



BRAINIACS OLYMPIAD

HISTORY SYLLABUS



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BRAINIACS OLYMPIAD 2026

HISTORY SYLLABUS OVERVIEW

ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

While the Olympiad may include written exams, source analysis, and oral rounds, participants should be prepared to:

- Demonstrate factual knowledge of key historical content.
- Interpret primary and secondary sources critically.
- Construct arguments and respond to historical questions.
- Analyze change over time and across regions.
- Compare developments between different societies and eras.

RECOMMENDED STUDY APPROACHES

- Engage with historical atlases, timelines, and primary documents.
- Practice essay writing and analytical reasoning.
- Study historical films, documentaries, and biographies.
- Collaborate in discussions and debates on historical topics.
- Follow guided reading from recommended academic history texts.

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HISTORY SYLLABUS (GRADES 7–8)

FOUNDATIONS AND CIVILIZATIONS

EARLY HUMAN SOCIETIES AND AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION

- Hunter-gatherer communities
- The Neolithic Revolution and domestication
- Settlement patterns and geography

RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS

- Mesopotamia
- Ancient Egypt
- Indus Valley
- Early China

AMERICAS AND AFRICA IN ANTIQUITY

- Mesoamerican civilizations (Olmec, Maya)
- Andean civilizations (Chavin, Moche)
- Kingdom of Aksum
- Early Sub-Saharan cultures

CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS

- Ancient Greece: city-states, democracy, culture
- Ancient Rome: Republic, Empire, law, and engineering
- Maurya and Gupta Empires in India
- Qin and Han Dynasties in China
- Persian Empire and cultural tolerance

RELIGIONS AND BELIEF SYSTEMS

- Origins and development of: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam
- Confucianism, Daoism, Legalism
- Spread of religions through trade, conquest, and missionaries

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HISTORY SYLLABUS (GRADES 7–8)

MEDIEVAL EMPIRES AND FEUDAL SOCIETIES

- Sassanid and Kushan Empires
- Byzantine Empire
- Islamic Caliphates
- Feudal Europe and Asia: roles, classes, and governance
- The Crusades: causes, events, consequences

REGIONAL POWERS AND STATES

- Samanid State
- Mongol Empire and Pax Mongolica
- Timurid State
- The Holy Roman Empire
- The Kingdoms of France, England, Iberia
- Papal States and the Catholic Church
- The Delhi Sultanate
- Vijayanagara Empire
- Medieval African Kingdoms: Ghana, Mali, Songhai, Great Zimbabwe, Swahili States

TRANSITION TO THE MODERN ERA

- The Renaissance: art, science, humanism (1350–1600)
- The Reformation and religious transformation
- Age of Exploration and its global impact



This is the end of the syllabus for Grades 7–8
Get ready to explore the World of the Brainiacs!
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HISTORY SYLLABUS (GRADES 9–10)

GLOBAL CONTACT AND EARLY MODERN PERIOD

CRISIS AND ABSOLUTISM IN EUROPE

- Political fragmentation and religious conflict in post-Reformation Europe
- Rise of absolute monarchies: France, Spain, Austria, and Russia
- The English Civil War and constitutional monarchy
- Impact on governance and society

THE MUSLIM WORLD (1450–1750)

- The Ottoman Empire: expansion, administration, and cultural achievements
- The Safavid Empire: political structure, and relations with neighbors
- The Mughal Dynasty: religious tolerance, architecture, and British contact

THE EAST ASIAN WORLD (1500–1800)

- The Ming and Qing Dynasties: governance, isolation, and foreign contact
- Tokugawa Japan: feudal system, sakoku policy, and cultural flourishing
- Korea under the Joseon Dynasty: Confucianism, invasions, and scholarship

REVOLUTION AND ENLIGHTENMENT (1600–1800)

- The Scientific Revolution: key figures and breakthroughs
- Enlightenment thinkers: Locke, Rousseau, Voltaire, Montesquieu
- The American Revolution: causes, course, and consequences
- The French Revolution: origins, radical phase, and Napoleonic era

INDUSTRIALIZATION AND NATIONALISM (1800–1870)

- The Industrial Revolution: innovations, social impacts, and global spread
- Reactions to industrial society: socialism, liberalism, labor movements
- Nationalism and unification movements in Italy and Germany
- Romanticism and Realism in literature and art

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HISTORY SYLLABUS (GRADES 9–10)

IMPERIALISM AND GLOBAL EXPANSION (1800–1914)

- The «Scramble for Africa» and European colonialism
- British Rule in India: administration, resistance, and impact
- Nation-building and independence in Latin America
- Imperial rivalries and economic exploitation

SOCIAL CHANGE AND MASS SOCIETY (1870–1914)

