

AP Human Geography Summer Reading 2021-2022

Study Guide

Book: *Every Day is For the Thief* by Teju Cole (ISBN 978-0-8129-8585-6)

IMPORTANT: Read the entire study guide before you read the book.

Introduction: Welcome to Advanced Placement Human Geography! Geography means to picture or draw the world; this is a tremendous task, and consequently geography incorporates knowledge from most every other class you might take (including sciences, history, math, world languages, and the arts). I think you will find the class one of the most useful you take in the upper school, as it deals with “real world” issues and is focused on understanding and solving problems. I can guarantee that you will learn a lot of pragmatic knowledge about the world in which we live and learn a lot of things that you can apply to other classes.

So, what exactly is geography? The Merriam-Webster On-Line Dictionary defines geography as “a science that deals with the description, distribution, and interaction of the diverse physical, biological, and cultural features of the earth's surface.” (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/geography>) This is similar to most every other dictionary definition of geography, but it does little to narrow down the scope of what the class will cover. The two most important terms in the definition is that geography is a science and that it focuses on interactions. Please don't call geography a “history” class, because it is not. Of course there will be some history in the class, as there is in all classes, and there is nothing wrong with history, but rather than telling stories about the past we will be applying models to the “interaction of physical, biological, and cultural features” of the earth in order to try to understand them. Because the class focuses on human geography and not physical geography, we will not spend much time discussing plate tectonics, subduction zones, types of rocks, or the reasons for the location of rivers and mountain ranges. These are all interesting topics but are outside of the range of human geography. In this class we will focus on the part of the earth that can be called the ecumene (if you don't know what that word means, It will be explained below), why these regions are the ecumene and how human interactions with the biosphere in these areas have shaped human culture and the environment. We will be concerned with topics ranging from languages, religions, politics, economics, and urban planning. Most people think geography is memorizing capital cities and mountain ranges. When you finish this summer reading assignment, you will see that geography is much more than this. My definition of human geography is that

it is the study of space and spatial relationships. Human geographers study the ways that humans interact with the physical environment (**cultural ecology**) and modify it in intentional and unintentional ways (**cultural landscape**). Human geography is often referred to as “the why of where.” Of course, the world and people are incredibly complex, and it would be impossible to account for every human interaction. Most of the theories and models we will consider are the product of thinkers often called by the acronym **WEIRD** (White, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, Developed). Not everyone in the world agrees with the ideas we will be discussing. We should always approach everything with this in mind. Now on to the summer reading book.

On the following pages you will find a study guide that takes you through some of the basic concepts in human geography and asks you to use information from the book to answer question or apply concepts. **It is probably best that you read over the study guide questions for each chapter before you read that chapter. As you read through the book, mark information that you think will be useful to complete what the study guide question asks for.** Attempt to do all that this study guide asks you to do. If you don’t fully understand something, that is ok. We have the whole year to clear things up. Feel free to discuss the assignment with other students in the class and/or to contact me at mike.kelley@stratford.org anytime over the summer. I will try to answer your questions as quickly as possible. See you in August.

Synopsis of the Book

Fifteen years is a long time to be away from home. It feels longer still because I left under a cloud.

A young Nigerian living in New York City goes home to Lagos for a short visit, finding a city both familiar and strange. In a city dense with story, the unnamed narrator moves through a mosaic of life, hoping to find inspiration for his own. He witnesses the “yahoo yahoo” diligently perpetrating email frauds from an Internet café, longs after a mysterious woman reading on a public bus who disembarks and disappears into a bookless crowd, and recalls the tragic fate of an eleven-year-old boy accused of stealing at a local market.

Along the way, the man reconnects with old friends, a former girlfriend, and extended family, taps into the energies of Lagos life—creative, malevolent, ambiguous—and slowly begins to reconcile the profound changes that have taken place in his country and the truth about himself.

