

AP World History Summer Assignment 2023-2024

Welcome to AP World! I've heard good things about all of you and I am very excited to spend the next year of our lives diving into the massive, exciting, and fascinating beast that is human history with you all. As we try to comprehend 800 years of human activity in nine months, it is imperative that we start off the year with some of the basics under our feet: the general shape of world history, the important places around this great big world, etc.

Ultimately, one of the goals of a college-level course is to prove that not only can you handle the academic rigor of a college curriculum, but also to demonstrate that you are responsible enough to complete assignments on your own time when you are away from the classroom. This summer will be a great opportunity to demonstrate to me that you are ready to do that.

Bring this assignment on the first day of class. Questions? Email me at sgoyette@nda-worc.org

Have fun!

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Part I: *This Fleeting World* and questions

Part II: Map Creation

Part III: WHAP Unit 0

Part IV: Quiz Preparation

Part 1 - *This Fleeting World* by David Christian

Directions: Answer all questions on a separate sheet of paper. Your responses should be in complete sentences with a minimum of three sentences per question.

Preface

Skip this section of the book.

Introduction

1. What role does this book play in the telling of history?

Skip the section called "Acknowledgements."

Prequel

2. How did planets form, and what was Earth like in its first 500 million years of existence?
3. Christian describes life as "a new form of complexity" (xxiv). How did oxygen and photosynthesis cause life to begin on Earth?
4. Eventually, multi-celled organisms emerged from water, to land, and eventually (about 7 million years ago) into human ancestors. What were some stages in the development of our species, *homo sapiens*?

Beginnings: The Era of Foragers

5. What are some leading hypotheses (informed theories) about how our species emerged? How are humans different?
6. What was the relationship among human foragers and the environment/nature, and how was it different from our relationships to other humans today and to our environment?

Acceleration: The Agrarian Era

7. Why can the Agrarian Era be considered a time of acceleration (speeding up)?
8. What changes to human life were caused by settled agricultural development?
9. Where did cities first emerge, and what was the earliest urban life like?
10. What were some of the most influential faith systems that developed during this time?

Our World: The Modern Era

11. What are the major features and trends of the Modern Era?
12. What were the main causes of humanity's revolution from agrarian societies to modernity?
13. Why is the 20th century considered a century of crisis?

Periodization in World History

14. What is periodization?
15. What are some of the THEORETICAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ETHICAL, and TECHNICAL problems of periodization in World History?
16. Why are the periodization labels ANCIENT, MEDIEVAL, and MODERN problematic?

Summary Questions (17, 18, 19, 20)—choose **four of the nine** to answer once you've finished the book.

Each answer should be about one to two paragraphs long.

Start each answer with a sentence or two that express your main idea(s). Think in terms of patterns or themes.

The idea(s) must be clear, logical, and argumentative (can be supported by evidence from the book).

Provide specific evidence (examples) from the book that will support ideas expressed at the beginning of your short answer. Whether it is a direct quote from the book or a reference (paraphrase), indicate the page in parenthesis. You must have at least one example from each ERA identified in the book (see This Fleeting World, PREQUEL, XXVII)

Your answers should be done in complete sentences with no or minimal grammar and sentence structure mistakes.

A. How did development of and interaction between various societies impact trade, exchange of ideas, and distribution of resources throughout the history of humanity?

B. What trends/characteristics of humanity changed over time and which ones remained the same? Think of human ability to communicate, organize, create, destroy, etc.

C. What factors influenced the development and spread of technologies through time?

D. What factors influenced changes in demography (population growth/decline) through time?

E. Analyze human impact on the environment through time. Provide specific examples.

F. Analyze changes and continuities (i.e. consistencies) in the way human societies are structured (think social classes).

G. What elements of human culture, in your opinion, caused the most profound changes within and between societies throughout history? (There are many complex definitions of "culture" and "human culture" that you might want to explore before answering this question).

H. Provide at least three ideas/theories that caused the most influential changes in the world. (for this question, you can provide at least one important idea per era.)

I. How did political organization and functions of states change over time? (think of systems of government, expectations of ruled and rulers, responsibilities and loyalty of citizens, etc.)

