



Summer Assignment
Global Humanities with Dr. Wilson
2024-2025

Please read this entire document carefully before you begin work.

Your Task

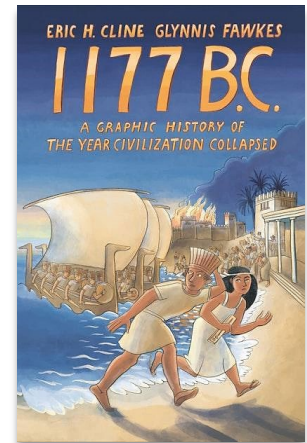
During the summer, get a paperback copy of the following book. **Read** it and **take notes** about it. (See the instructions below for how to take notes.) Then come to school in September prepared to discuss this book with other students.

1177 B.C.: A Graphic History of the Year Civilization Collapsed

by Eric H. Cline (author) and Glynnis Fawkes (illustrator)

ISBN 9780691213026

247 pages



Although an electronic version of this book is available on Kindle, you should **not** use that version for this assignment. This text is designed like a comic book. It will be difficult to read on Kindle. Get the paperback version instead.

Also, make sure you get the *graphic* (illustrated) version of the book. It should have the cover you see above.

How to Take Notes

As you read *1177 B.C.: A Graphic History* this summer, use a **separate notebook** to write down short comments in your own words. (This book does not have enough room to annotate the pages directly.) You should **write at least three notes per chapter**. Write by hand, and write in full sentences. There are six chapters, plus a prologue at the

beginning that also counts as one chapter, so you need to write **at least 21 notes in all**. This will take some time. Don't leave this assignment for the very end of the summer. What should go in your notes? Well, there's more than one right way. But your notes should show that you read the book carefully. Your notes should include things like:

- The definitions of words that are new to you (look them up in a dictionary!)
- Questions you have about the story
- Thoughts you have about the author's reasoning or evidence
- Emotions the story raises for you
- Important turning points you notice in the story
- How the artwork in the book helps you imagine the places it discusses
- Connections between this book and things you've heard of before
- Your thoughts about anything in the book that you find interesting or confusing
- Anything else you'd like to discuss with other people who have read the book

Each time you write a note, **include the page number** it refers to. This will let you find that place in the book when you review your notes later. Put the number in parentheses, like this:

King Tut's tomb was robbed at some point in "antiquity" (ancient times). Why would the looters leave so much gold behind for modern people to find in 1917? I don't understand. (92)

Why Doing the Assignment Matters

This summer assignment will be graded in two ways.

First, when school starts in September, you will be required to turn in your notebook to show that you have taken the notes. This will count as one homework grade. So don't lose your notebook! Keep it with your copy of the book.

Second, completing this summer reading assignment will also be important for a writing assignment you will start after school begins. If you don't do the reading and notetaking *before* school starts, you are likely to get a low grade on that assignment.

Remember, effective high-school-level reading is an *active* process. That means your reading should involve thinking (questioning, reflecting, and even re-reading). Taking

notes is one way to become a more active reader. And it leaves a trail that you can follow later when you return to the text for additional reflection.

What the Book Is About

This book is unusual. It's basically a nonfiction comic book. It's about a strange set of disasters that struck ancient societies around the [Mediterranean Sea](#) more than 3,000 years ago, during the "Bronze Age."

During that time, the islands and coastlands around the Mediterranean Sea were the home of many powerful and creative civilizations. You've probably heard of some of them, like the ancient kingdom of Egypt and the cities of ancient Greece. Others are less familiar today, like the mysterious "Sea Peoples," or the mighty Hittite Empire, which once ruled Turkey.



Based on evidence from [archaeology](#) and from ancient texts, historians believe that many different societies around the Mediterranean "collapsed" around the year 1177 [B.C.](#), which was 3,201 years ago. Their governments failed, the cities were abandoned, and they stopped producing art and literature. Why? Scholars have given several possible reasons, but nobody knows for sure.

In this book, Eric Cline, an archaeologist, gradually gives us *his* theory about what happened. As you read the book, you should think about whether you find his explanation convincing.

The first four chapters of the book each describe about 100 years of Mediterranean life, leading up to the collapse in the 12th century (1100s) B.C. The last two chapters of the book explain the theories that modern scholars have developed about why the collapse happened.

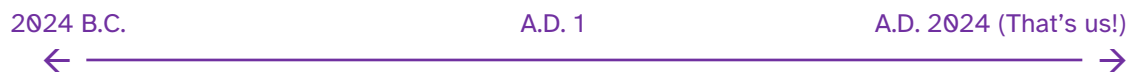
You are likely to find parts of the book very confusing, since it talks about so many different societies and so much time. That's OK. Be patient! You don't have to understand the book right away, and you don't have to memorize everything in the book. Instead, keep following

the story all around the Mediterranean, noticing the *connections* among the ancient places the book describes.

Gradually, you'll start to understand how things in the book fit together. Again, you are **not** trying to memorize every fact—this isn't that kind of textbook. You are trying to understand the “big picture” the book is drawing for you.

If you read the book carefully, you should be able to explain afterward *why* the author thinks the Bronze Age collapse happened. That should be your main takeaway from *1177 B.C.: A Graphic History*.

One more thing: You may find the dates in the book confusing at first. The years in the B.C. era count “backward” compared with the numbers in the A.D. era, which is the era we’re in. That’s because dates given for the B.C. era are the years *before* A.D. 1. In other words, the 1200s B.C. happened *before* the 1100s B.C., not after. Just imagine the dates on a timeline with A.D. 1 in the center, like this:



And don't worry: You don't need to memorize any of the dates in this book.

What Global Humanities Is For

You are reading this book because Global Humanities is about understanding world history in new ways. Throughout the year, you'll be thinking about how we can use evidence creatively to understand the real human beings who lived in different times and places. We will use literature and art to connect with the people who made them. In the process, we can learn a lot about ourselves.