City
- Boston
- Philadelphia
- Articles of Confederation
- Battle of Bunker Hill
- Battle of Saratoga
- Boston Massacre
- Boston Tea Party
- John Adams
- Louisiana Purchase
- Salem Witch Trials
- War of 1812
- California Gold Rush
- Ellis Island
- Statue of Liberty
- Mexican-American War
- Battle of Antietam
- Battle of Gettysburg
- Mark Twain
- Andrew Jackson
- Theodore Roosevelt
- Woodrow Wilson
- Thomas Edison
- Trail of Tears
- Yellowstone National Park
- Hawaii
- F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Wright Brothers
- Jackie Robinson
- Babe Ruth
- Amelia Earhart
- Franklin Roosevelt
- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Harry Truman
- Joe McCarthy
- Elvis Presley
- Ernest Hemingway
- Dwight D. Eisenhower
- John F. Kennedy
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Malcolm X
- Lyndon Johnson
- Richard Nixon
- Watergate
- Ronald Reagan
- Bill Clinton
- Michael Jordan
- George W. Bush
- Google
- McDonald's
- Super Bowl
- Tiger Woods
- Serena Williams
- Apple / Steve Jobs
- September 11 Attacks
- Hillary Clinton
- Barack Obama
- Mitt Romney
- Steven Spielberg
- September 11 Attacks

Middle Eastern and South Asian History

Early civilizations including the **Sumerians** and **Babylonians** in modern-day Iraq, and the **Indus River Valley** civilization in modern-day Pakistan—differed from their hunter-gatherer predecessors in the use of **writing systems**, and development around **fertile river valleys**. The Hittites built an early empire centered in modern-day Turkey. The **Persians** were another power; they fought Greeks in a series of wars leading to the conquests of Alexander the Great.

As modern civilizations and empires developed, so did today's most widely spread religions. Both starting in India, **Hinduism** and then **Buddhism** spread and attracted many followers. Of course, the beginning of the Common Era brought the birth of Jesus Christ and the rise of **Christianity**, which became entwined with power through the institution of the **papacy**. In the year 622, the prophet Muhammad founded **Islam** in Arabia. Muslim dynasties known as **caliphates** would rule the Middle East, North Africa, and Spain for centuries. Christians and Muslims came into frequent conflict, and around 1100-1400, fought a series of holy wars known as the **Crusades**. The dominant empire for many years in the Middle East was the **Ottoman Empire**. They took the city of Constantinople in present-day Turkey in 1453 for their capital. In India, two major empires were the **Mauryan** and **Mughal**. Other important empires were the Mongol-led Golden Horde and the Safavid Empire in Southwest Asia.

Much of the Middle East and South Asia found itself under British Rule, most notably India, where many Indians fought back in incidents like the Black Hole of Calcutta and the Sepoy Mutiny. India's successful independence movement was led by **Mohandas Gandhi**. Mohammed Ali Jinnah led the independence movement in Pakistan. In the Middle East in the 20th century, the most contentious issue was the Jewish state of **Israel**, which fought the Yom Kippur War and the Six Day War against the Palestinians and their allies. Many Middle Eastern countries in OPEC grew wealthy through **oil booms** in the 20th century including the **UAE and Saudi Arabia**. Other contemporary issues include American involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan and movements across the Middle East and North Africa as part of the **Arab Spring** in 2011.

What You Should Also Know: (See also country-specific terms at the end!)

- Babylon
- Jerusalem
- King Solomon
- Wonders of the World
- Byzantine Empire
- Cyrus the Great
- Zoroastrianism
- Buddha
- Ashoka
- Chandragupta
- Constantine
- Constantinople
- Crusades
- Akbar the Great
- Indus River Valley
- Silk Road
- Mecca and Medina
- Lawrence of Arabia
- Indira Gandhi
- Mohandas Gandhi
- Jawaharlal Nehru
- Ayatollah Khomeini
- Persian Gulf War
- Saddam Hussein
- Oslo Accords
- Cricket
- Soviets in Afghanistan
- Tamil Tigers
- Afghanistan War
- Dubai
- Abu Dhabi
- Burj Khalifa
- Osama bin Laden
- Manmohan Singh
- Slumdog Millionaire
- Bollywood
- Iraq War
- Mount Everest
- Maldives
- Kazakhstan
- Bangladesh
- Bashar Assad

East Asian and Southeast Asian History

The History of China can be traced back to the first dynasty, the Shang Dynasty (1700-1406 BCE), though the somewhat mythical Xia Dynasty may have preceded it. The Shang used oracle bones to receive messages from the spiritual world. The first dynasty of the Imperial period was the short-lived Qin Dynasty, which featured the rule of **Qin Shi Huangdi** and the legalist philosophy, as well as the commencement of the construction of the **Great Wall of China**. The Qin was followed by the **Han Dynasty** (202 BCE to 220 CE), with Western and Eastern eras. The Han is known for its advances in art and culture and reliance on Confucianism. It was threatened by the Yellow Turban Rebellion. The next major dynasty was the Tang Dynasty.

