



## AP World History Summer Assignment

### Course Overview

In AP World History, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments and processes from 1200 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practice, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation and continuity and change over time. The course provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places.

### Textbook

Please purchase a copy of **Ways of the World with Sources: For the AP Course Fourth Edition** by Robert Strayer and Eric Nelson (ISBN:9781319173494). You may purchase either the physical copy of the book or the e-book version.

### Purpose of the Summer Assignment

The summer assignment is designed to introduce you to the historical context prior to the year 1200. It will also provide me with an opportunity to assess your critical thinking and writing skills, which will be developed throughout the year in preparation for the AP World History exam in the spring. The information contained in the first six chapters of the *Ways of the World* textbook is essential to understanding the historical processes and developments that occur from 1200 to the present. Some of the topics discussed in these chapters include pastoralism, the Neolithic Revolution, the development of empires like the Mesopotamians, Greeks and Romans, as well as Chinese dynasties like the Han. Arguably one of the most important topics discussed is the development of world religions and philosophies such as Buddhism, Confucianism, Christianity and Islam. All of these topics will play a central role in influencing world history from 1200 to the present.

### Summer Assignment

Please read the following pages and respond to the two essay prompts prior to the first day of school.

Chapter 1: First Peoples; First Farmers: Most of History in a Single Chapter (pgs. 2-43)

Chapter 2: First Civilizations: Cities, States, and Unequal Societies (pgs. 53-83)

**Essay Question: #4 pg. 91-f**

In the period up to 600 B.C.E, agricultural communities developed in numerous areas of the world, such as the Fertile Crescent, Africa, Asia and the Americas. Develop an argument that evaluates the environmental causes and effects of the Neolithic Revolution.

- Chapter 3: State and Empire in Eurasia/North Africa (pgs. 92-129)
- Chapter 4: Culture and Religion in Eurasia/North Africa (pgs. 141-174)
- Chapter 5: Society and Inequality in Eurasia/North Africa (pgs. 187-213)
- Chapter 6: Commonalities and Variations: Africa, the Americas, and Pacific Oceania (pgs. 227-259)

**Essay Question: #3 pg. 267-f**

Between 600 B.C.E and 600 C.E. transregional trade intensified, leading to the creation of extensive networks of commercial and cultural exchange. Develop an argument that evaluates the extent to which the growth of large-scale empires led to the expansion and intensification of networks of communication and exchange.

**Submission/Grading**

The two essay responses will count as your first test grade (12 points total). Each response should be five paragraphs in length and must be focused around a clear, evaluative and specific thesis claim. Your responses should be typed in a Google Doc and should follow the proper MLA format. The essays must be shared with me prior to the first day of school in order to receive full credit. The assignment will be graded using the official AP World History LEQ (long essay question) rubric. Please reach out to me over the summer if you have any questions, [cpresnal@wma.us](mailto:cpresnal@wma.us).