

May 15, 2018

Dear Soon-to-be-Geographers,

We are delighted you will be in AP Human Geography as an elective this upcoming year. It is a very dynamic course and one we hope you will find challenging, engaging, and rewarding.

There are a wide range of topics and materials we will cover throughout the school year. In order to start the year prepared, there is a summer assignment that will provide you with a solid introduction to AP Human Geography and will serve as your first test grade.

For the first part, you will be reading the first chapter of a book by geographer Harm de Blij, entitled *Why Geography Matters... More than Ever!* This can be found on our Google Classroom page. To access it, please join Google Classroom with the code **txx976**.

As you read, you should take notes on:

- What geography is
 - de Blij's definition and
 - the four geographic traditions
- What it means to view the world spatially
- How the study of geography has changed
- Why geography matters

For the second part, you will be completing your first field work assignment, exploring your own neighborhood. The instructions are thorough, though do not hesitate to email Ms. Kallman with questions as you work on it - pkallman@strakejesuit.org. You may also email to request an example of a completed field work to help guide you.

This assignment will be due on the class period prior to Labor Day weekend.

We hope you each have a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you all in the fall!

Warm wishes,

Ms. Kallman & Mr. Clemons

p.s. If you are reading this before the last day of school, come by 3101 to pick up a clipboard. The first 30 students to come by will get one. This will be useful for your fieldwork.

AP Human Geography Summer Field Work:

Where do we live? Why? How does place shape our life? How do we shape places?

For your first assignment, you will stay close to home, exploring your own neighborhood. You will be incorporating the five themes of geography: location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region.

Select four streets as boundaries for your neighborhood. It would be good if they are major streets, but if not that's ok. Each of the four boundaries should be less than a mile because you will need to walk them. You may use Google maps or similar resource to select your boundaries. If need be, they can be as short as ½ mile, depending on your particular area.

Before going any further, make a mental map. Include your four boundaries, major streets, landmarks, and try, as best as you can, to draw it to scale. Do not cheat and look at Google maps! This should be messy and likely, incorrect. Mine was!

Location:

Where is your neighborhood located? Think about absolute location. This is a fixed spot on the earth and is a coordinate measured in two numbers - which can be found on Google maps. Then, think about relative location. How would you describe where your neighborhood is to a friend? What about a family member that lives out of state? What if you were describing it to someone from another continent?

Place:

What is your neighborhood like? What are unique traits of your neighborhood? What does it look like, sound like, smell like, feel like?

1. Walk your neighborhood with paper and pencil - ideally at a cooler time of day! As you walk, make notes to answer the questions you will be turning in.
 - Number of houses on an *average* street.
 - Number of cars and kinds of cars on an *average* street.
 - Presence or absence of toys and bicycles.
 - Decide what you think the average number of people is living in an average house. (Think about the average age, income and marital status in your neighborhood. Are their few or many children? Think about how many kids show up on Halloween that are not necessarily dropped off by car, of course.)
 - Age of the houses (ask someone like your parents or a neighbor if you are unsure). Is there new construction? What is the condition of the houses? Are there large mature trees and shrubs or is the landscaping young? What are the construction materials? (brick, stone, stucco, etc.) 1 or 2 stories? How many garages?
 - Is there any multi family housing within your boundaries? (Apartments, condominiums, townhomes)
 - Are there any gated communities?
 - Note the location on your map of any commercial property, government property, green space, places of worship, parks, community recreation (pools) apartments, condominiums, gated communities.
 - Is there any fencing? What kind? Cyclone? Wood? Brick? Stucco?
 - Are there curbs and gutters? What about sidewalks?
 - Do you see any businesses or signs that indicate the presence of an ethnic community?
 - Were there any train tracks, bridges, bodies of water/bayou/ditches?

- What sounds do you hear as you walk? Ethnic music, trains? Other languages?

Human-Environment:

During your walk, note what impact we have on the environment and vice versa. Find examples of each of the following:

- Dependency - in what way do you depend on your environment?
- Adaptation - how have humans adapted to the environment?
- Modification - how have humans made modifications to the environment?

Movement:

How often are people moving in and out of your area? Is it mainly young families in starter homes? Older families? Single people? Are homes in high demand or do they sit on the market?

Find out about the movement in your neighborhood by making notes on your walk.

- Are there many "for sale" signs? How about "for lease" signs?
- Do you notice any moving trucks?

Gather qualitative data from at least one person who has been in the area for a while. This should be someone that you know already, a friend of the family, parent's friend, etc. Find out:

- How long they've lived in your neighborhood
- What types of changes have they seen to the population?
- How have the buildings changed?
- Has the overall "feel" of the neighborhood changed?
- Are many residents new or are there familiar faces?
- Why have they chosen to stay for so long? What draws them to be where they are?

Region:

What physical characteristics help bind your place?

What human characteristics help bind your place?

Name _____

AP Human Geography Summer Field Work:

Where do we live? Why? How does place shape our life? How do we shape places?

Location:

Absolute Location _____ (GPS Coordinates)

Relative Location as described to a:

Friend living in a different part of town _____

Friend living in a different state _____

Friend living in a different country _____

Place:

Boundary streets (include length in parenthesis) _____

Houses on average street _____

Are there apartment buildings? _____

Number of cars on average street _____

Types of cars on average street _____

Do you see toys, swings, or bikes? _____

Come up with your best guess of the average number of people in each house/apartment/townhome. (Think about ages, kids running around or trick or treating, people walking around in the mornings on the weekend, etc.) _____

How old do you estimate houses/apartments to be? _____

Is there a lot of new construction? _____

What is the condition of the houses/apartments? _____

Are there large, mature trees or young ones? _____

What do homes appear to be made of? (brick, stone, vinyl, wood) _____

Are homes one or two stories? _____

If there are apartment buildings, how many stories are they? _____

Are there any gated communities? _____

What commercial properties do you see? _____

Is there any government property? (Post office, city hall, administrative buildings, etc.) If so, what?

Are there any green spaces or parks? _____

Are there any places of worship? _____

Are there any schools? _____

Are there any community recreation places? (pools, tennis courts) _____

Is there any fencing? What type? (cyclone, wood, brick, etc.) _____

Are there sidewalks? What condition are they in? _____

Are there any businesses or signs that indicate the presence of an ethnic community? If so, what ethnicities do you notice? _____

Are there any train tracks, bridges, bodies of water, ditches? _____

What sounds do you hear in your neighborhood? Music? Trains? Other languages? Birds? Dogs? _____

What smells do you notice in your neighborhood? Bakeries? Sewage? Car exhaust? _____

Human-Environment:

Dependency: What is one way in which you depend on your environment?

Adaptation: In what way(s) have humans adapted to the environment in your neighborhood?

Modification: In what way(s) has the environment been modified for humans?

Movement:

Do you see any "for sale" or "for lease" signs? Are they clustered or spread out? _____

Did you see any moving trucks? _____

Quantitative Data:

Who did you interview and how do you know them? _____

How long have they lived in your neighborhood? _____

What types of changes have they seen to the population? _____

How have the buildings changed? _____

Has the overall "feel" of the neighborhood changed? _____

Are many residents new or are there familiar faces? _____

Why have they chosen to stay for so long? _____

What draws them to be where they are? _____

Was there anything else they shared that you didn't know about? _____

Region:

List two physical characteristics help define your place

List two human characteristics help define your place

Ms. Kallman's Mental Map

