

# APES Summer Assignment

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\*\*\*Please sign up for our page on Google Classroom, the class code is **iyf8ph**

Welcome to APES! I am very happy that you have decided to take this course and embark upon what I believe will be an exciting and profitable educational journey. This letter contains an outline and brief description of the summer work that is **required** prior to beginning the school year.

Please note that the purpose of this summer assignment is NOT to give you busy work. Instead, the goal is to introduce you to the concepts that will be taught during this course and encourage you to become motivated to learn more about the field of environmental science. I truly hope that you are able to deeply reflect and find fulfillment through completion of this assignment.

**Reminder: This is a college level course! Therefore I expect college level work habits from my students.**

Your summer assignment is worth a TEST grade, and has **3 components**:

## **Part 1: Environmental Activity Scavenger Hunt (30%)**

The goal of this part of the assignment is to experience some nature, start thinking about your role and interaction with the environment, introduce yourself to me and the class, and just have fun! There are a variety of possibilities that I hope you will find enjoyable.

Pick at least **TWO** different experiences to complete this assignment, and they must be from different categories. (You can't do two trips to the farmer's market for example!) Each experience needs to be documented separately, but can be completed on the same trip (camping overnight then going for a nature hike the next day for example).

You should keep electronics to a minimum during these experiences. You can use experiences while on vacation, or close to home. Feel free to meet up with others in the class to do an experience together (but you each need to document the experience separately).

Make sure an appropriate adult knows what you are doing, before you do it. Stay safe!

### **Expectations:**

1. Each activity must be documented by providing **picture evidence**.
  - You must appear in your picture (not just your hand etc. I must be able to identify you)
  - Feel free to be creative in what/how you document the experience.
2. Each activity must have a 1-2 paragraph reflection answering the following questions.
  1. Which activity, when, and where?
  2. Sensory description (what did you see, hear, smell, feel, taste), trying to pay attention to details that you might not have noticed otherwise.
  3. Was the experience a new one for you or something you've done before? How did the experience reinforce/change your outlook on nature etc.?

## Scavenger Hunt Options

1. Camping - spend at least 1 night sleeping outside in a tent (or if it is nice no tent!). This can even be in your own backyard. Cabins/cottages do not count for this activity. If possible, build a campfire and try cooking a meal over it!
2. Non-motorized water activity- paddle boarding, canoeing, river rafting, sailing, paddle boating, even surfing if it is available to you!
3. Beachcombing- Wander a beach and search for interesting shells, various algae, different types of sand, etc. Compare what you find at two different beaches! Should have photo evidence of at least 4 unique, natural items found. Local options include many different lakes (try looking along a more natural coastline in the marsh grasses too!) but also great for a vacation option.
4. Nature hike- explore an area of woods or wetlands while focusing on nature. Look high and low, stop to listen to the sounds, and occasionally stand perfectly still to see if you observe anything that you might miss otherwise. Should have photo evidence of at least 4 unique, natural items found.
5. Farmer's market- visit a farmer's market and find a food you've never tried before. Find out where the farmers are from and how far they've traveled to bring their food to the market. Compare the prices at the market with prices in your grocery store. Are there foods offered at the market that are not offered in the store? What other goods besides fruits and vegetables are available?
6. Bike trip- variation on a nature hike, this time on wheels. Do a countryside tour, follow a greenway, or do trail riding.
7. Gardening experience- whether you plant a small plot of land or try out container gardening, flex your green thumb a bit! Herbs, tomatoes, zucchini, peppers, or salad greens are good ones to try. Pick items you enjoy the most to see if you can grow your own instead of buying them. Try making a salsa garden and making your own salsa! Document your progress throughout the endeavor, and if you are successful you could even bring in some of the fruits of your labor.
8. Park exploration- Visit a State or National Park. If you have the opportunity to travel, go for it! What natural features are found in the park that make it important to preserve? Learn about the ecosystem of the area through visiting the park welcome center or nature center or reading the brochures.
9. Nature art- If you are an amateur artist, take your art outdoors. Create a watercolor, sculpture, drawing, or photography of nature. Go macro (landscapes) or micro (details of things like moss, tree bark, etc. are fascinating!) Try something different from what you usually attempt!
10. Zoo / nature preserve / wildlife center / science center visit- Explore a new place or go someplace you've been before. Take a guided tour or interact with the staff to learn more about the operation of the facility.
11. Environmental volunteer experience- Many parks and community organizations welcome volunteers to assist with trail maintenance, litter removal, etc. Inquire with a park office if you can volunteer.
12. Composting- Start your own compost pile. Can be an open pile, a small bin, or vermicomposting. Visit the Recycling Depot for info to get started, and see their vermicomposting! Document how much wastes your family is able to reduce, and how the compost breaks down over time.
13. Other approved activity- think of something else that doesn't fit in any of these categories? Just ask!

## **Part 2: Thinking Globally (40%)**

This part of the assignment has 3 steps:

1. **READ** the attached excerpt “*Entering a New World*” by the Earth Policy Institute. **Highlight and annotate as you read.**
2. **WATCH** the documentary called “*Home*” (found in the link below). **Jot down your thoughts and questions as you watch, and look for connection to the reading and writing question!**

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqxENMKaeCU>

3. **WRITE** a 500 word reflection (~2 pages double-spaced) in which you answer this prompt:

*Humanity has come to totally dominate Earth in a relatively short time period. Despite this tremendous success, we face many challenges to achieving long-term sustainability. **What are the greatest threats to sustainability humanity now faces, and what measures will be most effective to shift us onto a sustainable societal trajectory?***

Be sure to **assert and defend a thesis** in which you clearly and directly answer the question, and support your argument by **including evidence from the reading, video, and other sources/knowledge**. This is certainly a question that will be explored more thoroughly throughout this year!

## **Part 3: Textbook Chapters 1 and 2 (30%)**

- Read Chapters 1 and 2 of the textbook – these will provide you with an overview of the field of environmental science along with a review of important chemistry and earth science concepts
- Answer the “Testing Your Comprehension” Questions (#1-10) at the end of each chapter

**\*ALL WORK MUST BE SUBMITTED ON GOOGLE CLASSROOM BY THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL\***

*Reminder: the class code is **iyf8ph***

- Part 1 – photo(s) and reflection paragraph documenting TWO environmental activities
- Part 2 – 500-word reflection from reading and video
- Part 3 – Chapter 1 and 2 questions

Please let me know if you have ANY questions. Enjoy!

Mrs. Cowan

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