(<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/234205/every-day-is-for-the-thief-by-teju-cole/>)

Assignment

Complete each of the following. Written answers should be typed. There is not one correct answer for any of the assignments, but some answers are better than others. What I am asking for is not perfection, but that you carefully read the book and make an honest and thorough attempt at completing each of the following. If you don't understand a word or a term, look it up before you contact me.

1. We will start with a history question. Yes, I said AP Human Geography isn't a history class, but I did say it includes some history. Anyway, you should be used to history class, and so, this should be a good transition question.

Consider the following quotation.

"The past is never dead. It's not even past." (William Faulkner)

The narrator of the book spends a great deal of time contemplating the history of Nigeria. He says that history is uncontested in Nigeria and wonders why the National Museum is so lacking in historical artifacts and context. First, explain how the quotation from Faulkner might apply to Nigeria. Then, use THREE incidents and/or quotations from the book to support your application.

2. AP Human Geography is concerned with spatial analysis—that is depicting, considering, assessing, and comparing spatial areas on the earth's surface. One way of saying this is that we consider how space becomes a place. We will define "place" as space that has meaning for humans, that is we can give it characteristics and perform the functions mentioned above. The book begins in New York City, a place, and then travels to Lagos, Nigeria, another place. Explain THREE ways the book depicts Lagos as different from New York City.

3. A major topic in AP Human Geography is culture. We can define culture as the sum of knowledge, attitudes, and habitual behavior patterns (norms) shared and transmitted by the members of a society. Although it is oversimplifying a lot, we can speak of Nigerian culture and American culture as being distinct, with different knowledge, attitudes, and norms.

Consider the following quotation.

"Culture, as social scientists use the term, is mostly subterranean force, taken for granted, assumed, inarticulate. We are born into cultures, which teach us how to see, speak, and to think. It is only through great effort that we can bring out own culture into view and then only partially." (David A. Franz)

