

# *Humanities Summer Assignment – History Portion*

## Introduction

Throughout the year we will explore different civilizations, cultures, religions, governments, and regions that have helped influence the development of our World. The upcoming year will also involve your ability to read and write in preparation of the Advanced Placement World History Test at the end of your sophomore year. This summer assignment to introduce you to the course and the ideas of “Big History.” This summer program work is REQUIRED if you intend to stay in WHAP. Students who do not complete the work as assigned will be dropped from the course. The entire summer assignment will be due the first day of class.

Welcome, WHAPsters, to the history of everything that ever was! This is not a course about memorizing tables of minutia – not that some dates and “hard” facts don’t have their place – but it is a course (probably your first) in what is now called “Big History.” Big History is the study of history as movements, themes, and trends. It attempts to look at global and regional systems and understand their interplay, to determine why events in past have developed as they have, and what impact they have on us today. Because of its very broad scope, Big History incorporates such diverse academic disciplines as History, Biology, Physics, Anthropology, Archeology, Comparative Theology, Philosophy, Art History, Architecture, Environmental Science and Geography, Economics, and – and – well – you get the idea.

This Advanced Placement World History course is a college level class. It requires college level work, the level of which may be demanding and challenging. You may have to read a passage more than once and look up words in a dictionary. Additionally, typical college classes read and work at a faster pace. But if you are prepared to make the commitment, the reward is worth it.

Our task is a daunting one: 200,000 years of history in slightly less than 18 months (once you eliminate vacations, free days, retreats, and the like!)

Because of all the different things this course integrates, I think it is the most interesting course I have ever taught, and I hope that you find it just as fascinating. But, I would not be fair if I didn’t tell you that it was going to require work and time on both our parts.

## Humanities A (this will make sense when we get started in the fall) History Summer Assignments

**STEP ONE: Send me an email** (ggraham@shermanisd.net) acknowledging that you have read this assignment completely and intend to complete it. Whenever you send me an email, be sure to put WHAP in as the first part of the subject so that my spam filter doesn’t dump your email directly to the waste bin!

- a. Class of 2023: Tell me a little bit about yourself. Why are you taking this class? What would you like to get out of it? What are your interests outside of school?
- b. Debrief the previous year. What was the most interesting unit? What were some of the fun things you liked and want to do again? What needs to change for the upcoming year? (getting rid of homework is not an option)

Watch the following five videos. Answer the questions on a separate piece of paper.

## STEP TWO: AN EVENING WITH JOHN GREEN WORLD HISTORY



1. HOW DO WE HAVE EVIDENCE OF HUNTER-GATHERERS (H-G) AND THEIR LIFEWAYS?
2. WHAT ADVANTAGES DID H-G HAVE OVER EARLY AGRICULTURALISTS?
3. WHERE DID AGRICULTURE EMERGE? WHICH FOOD CROPS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH WHICH AREAS?
4. WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF AGRICULTURE?
5. WHAT IMPACT DOES AGRICULTURE HAVE ON THE ENVIRONMENT?
6. WHAT ADVANTAGES DO YOU THINK THAT EURASIA HAD WITH ITS ZOOLOGICAL SET OF ANIMALS COMPARED TO THE AMERICAS?
7. IF H-G HAD A "BETTER AND HEALTHIER" LIFEWAY, WHY DID PEOPLE BECOME AGRICULTURALISTS?
8. WHAT DO HISTORIANS SAY ARE THE DRAWBACKS TO COMPLEX CIVILIZATIONS AND AGRICULTURE?



1. HOW IS THE CONCEPT OF "CIVILIZATION" A USEFUL CONSTRUCT? WHEN IS IT NOT A USEFUL CONSTRUCT?
2. HOW DOES JOHN GREEN DEFINE WHAT CONSTITUTES A CIVILIZATION? HOW DOES THIS COMPARE TO OTHER DEFINITIONS OF CIVILIZATION YOU HAVE LEARNED?
3. WHERE DID THE EARLIEST CIVILIZATIONS EMERGE? WHY THERE?
4. WHY WAS THE INDUS VALLEY A PRIME LOCATION? HOW DID THE ENVIRONMENT IMPACT THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED THERE?
5. WHAT EVIDENCE EXISTS OF LONG-DISTANCE TRADE AND WITH WHOM?
6. WHAT APPEARS TO BE UNIQUE ABOUT THE IVC, BASED ON YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER CIVILIZATIONS?



1. JOHN GREEN BEGINS BY DISCUSSING ONE OF THE MOST OBVIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF AGRICULTURE...WHAT IS IT AND WHAT ARE THE MOST IMMEDIATE CONSEQUENCES FOR THOSE SOCIETIES?
2. HOW DOES MESOPOTAMIA COMPARE WITH THE INDUS RIVER VALLEY (IRV)? IDENTIFY BOTH SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES. THINK OF WHY A SPECIFIC SIMILARITY AND A SPECIFIC DIFFERENCE MIGHT EXIST. (THIS IS ANALYSIS; ONE OF THE MORE CHALLENGING SKILLS YOU WILL NEED TO DEVELOP).
3. CUNIFORM: WHAT THREE POINTS DOES JOHN GREEN MAKE ABOUT THE ADVENT OF WRITING?
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_
4. WHAT WAS HAMMURABI'S MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION?
5. WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES OF EMPIRE WHAT IS THE USUAL RESULT? OR TO PUT IT IN MATH TERMS:
 