SAMPLE RESPONSE ON NEXT PAGE

Sample Response for “Big Picture History” Questions:

(you may not do this question for your response)

Question: *Analyze changes and continuities in gender relations throughout history.*

Sample Response:

Throughout the entire history of humanity, males and females specialized in, or were expected to perform, gender-specific tasks. Relationship between males and females were most likely based on equality during the foraging era of human history. Later, with the emergence of organized societies, males became the dominant gender. In the modern era, female are still generally lagging behind in opportunities and rights in comparison to males though, nowadays, many societies are striving for more equitable gender relations. During the foraging era, females were most likely in charge of child rearing and food gathering. Though the tasks that each gender performed were different, gathering was a more reliable source of food compared to hunting. So, specialization in tasks did not result in gender hierarchy dominated by males (p.11). However, this gender hierarchy did emerge during the agrarian era. Possible explanations include: growing importance of large number of children to agricultural communities, increased specialization of tasks outside of household in more complex societies, as well as male domination in “organization of violence” (p.40). In general, the modern era witnessed improvements in opportunities for women in professional and political spheres. More control over reproduction as well as opening of new jobs for women as a result of urbanization and commercialization allowed females to defy their traditional role as child bearers (p.64). However, these changes are not uniform throughout the world. “Worldwide in 1990 about eighty women were in secondary education ... for every hundred men, and only about sixty women were in paid employment for every hundred men“(p.86). So, true gender equality is still a goal and not an achievement.

Big Thoughts Questions

21. Aliens land on Earth, and they want to know more about human history. Really, they want to know EVERYTHING about human history. Knowing that you can't tell them everything, and leaving aside the obvious problems of communication, what would you tell them? **How would you summarize, briefly, all of human history?**
22. **What's going to happen next?** Based on your understanding of history, what will the next 100 years hold? (think of the environment, the economy, globalization, politics, culture, technology, all of it!)
23. Pose 4 questions about the history described in this book. What do you want to know more about? What do you WONDER about? Please create 1 for each main section of the book (Prequel, Beginnings, Acceleration, and Our World).

Part 2 – World Geography

A blank world map and a map of the AP World Regions are included at the end of this packet for you to use on this section of the assignment. You can have the maps copied onto larger size paper to make them easier to label, but no huge poster sizes, please. You can find similar maps on Google if you can't get the maps pasted into this file big enough for your purposes, but the world map must be *blank* before you start fiddling.

On the one blank map, trace/outline the location of the AP World History regions of the world, and provide a pattern and/or color coded key for each in a legend that you create on your map.

Use the AP Regions map included in this packet to create your own color or pattern coded map of the regions on your blank map. DO NOT just color in the map that is already labeled in this packet, but make your own!

You should end up with 16 separate regions in your legend on your own map.

Once you have done this, **draw in and label ONE modern-day country from each of your 16 regions.**

On the second blank map, draw in and label the following features. You may use simple labeling or symbols in a legend if appropriate. This is a basic geography review. Using color or showing obvious effort may result in bonus points.

Africa

Sahara Desert
Kalahari Desert
Nile River
Niger River
Congo River
Zambezi River
Sudan
South Africa
Egypt
Ghana

Europe

Black Sea
Russia
Ural Mountains
Danube River
Caspian Sea
England
Strait of Gibraltar
Germany
France
Spain
Baltic Sea
Balkan Peninsula
Greece
Italy

Portugal
Mediterranean Sea
Adriatic Sea
Aegean Sea
Turkey

Asia

China
Yangtze River
Yellow (Huang He) River
South China Sea
Gobi Desert
Japan
Korean Peninsula
Indonesia
Vietnam
Philippines
Asia Minor
Indian Ocean

Americas

Mississippi River
Rio Grande River
Rocky Mountains
Mexico
Central America
Isthmus of Panama
Caribbean Sea

Amazon River
Andes Mountains
Pacific Ocean
Atlantic Ocean

Middle East/ India

Tigris River
Euphrates River
Arabian Peninsula
Suez Canal
Anatolian Peninsula
Ganges River
Bay of Bengal
Indus River
India
Pakistan
Iraq
Iran
Himalayan Mountains
Hindu-Kush Mountain
Sri Lanka

Oceania

Australia
Great Barrier Reef
Papua New Guinea
New Zealand

Part 3 – WHAP Unit 0 Guided Notes

Fill out these guided notes as you watch "[WHAP Unit 0](#)" by Anti-Social Studies.

Basic Chronology

The Neolithic Revolution was the domestication of _____ and _____. Because we had a food _____, global population grew.

A few common political and social structures developed during this time:

1. Most rulers for most of history ruled with _____ power.
2. _____

Explain: How did this originate?

What were the four River Valley civilizations?

- _____ city-states
- _____ Valley
- _____
- _____

Continuities in State Building

Continuity	List ONE illustrative example
1. Use _____ to gain legitimacy	
2. Create monumental _____ and _____	
3. Make sure the state controls important _____ systems	
4. Build _____	

There are two common issues that arise for leaders:

- How to treat "_____?"
 - *Explain: What is one example of how a leader treated "others" to maintain*

power?