Meanwhile, across the sea, Japan began to see its classical era flourish. *The Tale of Genji* was written by Lady Murasaki during the Heian Period, the last major classical period before the introduction of the feudal system. The feudal system in Japan operated with regional leaders known as *daimyo* and other leaders known as *shogun*. The *daimyo* were patrons to *samurai*, who were specialized soldiers.

In China, the rule of ethnic Chinese families and groups was interrupted by the Yuan Dynasty, led by Kublai Khan, the grandson of **Genghis Khan**. The Mongols were extremely successful at conquering thousands of square miles. One place they did not conquer was Japan, despite two attempts by the Yuan. The so-called “**kamikaze**” or “divine-wind” of a typhoon helped scatter a possible invasion fleet. After the Yuan, the **Ming Dynasty** ruled from 1368-1644. An important cultural era noted for its vases, the Ming Dynasty also featured the naval voyages of **Zheng He**.

Japan entered into the **Tokugawa Shogunate** in 1600. It would last until 1868 when the Emperor Meiji was restored to power. This period saw Japan opening up to Christian missionaries and later American trade. In Southeast Asia, the most important ruling era was that of the Khmer Empire. Lasting from 802 to 1431, it covered most of present-day Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand. Its capital was Angkor, at which the massive temple complex known as **Angkor Wat** was constructed.

China's last dynasty, the Qing, ended as the Kuomintang under Sun Yat-sen took power. He was replaced by **Chiang Kai-shek**, but the Nationalists were defeated in 1949 by **Mao Zedong** and the Communists. The government in China has been communist since then and is now led by **Xi Jinping**. Japan has transitioned to a constitutional monarchy. The country fought with the Axis in World War II, and suffered heavy damage, most notably at through atomic bombs at **Hiroshima and Nagasaki**. After 1945, Japan became an economic dynamo through companies such as **Toyota & Nintendo**. It suffered through 2 decades of low economic growth beginning in 1990, though it is starting to recover under controversial Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe**

Southeast Asia also developed quickly after WW 2, despite the **Vietnam War**, and the **Khmer Rouge** genocide led by Pol Pot in Cambodia. **Singapore** became a prosperous city-state due to the policies of Lee Kwan Yew, while **Thailand** and **Malaysia** also joined the largest country in the region, **Indonesia**, in the **ASEAN** (Association of South East Asian Nations) organization.

What You Should Also Know: (See also country-specific terms at the end!)

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| • Emperor Akihito | Emperor Akihito | Samsung | Hirohito |
| • Ho Chi Minh | Dien Bien Phu | Hyundai | Kim Jong-Il |
| • Mao Zedong | Sun Yat Sen | Pandas | Korean War |
| • Kublai Khan | Java | Shanghai | Tet Offensive |
| • Genghis Khan | Olympics in Japan | Fukushima | DMZ in Korea |
| • Angkor Wat | Olympics in South Korea | Macau | Kim Jong-Un |
| • Attila the Hun | Olympics in China | Deng Xiaopeng | Kim Il-Sung |
| • Ming Dynasty | Brunei | Table Tennis | Bangkok |
| • Suharto | Ferdinand Marcos | Sumo | Beijing |
| • Papua New Guinea | Typhoons | Aung San Suu Kyi | Petronas Towers |

World History, the beginning until 1789

Ancient Egypt developed civilization in Northern Africa around 3000 BC, later building **pyramids** and expanding under the long reign of Ramses II. The **Ancient Greeks** made tremendous advances in **philosophy** under Plato and Aristotle, and government, creating a **democracy in Athens**. The heyday of the Greeks was followed by that of **Ancient Rome**, who expanded throughout Western Europe and the Mediterranean Basin led by **Julius Caesar**, **Augustus**, Trajan, and Hadrian, among others. Rome also built the **Coliseum** and Circus Maximus as sporting venues for gladiators and horse races respectively.