$$+ \quad =$$



1. WHAT POINT IS JOHN GREEN MAKING ABOUT THE DIFFERENT "LENSES" WE USE WHEN WE STUDY HISTORY?
2. HOW DID THE NILE RIVER SHAPE THE WORLDVIEW OF THE EGYPTIANS? HOW DID THIS COMPARE TO THE MESOPOTAMIAN WORLDVIEW?
3. HOW WAS EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION DIFFERENT FROM MOST OTHER RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS? WHY DO YOU THINK THIS WAS?
4. WHAT DOES THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PYRAMIDS REPRESENT? (NOT "WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE PYRAMIDS?")
5. WHAT WAS THE MOTIVATION FOR BUILDING THE PYRAMIDS? (NOT "WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE PYRAMIDS?")
6. WHAT PROTECTED EGYPT FROM OUTSIDE PEOPLES? HOW WERE THE EGYPTIANS EVENTUALLY CONQUERED BY SEMITIC PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST?



1. WHAT DO TEXTBOOKS NORMALLY DO TO THE RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS?
2. WHAT DO EGYPT, MESOPOTAMIA, ANATOLIA, ETC. HAVE IN COMMON?
  - a. TRADE: What did underwater archaeologists find on the shipwreck?
  - b. WAR: What was one of the main drivers of economic growth?
  - c. FAMILY: How did these civilizations share familial relationships?
3. WHAT ARE WE REALLY TALKING ABOUT WHEN WE USE THE WORD 'CIVILIZATION'?
4. WHAT HAPPENED AROUND 1200 BCE TO MYCENAEANS, MINOANS, HITTITES, AND (PARTIALLY) EGYPT?
  - a. WHAT CAUSED THIS?
  - b. WHAT IS THE THEORY OF ARCHAEOSEISMOLOGISTS?
5. HOW DOES INTERDEPENDENCE IN THE BRONZE AGE HELP LEAD TO ITS DOWNFALL?

## STEP THREE: Fill out maps (3 of them, to be exact)

### Map 1 items 1-25

#### *Important Lines*

1. Equator
2. Prime Meridian
3. International Date Line

#### *Continents*

4. North America
5. South America
6. Europe
7. Asia
8. Africa
9. Australia
10. Antarctica

#### *Sub-regions (found on the AP Website, color each region and stripe the overlapping region)*

11. Central Asia
12. East Asia
13. South Asia
14. Southeast Asia
15. Middle East
16. North Africa
17. West Africa
18. Central Africa
19. East Africa
20. Southern Africa
21. Sub-Saharan Africa (this will overlap)
22. North America
23. Latin America (will overlap)
24. Caribbean
25. South America

### Map 2 items 26-60

#### *Bodies of Water (color them blue)*

26. Atlantic Ocean
27. Pacific Ocean
28. Arctic Ocean
29. Indian Ocean
30. North Sea
31. Baltic Sea
32. English Channel
33. Norwegian Sea
34. Mediterranean Sea
35. Adriatic Sea
36. Aegean Sea
37. Black Sea
38. Red Sea
39. Great Lakes
40. Persian Gulf
41. Arabian Sea
42. Bay of Bengal
43. South China Sea
44. East China Sea
45. Yellow Sea
46. Sea of Japan

### *Rivers (draw them blue)*

- 47. Nile River
- 48. Tigris River
- 49. Euphrates River
- 50. Indus River
- 51. Amazon River
- 52. Rio Grande River
- 53. Mississippi River
- 54. Yellow River (Huang He)
- 55. Yangtze River
- 56. Congo River
- 57. Seine River
- 58. Danube River
- 59. Thames River
- 60. Rubicon River

### **Map 3 items 61-109**

### *Mountains (color them brown)*

- 61. Rocky Mountains
- 62. Pyrenees Mountains
- 63. Appalachian Mountains
- 64. Andes Mountains
- 65. Alps
- 66. Atlas Mountains
- 67. Caucus Mountains
- 68. Ural Mountains
- 69. Hindu Kush
- 70. Himalaya Mountains

### *Deserts (color yellow)*

- 71. Syrian Desert
- 72. Gobi Desert
- 73. Sahara Desert
- 74. Taklimakan Desert
- 75. Mojave Desert

### *Peninsulas*

- 76. Apennine Peninsula
- 77. Iberian Peninsula
- 78. Arabian Peninsula
- 79. Balkan Peninsula

### *Cities*

- 80. Carthage, Tunisia
- 81. Versailles, France
- 82. Boston, USA
- 83. Jerusalem
- 84. Cairo, Egypt
- 85. Athens, Greece
- 86. Rome, Italy
- 87. London, England
- 88. Paris, France
- 89. San Francisco, USA
- 90. New York City, USA
- 91. Berlin, Germany
- 92. Moscow, Russia
- 93. Hong Kong, China
- 94. Beijing, China
- 95. Tokyo, Japan
- 96. Baghdad, Iraq
- 97. Singapore

98. Florence, Italy

99. Delhi, India

100. Alexandria, Egypt

*Chokepoints - Straits or canals (label only)*

103. Strait of Gibraltar

104. Suez Canal

105. Panama Canal

106. Dardanelles Strait

101. Istanbul, Turkey

102. Mecca, Saudi Arabia

107. English Channel

108. Strait of Hormuz

109. Bosphorus Strait

**Map 1**

**Use this for  
items 1-25**



**Map 2**

**Use this for  
items 26-60**



**Map 3**

Use this for  
items 61-109

