

The Who Was? History Bee



Official Guidebook

Your go-to resource for the Who Was? History Bee.



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Art by Michael Hetrick

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How does The Who Was? History Bee work? The Who Was? History Bee was built to be flexible. We understand that school districts, teachers, and librarians all face unique challenges. We're hoping that the way we've set up the Bee will make it easy for every school and library to join us. We'll be sending you full details in the coming months, and you can always reach us by email if you have additional questions at WhoWasHistoryBee@penguinrandomhouse.com

Here's how the competition breaks down:

ROUND #1: Classroom/Group-level Bee:

Students go head-to-head in this quick-moving classroom/group competition. This level of the Bee consists of oral exam questions.

ROUND #2: School/Library-level Bee:

The top winners of each classroom/library group from Round #1 compete to win the title of school/library champion. The school/library-level Bee must have a minimum of 10 student participants. This level of the Bee also consists of oral exam questions.

ROUND #3: Proctored Exam: The School/Library champion takes a proctored exam. This exam will be submitted to the Who Was? History Bee judging committee and will be considered in the pool of candidates in determining the Four Regional Champion/Finalists (one finalist from each geographic region—West, Midwest, South, Northeast). The proctored exam consists of 80% multiple choice/open-ended questions and 20% short essay. Teachers/Librarians will be able to submit their student's exams through the Who Was? History Bee website as an upload. Please note: Proctored exams will not be mailed into Penguin Random House this year. **You can upload your student's proctored exam as a PDF here.**

REGIONAL CHAMPION VIRTUAL ROBLOX CELEBRATION:

The Four Regional Finalists, selected by the Who Was? History Bee judging committee will be announced in April 2023 and honored in a Roblox Celebration in May 2023—specific event details and timing to be announced.

Educator Note:

The Bee can work in any number of scenarios. Teachers and Librarians are encouraged to get the support of their entire school or library. In those cases, each class or group will hold its own Bee. From there, a school/library-level Bee will determine a single winner. That winner will take a proctored exam (overseen by a teacher/librarian).

In cases where teachers can't get full participation from their school, they can still hold a Bee as long as there are 10 students in the final round. For example, if 5 classes participate, the top 2 winners in each class will proceed to the School-level Bee.



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Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the Who Was? book series?

The Who Was? book series began in 2002 with the publication of four books. Since then, over 300 titles have been published and over 60 million books are in print, making Who Was? the #1 middle-grade nonfiction series in the country. For more information about the series, including a list of titles, visit whowasbookseries.com.

What is the Who Was? History Bee?

The Who Was? History Bee is a trivia contest being held across the U.S. during the 2022–2023 school year. Four Regional Champion student winners, each representing their own geographical region, will earn a \$2,500 U.S. Savings Bond, a Who Was? Library set for themselves, and a Who Was? Library set for their classroom or library. Along with receiving their prizes, the Four Regional Champions will be celebrated in a virtual Who Was? History Bee Roblox event on a to be announced date, May 2023.

Who can participate in the Who Was? History Bee?

The Who Was? History Bee is open to students in grades 3rd–5th grades across the United States. Homeschooled students can participate in the Bee as well. You can find specific rules for homeschoolers on our website.

What are the four geographic regions?

There will be one Champion/Finalist per geographic region as per the U.S. census. The four geographic regions are the West, Midwest, South, Northeast. Therefore, we'd have a Western Regional Champion, a Midwestern Regional Champion, a Southern Regional Champion, and a Northeastern Regional Champion. You can find what region your state, and thus school, falls into by clicking on the Census Regions and Divisions of the United States map [here](#).

How does my school sign-up to participate?

Teachers, librarians, and administrators working for a U.S. school or library that includes 3rd–5th grade students can sign up for the Bee. To sign up for 2022–2023 Who Was? History Bee complete the registration form. There is no cost to sign up for the Bee, and you will be supplied with all materials needed to promote, to prepare for, and to hold the Bee. Let us help you make history fun, exciting, and relevant to your students!

I'm a teacher, and I just signed up. Now what happens?

Thanks for signing up! You'll start receiving emails from the Bee team in August. Please make sure that we're not blocked from your SPAM filter—email will be our primary form of communication. We'll also post updates on this website, so check back here as well. If you feel as though you're not receiving communications from us and you've submitted your entry form, please do follow up and contact WhoWasHistoryBee@penguinrandomhouse.com.

This sounds fantastic! How can I sign up my child?

Unfortunately, parents cannot sign up their students directly for the Who Was? History Bee. But don't be dismayed—we've created a letter you can send along to your child's school. You can find the letter on our website. You should also sign up for the Who HQ newsletter, and like us on Facebook! We'll have lots of exciting news to share about the Bee throughout the year.



The Who Was? History Bee



What's new this year?