The fall of Ancient Rome due to Barbarian invasions brought on the **Middle Ages**, which saw **Christianity** spread throughout Europe. Charlemagne was crowned Holy Roman Emperor in 800, and later, the **English** and **French** monarchies developed. The Black Death swept Europe in the 14th century, killing up to 1/3 of the population. The Dark Ages ended with the **Renaissance**, **centered in Italy** a period of prosperity, academic and artistic talent led by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and others.

The **Catholic Church** played a massively important role in daily life, however science became more important during the Scientific Revolution, as researchers like **Galileo** and **Copernicus** defied religious leaders. This period also saw backlash against the church in the form of the **Protestant Reformation**, a period which saw new churches created in opposition of the rule and policies of the Catholic Church. One of the leaders of the Reformation was **Martin Luther**, whose 95 Theses outlined his complaints against the Church. In addition, **Henry VIII** created the Church of England.

This period also featured the age of exploration, especially **Christopher Columbus** finding the New World in 1492 for the Spanish monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella. The Spanish quickly overtook most of what is now Latin America. Conquistadors pillaged the area for gold, territory, and converts, destroying the cultures of the **Aztecs** in central Mexico and the **Incas** in Peru. Brazil was claimed by Portugal, which also sponsored **Vasco da Gama's** expedition to India around Africa.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, the **Enlightenment** developed in Europe through the leadership of John Locke, Voltaire, and other thinkers who emphasized the use of reason for scientific and political life. Under Queen Elizabeth I, England saw off an attempted invasion by the Spanish Armada in 1588. The modern nation-state system largely developed out of the end of the 30 Years War with the Peace of Westphalia in 1648. **Louis XIV** of France, known as the Sun King, then became the dominant ruler in Europe. Problems with finances and the example of the American Revolution ultimately led Louis XVI to call the Estates General, beginning the French Revolution.

Further Focus:

- **Alexander the Great** was a Macedonian king (Macedon was one of the states of Ancient Greece), who ruled the largest empire ever built at the time of his death. He defeated the Persians and scores of civilizations in the Mediterranean and Middle East.
- **Ancient Rome** existed under three forms of government: the Kingdom, the Republic, and the Empire. It was founded by Romulus and Remus in 753 BCE, and was sacked by Visigoths in 410 CE.
- **Elizabeth I** was the Queen of England from 1558 to 1603. She had her cousin, Mary Queen of Scots, executed, and defeated the Spanish Armada.
- **Charlemagne** was a Frankish king who became the first Holy Roman Emperor in 800 CE. He greatly expanded the territory of his ancestors, grandfather Charles Martel and father Pepin the Short.
- The **Magna Carta** was a charter signed by King John of England in 1215. The Magna Carta was one of the first documents to limit the powers of a monarch and protect individual rights
- **Peter the Great** was an 18th century Russian tsar who westernized Russia and built St. Petersburg.
- The **Thirty Years' War** was a religious war that lasted from 1618 to 1648. It started with the Defenestration of Prague and ended with the Peace of Westphalia.

What You Should Know

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Seven Years War | • El Cid | • Peasants' Revolts |
| • Thebes | • Notre Dame Cathedral | • Plato |
| • Richard I, "The Lionhearted" | • Dante | • Reconquista |
| • War of the Roses | • Hundred Years' War | • Cardinal Richelieu |
| • Borgia Family | • Incans | • Ottoman Empire |
| • Alfred the Great | • Isaac Newton | • Shakespeare |
| • Ancient Greece | • <i>Beowulf</i> | • Henry VIII |
| • Avignon | • Julius Caesar | • Leaning Tower of Pisa |
| • Aztecs | • Justinian I | • Carthage / Punic Wars |
| • Cleopatra | • Minoans | • William the Conqueror |
| | • Nero | • Visigoths |
| | • Olmecs | • Handel, Bach, Mozart |

World History, 1789-Present

This period begins with the **French Revolution** of 1789, which was unique as an ideals-based overthrow of a monarchy. The French people sought a democratic experiment, where the people, and not a king, ruled the state. They killed their king, Louis XVI, but soon thereafter **Napoleon** came to power. He conquered throughout Europe until losing most of his army in a disastrous 1812 invasion of Russia. His downfall was completed at the **Battle of Waterloo** in 1815. Another revolution was the **Industrial Revolution** of the late 18th and 19th centuries, which pushed Europe and North America far ahead of the rest of the world economically for a time.