- How to deal with _____?
 - *Explain: What is one example of how a leader dealt with resistance to maintain power?*

Common Causes of Decline

- Your leadership grows _____ over time
- Your empire was too _____
 - People in outlying regions feel disconnected from the _____ and turn to local leaders.
 - Running an empire is _____.
 - It becomes difficult to secure large _____.

Rise of Modern Religions

Confucianism

“Confucianism is the single most important continuity in _____ history.”

Confucianism is based on relationships in which the superior is supposed to act _____ and the inferior is supposed to be _____.

The government is run by _____ - _____ who earned their position by passing a civil service exam.

Explain: How does this make China more socially mobile than other civilizations?

Hinduism

Hindu society is organized by a strict _____.

Judaism

Judaism (and Hinduism) are religions that are historically associated with a particular _____ group.

Explain: What is a universalizing religion?

Buddhism

The Buddha rejected the caste system, which made Buddhism popular amongst _____ classes and _____.

Christianity

Explain: Why did Christianity establish a separation between church and state?

Islam

1. Muhammad was both a religious and a _____/_____ leader.
2. Islam highly valued _____.

Extensive Trade Networks Developed

Silk Road

- Trade was expensive and reserved for _____ goods because domesticated animals could not hold as many goods.
- Trade was held together by _____.

Saharan Trade

- Trade was made possible after the introduction of the _____.
- Trade led to the rise of powerful kingdoms in _____ Africa.

Indian Ocean Trade

- Trade was made possible after technology developed to harness the _____ (like lateen sails.)
- Trade included both luxury and _____ goods because _____ could carry more goods

Part 4 – Quiz Prep

We have a lot of quizzes in AP World. It's not because I hate you; it's because studies have shown that being quizzed on material frequently helps you remember it. Plus in my experience students in this class do well on quizzes and less well on tests, so it's a grade booster. ☺

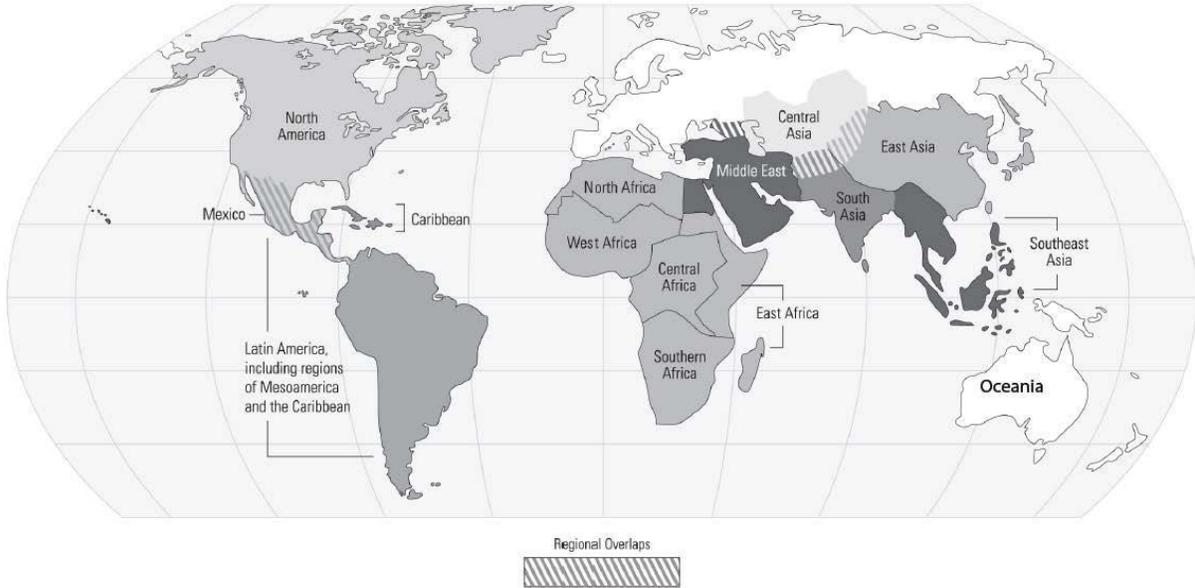
At some point in our first two weeks together, you will have a quiz on the following items:

- 16 AP Regions
- Geographic Features and Countries from Part 2 of this packet
- WHAP Unit 0

Practice! Use the blank copy of the maps to quiz yourself until you know this stuff.

THE MAPS

AP World History Official Map



BLANK WORLD MAPS

