

AP World History Summer Reading Assignment 2017-18

Advanced Placement World History is a college-level course in world history. We will frequently be analyzing primary and secondary sources. This summer assignment will prepare you for certain components on the AP exam. This book prepares you to address the five AP World History themes:

- Interaction Between Humans and the Environment
- Development and Interaction of Cultures
- State-Building, Expansion, and Conflict
- Creation, Expansion, and Interaction of Economic Systems
- Development and Transformation of Social Structures

These themes help learners recognize broad trends that have developed over centuries in various regions of the world.

Your Summer Assignment:

- Obtain a copy of the book *Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond (ISBN 978-0393317558). It is available for purchase at most every store around town, and online for very cheap in paperback. If purchasing the book is of concern, there is a free copy available on this website:
<http://www.ahshistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/GUNS-GERMS-AND-STEEL.pdf>
- **Read the first FOURTEEN Chapters of this book.**
- Students should expect a summary quiz during the first week of school.
- Students should be prepared to verbally discuss and debate this book during the first few class periods.
- **STUDENTS WILL KEEP A READING NOTEBOOK which answers all of the guided reading questions included on the opposite page. Answer each question by giving a short bulleted answer- unless it says otherwise. You will turn this in.**
- **Take your time reading. Start early! There is a lot of material in this book. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE! Start the new year off the right way.**
- If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to e-mail Mr. Kelly (mmkelly@k12.wv.us) at any point during this process. It is better to do this right than to go through this process confused and without guidance! ****Please note that Mr. Kelly will be traveling the world July 12-23 so email during that time will be difficult to monitor! ****

Remember students, this is your first grade of the course. Set the tone for your year of AP early. AP requires so much time and energy. Get yourself used to this before the first day of school when we really hit the ground running!

Prologue

1. Summarize Yali's question. This requires mentioning race, intelligence, and development of technology.

Chapter One: Up to the Starting Line

1. What was the "Great Leap Forward"? Which peoples did it impact, and what probably catalyzed this change?

Chapter Two: A Natural Experiment of History

1. What message is Diamond trying to convey with his focus on the conflict of the Maori-Moriori people?
2. What were the six environmental factors that contribute to the differences among Polynesian societies? Of the six, which do you think plays the greatest role in differentiation and why?

Chapter Three: Collision at Cajamarca

1. What happened at Cajamarca?
2. How did Atahualpa come to be at Cajamarca?
3. How did Pizarro come to be at Cajamarca? Why didn't Atahualpa instead try to conquer Spain?
4. Why did Atahualpa walk into the trap?

Chapter Four: Farmer Power

1. According to Figure 4.1 what is a prerequisite to the development of technology?
2. In what ways have animals affected military success?
3. In one paragraph or less please summarize how domestication of livestock and farming changed societies.

Chapter Five: History's Haves and Have-nots

1. Examine Figure 5.1 and Table 5.1; apply your knowledge of environmental and geographic factors to identify what these regions have in common. What environmental factors probably contributed to the success of these crops in their respective regions?

Chapter Six: To Farm or Not to Farm

1. What five factors contributed to the transition from hunter gatherer to farming?

Chapter Seven: How to Make an Almond

1. Describe three of the many factors that contribute to whether or not a plant becomes a crop that humans choose to domesticate.
2. Give five examples of different characteristics a plant could possess to allow it to be naturally selected.

Chapter Eight: Apples or Indians

1. Identify at least four of the Fertile Crescent's advantages in terms of food production.
2. Identify New Guinea's 3 severe limitations.
3. When comparing Eastern United States, New Guinea, and the Fertile Crescent, what caused such a great difference in production?
4. What happened when more productive crops arrived from elsewhere (p. 153)
5. What two conclusions does Diamond want to exaggerate?

Chapter Nine: Zebras, Unhappy Marriages, and the Anna Karenina Principle

1. What is the Anna Karenina Principle (when applied to the domestication of animals)?
2. List the five major domestic mammals. List the minor nine.
3. What are six reasons that 134 of the 148 “big wild terrestrial herbivorous mammals” cannot be domesticated?

Chapter Ten: Spacious Skies and Tilted Axes

1. How did the rate of spread in Eurasia’s East-West axes compare to the spread along the Americas North-South axes? (p. 178)
2. In paragraph form, why was the spread of crops from the Fertile Crescent so rapid?
3. Why was the rate of diffusion in the Americas so slow?

Chapter Eleven: Lethal Gift of Livestock

1. What are two historically famous epidemics?
2. What are the four common characteristics shared by lethal epidemics?
3. Why did the rise of agriculture launch the evolution of infectious diseases? (In complete sentences) (page 205)
4. List four diseases that are contracted from an animal.

Chapter Twelve: Blueprints and Borrowed Letters

1. What are the three basic types of writing systems and what is an example of each?
2. What civilization was first to develop a writing system and what was it called?
3. Why did writing arise and spread to some societies, but not to others?

Chapter Thirteen: Necessity’s Mother

1. Look up technology in a dictionary. Define.
2. Bullet out the 14 factors historians have identified as catalysts for the creation of technology.
3. Of the 14, discuss two in complete sentences that you think have the most influential impact on the creation of new technologies.

Chapter Fourteen: From Egalitarianism to Kleptocracy

1. Briefly summarize the four solutions Kleptocrats have resorted to maintain their control and elite lifestyle.
2. Summarize the three theories Diamond discusses to answer the question “How did small, non-centralized, kin-based societies evolve into large centralized ones in which most members are not closely related to each other?”
3. How does food production in make features of complex societies possible? (bullet four reasons)
4. How does Diamond’s perception of the function of religion in a Kleptocracy make the mission for Catholics difficult?