This year, the Who Was? History Bee has a whole new look! And not only that, we have a **new mascot, H.B.!** As we get further into the Who Was? History Bee competition, H.B. will be there to guide you through all the latest *buzzworthy* Bee news! Make sure you're looking out for any new messages from H.B. via our Who Was? History Bee newsletter.

What else it new this year?

Our Regional Champion Teams!

This year students, within their classrooms and schools, will compete in order to win a space as a **Regional Champion!**

There will be **Four Regional Champions** for the 2022–2023 season. That means, given where your school is based, you and your students will be repping one of the below Regional Champion Icons for the Who Was? History Bee and will be on their team! Make sure you rep your colors and team names with pride!

We'll then have Four Regional Champion student winners for each section of the country representing their team (please see the above note about the four geographic regions) and each winner, alongside winning the aforementioned finalist prizes, will be celebrated in a special virtual Roblox event — details of which will be coming soon!



**BLUE
ALL STARS**



**GREEN
FLYERS**



**PURPLE
LEADERS**



**ORANGE
DEFENDERS**



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Your Name



WHAT WHO WAS? BOOK DO YOU WANT TO READ NEXT?

Fill out the Who Was? History Bee library card here with the books you want to read next to prepare for the Bee, and then use scissors to cut it out for a fun bookmark!



1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Your Team



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WHO WAS? HISTORY BEE AT WhoWasHistoryBee.com

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SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The questions in each round of The Who Was? History Bee are all based on the books in the #1 *New York Times* Bestselling Who Was? series. All questions have been reviewed by a board of teachers and educational professionals.

CLASS / SCHOOL / LIBRARY-LEVEL BEES

Class, school, and library Bees consist of oral multiple-choice questions, and a final round consisting of oral factual questions. Bee Administrators will be provided with detailed instructions on how to promote, plan, and execute their school's Bee.

SAMPLE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

William Shakespeare was born in which year?

- (a) 1564
- (b) 1620
- (c) 1800

Which of these men spent a whole year stranded on an ice shelf?

- (a) Henry Ford
- (b) Ernest Shackleton
- (c) Christopher Columbus

This famous chef filmed French cooking lessons in her own apartment.

- (a) Beatrix Potter
- (b) Laura Ingalls Wilder
- (c) Julia Child

Which of these women was NOT born in America?

- (a) Eleanor Roosevelt
- (b) Jane Goodall
- (c) Sally Ride

FINAL ROUND SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Beatrix Potter and Queen Victoria were both born in the same city in England. Name that city.

Who led an army into battle when she was only a teenager?

Thomas Edison had over 1,000 patents for his inventions. What was his FIRST invention?

Answers: a; b; c; b



PROCTORED EXAM

One winner from each school will move on to the Proctored Exam. This written exam consists of 15 factual questions and two short essay questions. The student with the top score from each geographical region (West, Midwest, Northeast, South) will be announced in April 2023. The top scorers will be decided by our Who Was? History Bee Judging Committee. After the four Regional Champions are announced, the winners will then be celebrated in a virtual Roblox celebration in May 2023—event date and details to be announced!

SAMPLE FACTUAL QUESTIONS

Name the last three U.S. presidents.

This woman founded the Red Cross in 1881.

During the Revolutionary War, one side was called the Loyalists. What was the other side called?

What year did the Civil War end?

Louis Armstrong was famous for playing which musical instrument?

Who was the first woman to fly across the Pacific Ocean?

The mischievous boy, Samuel Clemens, grew up to be a famous writer. What was that writer's name?

SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTIONS

The United States has had 46 Presidents, and they've all made their marks on history. Write a short paragraph about one of those presidents, and something important they did while in office.

Imagine you could go back in time and live through any event in world history. Which event would you choose? Why did you choose it?

Name someone from history that you consider a hero. Explain why you chose them. What makes them a hero to you?





EXTRA SAMPLE QUESTIONS

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EXTRA SAMPLE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. One of the most famous artists of her time, this artist painted through constant pain after being in a bus accident as a young woman.

- (a) Georgia O’Keeffe
- (b) Frida Kahlo
- (c) Yayoi Kusama

2. She was a streetcar operator, an opera star, and a calypso dancer, but she’s best known for being a poet and author of books, including *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

- (a) Laura Ingalls Wilder
- (b) Harriet Beecher Stowe
- (c) Maya Angelou

3. Which kind of Olympic track race made Jesse Owens “the fastest man in the world”?

- (a) 100-meter dash
- (b) 200-meter dash
- (c) 400-meter dash

4. In 1955, this woman’s refusal to give up her bus seat to a white man started the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

- (a) Ida B. Wells
- (b) Coretta Scott King
- (c) Rosa Parks

5. Along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, this woman helped form the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869.

- (a) Florence Nightingale
- (b) Susan B. Anthony
- (c) Abigail Adams



Answers: b; c; a; c; b



The Who Was? History Bee

You can find other resources including
teacher and parent letters,
Regional Team virtual backgrounds,
an event poster, and more on our website!



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