- Expansion of suffrage and democratic institutions
- Rise of mass media, consumer culture, and urban life
- Developments in science, education, and women's rights
- The national state and identity formation

THE WORLD ON THE EVE OF GLOBAL WAR

- Shifts in global power dynamics and colonial tensions
- Progress and discontent at the turn of the century
- Militarism, alliances, and nationalism in Europe
- Social unrest and reform movements

WORLD WAR I AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

- The Great War: causes, stalemate (1914–1916), and new warfare
- The Russian Revolution: 1917 events, Lenin, and the rise of Soviet power
- Post-war treaties and the struggle for peace

THE INTERWAR PERIOD AND GLOBAL CRISIS (1919–1939)

- The West between the wars: instability and change
- The Great Crash and the Great Depression (1929–1941)
- The New Deal and responses to economic crisis
- The League of Nations: success, failure, and diplomacy
- Rise of totalitarian regimes
- Cultural and intellectual trends of the 1920s–1930s

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HISTORY SYLLABUS (GRADES 9–10)

NATIONALISM AROUND THE WORLD (1919–1939)

- Anti-colonial movements in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East
- Latin American populism and reform movements
- Japan's expansionism and militarism



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HISTORY SYLLABUS (GRADES 11–12)

MODERN WORLD AND GLOBAL CONFLICT

WORLD WAR II AND ITS GLOBAL IMPACT (1939–1945)

- Causes of World War II: Treaty of Versailles, fascism, appeasement, and expansionism
- Major theatres and turning points of the war
- The Holocaust and crimes against humanity
- Role of colonial soldiers and resistance movements
- Atomic bombings, the end of the war, and global aftermath

THE POST-WAR WORLD AND RECONSTRUCTION (1945–1955)

- Post-war Europe: devastation, displacement, and recovery (1945–1947)
- The Yalta and Potsdam Conferences
- Nuremberg Trials and the redefinition of international justice
- The United Nations and post-war global governance
- U.S. and the Beginning of the Cold War (1945–1948)
- Marshall Plan, Truman Doctrine, Berlin Crisis

COLD WAR AND GLOBAL TRANSFORMATIONS (1945–1970)

- A. Ideological Division and Rival Blocs
- Formation of NATO and the Warsaw Pact
- The Iron Curtain: Soviet Union and Eastern Europe
- Western Europe: economic recovery and political realignment
- United States domestic and foreign policy during early Cold War
- B. The Global South and Decolonization
- End of European dominance in the Middle East (1919–1980)
- Decolonization in Africa and Asia: India, Algeria, Congo, Vietnam
- The emergence of non-aligned movements
- Struggles for independence and post-colonial challenges

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HISTORY SYLLABUS (GRADES 11–12)

REGIONAL CONFLICTS AND COLD WAR FLASHPOINTS

- The Eisenhower and Kennedy Years (1954–1963): containment, brinkmanship, space race
- Turmoil in Southeast Asia: independence movements and regional instability
- The Vietnam War: causes, escalation, and consequences
- U.S.-Soviet relations and crises (Cuban Missile Crisis, arms control, detente)

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS (1945–PRESENT)

A. Latin America

- Cold War interventions and revolutionary movements
- Military dictatorships, social unrest, and democratization
- Economic dependency and reform

B. Africa and the Middle East

- Post-colonial governance and nation-building
- Apartheid and liberation in Southern Africa

C. Asia and the Pacific

- Economic transformation: Japan's recovery, Asian Tigers
- China's political and economic shifts
- The Korean War and continued division

EVOLVING SUPERPOWER RELATIONS (POST-1963)

- U.S. and Soviet Union after 1963: competition, cooperation, and transformation
- Detente, SALT treaties, and late Cold War policies
- The fall of the Berlin Wall and collapse of the USSR (1989–1991)
- End of bipolarity and the birth of a multipolar world

THE CONTEMPORARY WESTERN WORLD (1970–PRESENT)

- Political change in Western Europe and North America
- Rise of neoliberalism and conservative movements
- Cultural revolutions, gender rights, and digital transformation
- Integration: EU, NAFTA, and international institutions

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HISTORY SYLLABUS (GRADES 11–12)

GLOBALIZATION AND THE NEW MILLENNIUM

- From Cold War to global interdependence
- Scientific and technological revolutions
- Environmental challenges, climate change, and sustainability
- Economic globalization and labor migration

HUMAN RIGHTS AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

- Evolution of human rights frameworks
- Role of the UN, ICC, WHO, and international organizations
- Refugee crises and humanitarian interventions
- Challenges of sovereignty vs. global cooperation
- Sustainable Development Goals and the future of global citizenship



This is the end of the syllabus for Grades 11-12

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