In the 19th century after Napoleon, there was little open conflict in Europe, though the **Crimean War** and Franco-Prussian Wars are notable exceptions. However, the European powers colonized much of Africa, Asia, and **Australia** during this time. Italy and Germany unified as well under Garibaldi and Otto von Bismarck respectively during the latter 19th century.

However, the greatest conflict and change came early in the 20th century, as nearly all of Europe found itself mired in **World War I**, which was triggered by great power alliances lining up against each other after the 1914 assassination of **Archduke Franz Ferdinand**, heir to the Austrian throne. Following World War I, Europe's balance of power changed—to the dismay of many Italians and Germans, which allowed **Benito Mussolini** and **Adolf Hitler** to become those countries' leaders. Russia turned communist under **Vladimir Lenin** after leaving World War I.

This period led to **World War II**, the deadliest war in human history from 1939-1945. World War II pitted the fascist **Axis** powers against the **Allies**, and its battles, such as the Battle of Britain, **Pearl Harbor**, **Stalingrad**, **the Invasion of Normandy**, and Iwo Jima took place across the globe. The war's end saw the true horror of the **Holocaust** exposed, in which the Nazis murdered millions of Jews and other groups of people. The defeat of fascism and the end of the war gave way to another conflict: the **Cold War**, which pitted communist, totalitarian regimes against capitalist ones. The Cold War lasted until 1991, and its main foes were the communist **USSR**, the capitalist United States, and their respective allies. The Cold War also featured the Space Race – the USSR's Yuri Gagarin was the first man in space, and it launched Sputnik, the first satellite. The USA, however, was the first to put a man on the moon – **Neil Armstrong**.

After the fall of the **Berlin Wall** and the end of the Cold War, Russia transitioned from Communism under **Mikhail Gorbachev** to a more democratic system, initially led by Boris Yeltsin. Authoritarianism returned to Russia somewhat with the rise to power of current president **Vladimir Putin**. European countries formed the **European Union**, which later led to the creation of the common currency known as the **Euro** between many of its member states.

In Latin America and Africa, the period after the 1789 meant independence. Latin American countries gained their independence from Spain and Portugal, in part with the help from **Simon Bolivar** and Jose de San Martin in the early 1800's. After 1960, **Fidel Castro** led communists to power in **Cuba**. Belgium, France, and England released their grasp on Africa reluctantly; most countries in Africa gained their independence after 1950. South Africa developed a racist form of segregation known as **Apartheid** in the 20th century, which finally ended when **Nelson Mandela** was released from prison, and became South Africa's first black president.

Further Focus:

- The **Battle of Waterloo** was Napoleon's final defeat, at the hands of England's Duke of Wellington. It took place in 1815, and ended the Napoleonic Wars.
- **Benito Mussolini** was the fascist leader of Italy from 1922 to 1943. He was called "Il Duce" and marched on Rome with his army, known as Black Shirts, in 1922.
- **Adolf Hitler** was the Fuhrer of Germany during WWII. He wrote an autobiography called *Mein Kampf*, was married to Eva Braun, and was responsible for the Holocaust.
- **Charles de Gaulle** was the leader of the Free French during WWII. He was the first president of France's Fifth Republic, and signed the Evian Accords to grant independence to Algeria.
- **Francisco Franco** led Spain from 1939 to 1975. As the head of the fascist Falange Party, he defeated the Spanish Republic during the Spanish Civil War.
- **Margaret Thatcher** served as British Prime Minister from 1979 to 1990. She was a Conservative, Britain's first female Prime Minister, and led Britain in the Falkland Islands War. She was known as the "Iron Lady."
- **Mikhail Gorbachev** was the last leader of the Soviet Union. He introduced the policies of *glasnost* and *perestroika* to open the USSR to the West.