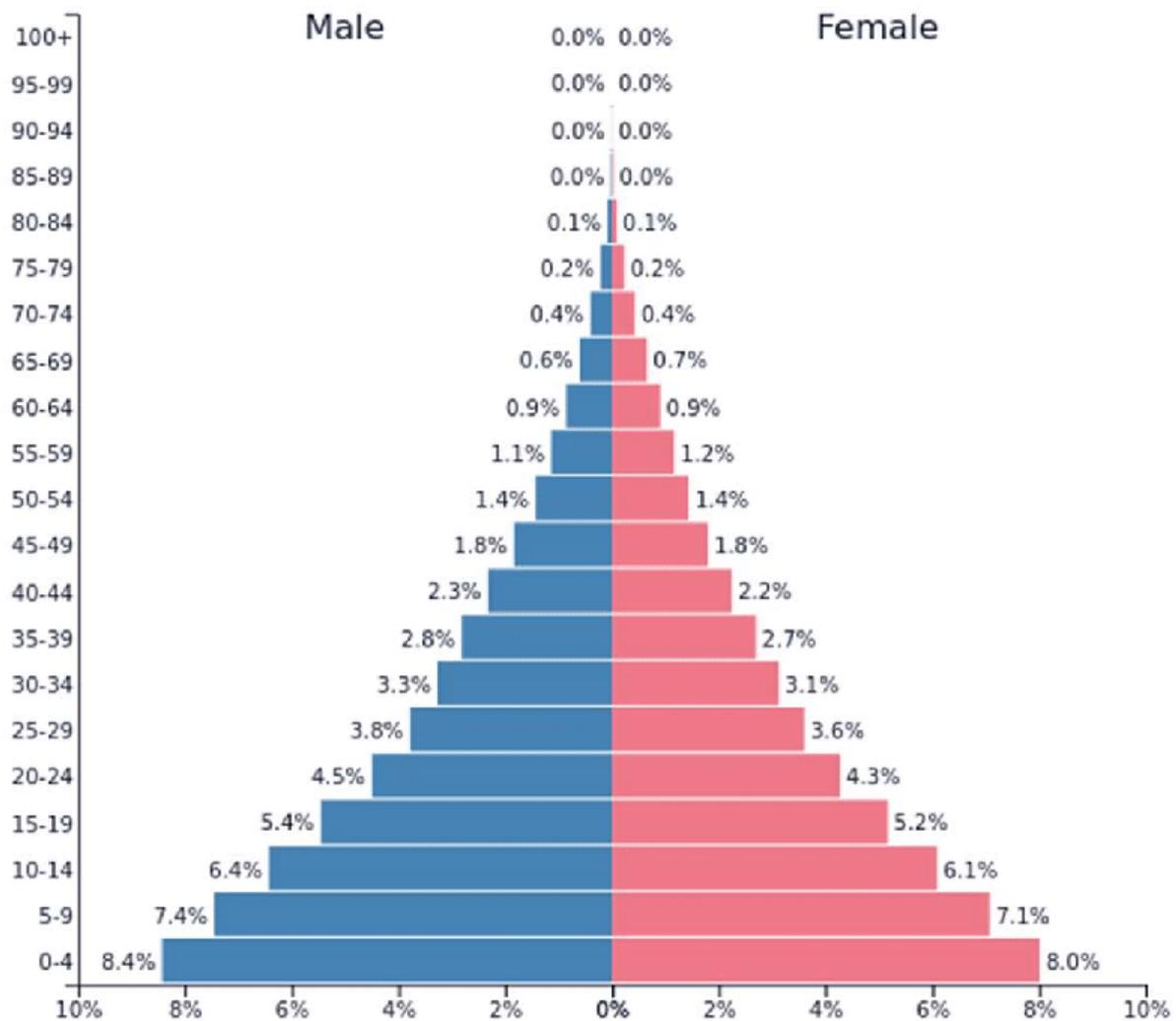
In the introduction to this assignment, I defined the terms cultural ecology and cultural landscape. Describe how both the cultural ecology and the cultural landscapes in the United States and Nigeria differ. Then, explain how the quotation from David A. Franz, can help explain the differences between the cultural ecology and the cultural landscapes in the United States and Nigeria.

4. An important component of every culture is the standards of justice. Describe how justice is delivered to the 11-year-old boy who is accused of stealing in the marketplace. Explain THREE reasons most Americans would object to how justice was carried out. Then, explain TWO reasons why Nigerians might think that justice was served.

5. We will use a lot of statistical and graphic data in this class. Consider the following data sets.

2020 Corruption Perception Index by Transparency International

- Nigeria scored 25 out of 100 (Index is scored from 0 to 100, with 0 being totally corrupt and 100 being totally clean)
- Nigeria ranked 149th out of 180 countries
- 43% of Nigerians though corruption had increased over the previous 12 months
- 44% of public service users paid a bribe in the previous 12 months



PopulationPyramid.net

Nigeria - 2019
Population: **201,748,560**

Corruption is a theme in the book from the narrator's initial visit to the Nigerian consulate, through his discussion of the informal economy in Lagos, the explanation of the patronage society in Nigeria as a whole, 419 fraud, and the actions of the "area boys." First, define each of these terms as used in the book. Then use the two pieces of data depicted on the previous page (the Corruption Perception Index and the population pyramid) to explain why each of the underlined concepts/conditions exists in Nigeria.

6. We use a lot of maps in AP Human Geography. I want you to draw a map of Nigeria that takes up most of a standard sheet of printer paper. You need to depict, using symbols, anything that you feel is necessary to understand Nigeria, as it is depicted in the book. At a minimum, it should include the following: Five largest cities; capital city; major physical/topographical features; location of major ethnic groups (3-5 largest is fine); population density; and the location of major resources. Your map will be assessed on how well constructed it is, how complete it is in covering the minimal required data, and how creative you are in depicting the data.

