

10TH GRADE REQUIRED HISTORY SUMMER READING
Accelerated
2024

Chapters 5 and 6 from *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, by Yuval Noah Harari. [See attached pdf.](#) This book is an example of “big history.” Big history doesn’t look at a particular country or event. Instead it zooms out and looks at the big picture: the history of the planet or humanity as a whole. *Sapiens* looks back to prehistory and ancient history to understand our society today. It draws on the fields of biology, anthropology, and linguistics, as well as history, to tell this story.

I. Look over the questions below so that you know what to focus on.

II. Print out the pdf (see link above). As you read, underline or highlight unfamiliar words and write out a brief definition in your own words in the margin. This will be checked on the first day of class.

III. After you read, answer the following questions in full sentences in your own words on a separate piece of paper. These will be collected on the first day of school and will be graded. They will also help you with class discussion and activities during the first week of classes.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Scheinmann (rscheinmann@jbha.org)

1. Describe the effects of the agricultural revolution on humans. Consider the following:

- Effects on the body
- Social effects
- Economic effects
- Conflicts

2. Why does Harari describe the agricultural revolution as a “fraud”? Do you agree with him? Explain.

3. What is Harari referring to when he discusses “myths”? According to Harari, what are the effects of myths in a society?

4. According to Harari, how do Hammurabi’s Code and the Declaration of Independence both reflect societal myths?

5. What “imagined order” do you think is most powerful in your life? How is it “embedded in the material world”?

6. What is meant by “inter-subjective”? Explain with your own example.

7. What information in this reading did you find particularly surprising or interesting? Why?