What You Also Should Know:

- Benjamin Disraeli
- Charles Darwin
- Congress of Vienna
- Crimean War
- English Civil War
- Haitian Revolution
- Impressionism
- Pablo Picasso
- Charles Dickens
- Albert Einstein
- Karl Marx
- League of Nations
- Napoleon
- Napoleon III
- Otto von Bismarck
- Queen Victoria
- Russian Revolution
- Simon Bolivar
- Suez Canal
- Panama Canal
- Ludwig van Beethoven
- Weimar Republic
- William Gladstone
- World War I
- Australian Aborigines
- Berlin Wall
- Cuban Missile Crisis
- Brazil
- *Guernica*
- Idi Amin
- Irish Republican Army
- Joseph Stalin
- Vincent van Gogh
- Lech Walesa
- Nikita Krushchev
- Mobutu Sese Seko
- Muammar Qaddafi
- Atomic bombs
- Potsdam Conference
- Prague Spring
- Spanish Civil War
- Velvet Revolution
- Winston Churchill
- The Beatles
- The Rolling Stones
- Roger Federer
- Recent Olympic Games
- Pele
- Zinedine Zidane
- FIFA World Cup
- European Capital Cities
- Rio de Janeiro
- Queen Elizabeth II
- James Bond
- Yalta Conference
- Anne Frank
- Angela Merkel
- Quebec
- Lord of the Rings
- ABBA
- U2
- Friedrich Nietzsche

Terms to know for host country-specific questions (i.e. don't focus on terms for other countries, unless they are already likely to be somewhat familiar (e.g. Long March or Kamikaze)

China:

Li Po
Yellow Turban
Rebellion
The Long March
Grand Canal
Hundred Flowers
Campaign
Terra Cotta warriors
Hu Jintao
Hong Xiuquan
Manchukuo
Xi'an
Three Gorges Dam
Spring and Autumn
Period
Liu Bang
Jurchens
Yuan Shikai

Korea:

Dae Jo-yeong
Yi Seong-gye
Sejong the Great
Goryeo Dynasty
Joseon Dynasty
Goguryeo
Silla-Tang War
March 1st Movement
Syngman Rhee
Park Chung-hee
Incheon Landing
Nordpolitik
Kim Young-sam
Gwangju Massacre
King/Emperor Gojong

Japan:

Ashikaga Shogunate
Gempei War
Bushido
Basho
Lady Murasaki
Fujiwara Clan
Fukushima Nuclear
Power Plant
Battle of Tsushima
Kamikaze
Boshin War
Charter Oath
Matthew Perry
Edo Period
Pure Land Buddhism
Oda Nobunaga

Singapore:

Stamford Raffles
Straits Settlements
Thian Hock Keng
Operation Tiderace
David Marshall
Hock Lee bus riots
Bukit Ho Swee
squatter fire
Lee Kuan Yew
Goh Chok Tang
People's Action Party
Maria Hertogh
Sultanate of Johor
William Farquhar
1915 Singapore
Mutiny
Sook Ching Massacre

Malaysia:

Konfrontasi
Parameswara

(Malaysia Continues)

Sultunate of Malacca
UMNO
Tunku Abdul Rahman
May 13 incident
National Front
Mahathir bin
Mohamad
New Economic Policy
Putrajaya
Penang
The Brooke Family
Malayan Emergency
Chin Peng

India:

Shah Jahan
Taj Mahal
Black Hole of Calcutta
Salt March
Babur
Rajiv Gandhi
Upanishads
Kargil War
Sachin Tendulkar
Delhi Sultanate
Asoka the Great
Siddhartha Gautama
Second Battle of
Panipat
Sepoy Mutiny
Jahangir

Sri Lanka:

Vijaya
Anuradhapura
Kingdom of Rohana
Jaffna Kingdom
Wastelands Ordinance
Soulbury Commission

**(Sri Lanka
Continues)**

Anagarika Dharmapala
LSSP
D.S. Senanayake
Velupillai Prabhakaran
Mark Anthony
Bracegirdle
Janatha Vimukthi
Peramuna
J.R. Jayawardene
Lourenco de Almeida
Mahasena
Kotte
Galle

UAE:

Ahmad ibn Majid
Sheikh Zayed bin
Sultan Al Nahyan

(UAE Continues)

Sheikh Rashid bin
Saeed Al Maktoum
Julfar
Trucial States
Buraimi Oasis dispute
Bani Yas clan
Al Maktoum Dynasty
Dredging of Dubai
Creek
Jebel Ali Free Zone
The World Islands
Zakum oil field
Pearl fishing
Dubai Ports World

Thailand:

2004 Boxing Day
Tsunami
Ayutthaya Kingdom

(Thailand Continues)

Rattanakosin Kingdom
Hariphunchai
Lavo Kingdom
King Rama IX
Revolution of 1932
Thaksin Shinawatra
6 October 1976
Massacre
King Chulalongkorn
Chakri Dynasty
Seri Thai
Franco-Thai War
Suphanabhum
Dynasty
King Ekkathat

Strategies for Success at The International History Bee and Bowl

The International History Bee and Bowl differ from certain competitions in that it is possible in to do very little preparation specifically for the competitions, and still achieve a decent degree of success in them. If students have typically done well in their history classes, or have a natural interest in the subjects and have read a decent amount on their own in these fields, that can often lead to a fair amount of success.

However, in order both to have as much fun with IHBB as possible, learn as much through the experience as possible, and succeed to the greatest degree (especially at the Asian Championships), a certain amount of preparation is needed. There's no "right" or "wrong" amount of time to put in preparing; nor is there a universally accepted way as to how to go about doing this. That said, we strongly urge you and your team to consider the following approaches to preparing for tournaments:

1) Be familiar with the style of our questions and game format, and don't make avoidable mistakes!

This sounds easy (and it is), but it's often overlooked by new teams and students. Be sure you know the basic rules of how our competitions work, and practice running games in the standard format. Two errors we often see among new teams in particular, are when the one team gets a tossup question wrong, and then a player on the other team rings in before the end of the question

and answers incorrectly. Remember that questions get easier as they go along, and since the first team to answer incorrectly can't ring in again, the second team should wait until the question is done. Then, perhaps allow 1 second to allow a student who is certain to ring in; then, if no one has rung in after a second or so, someone can ring in and take an educated guess. Another mistake we often see is mismanaging the clock in a 60 second round. If you don't know the answer here, guess quickly or pass! Don't spend too much time on one question, just go on to the next.

The basics of competition are not complicated, but some familiarity with the game format and rules can be very helpful towards ensuring success, especially among new students and teams.

2) Practice systematically with teammates (and on your own as well).

The majority of IHBB teams do practice at least a little bit with their teammates prior to tournaments, but not all practices are created equal. Does practice consist exclusively of reading old question packets, or is some effort made to ensure that common topics are known by team members?

Above all, though, while practice should be fun, it should be conducted efficiently. A well-run 45 minute practice accomplishes more than 2 hours spent getting distracted. Also, you will want to break more talented players and less experienced players up, so as not to discourage new players from being overwhelmed. And we can't emphasize enough the value of writing topics down in a study notebook! If you just read old questions or play old questions, that's good. But if you figure out what topics are going unanswered and write them down, that's great. Also, don't feel as if you need to write down everything in a question, but instead, focus on the point in the question right before the point where you recognized the answer. That's probably the next thing you should learn about that topic (since information towards the end of questions is referenced overall more frequently).

3) Divide and conquer

In the History Bee, you're on your own, so this strategy won't help you there. However, in the History Bowl, it's often helpful to split up various topics, or periods in history with your teammates. Do you have someone who knows a bit about Asian history? Any team should, but it's better to have just 1 person studying Asian history, than 3 people studying Asian history and no one studying American or African history. Go through the Study Guide above and divide the different topics among team members. Then, research the topics, and perhaps make flash cards with well-known historical facts about each topic.

Also, don't feel as if you need to split up areas equally among 4 teammates. If one student in particular is a strong player, or if one or two students show a capacity to take on increased studying commitments, then they should perhaps take more topics; letting the remaining students on the team be specialists. Even a team with 1 incredible player can benefit from having teammates who study particular topics in great depth and can score points whenever they come up.

4) Focus on knowledge retention

Finally, remember that IHBB tournaments are very broad-based competitions. This makes studying for them different from studying for a typical history test (where you are at some level going to forget things after the test is done, in order to prepare for the next one). Even if you are studying for a final exam or an AP exam, the emphasis is on studying for that 1 test.

But since IHBB tournaments reward a knowledge of all aspects of history at each tournament, you need to focus on long-term memory and knowledge retention. This is a different skill than cramming for a test, and takes time and repetition to master. However, in the long run, it's a far more rewarding way of approaching education, as that knowledge is far more likely to stay with you into university and beyond, being useful in many instances in life.

You and your team can master this skill by keeping notes in a notebook, and frequently reviewing information until you "have it down cold." Additionally, while the vast array of possible question topics may seem daunting at first, there's a high degree of repetition from one IHBB set of questions to another. If you play and practice frequently, you'll become a great player quicker than you ever thought possible. And you'll find that history courses become much easier and enjoyable too. Good luck, and please contact us at nolwenn@historybowl.com if you have any further questions!