



Benilde-St. Margaret's

A Catholic, college preparatory school

Spring 2026

Welcome to AP U.S. History! I'm really looking forward to working with you this upcoming school year as we explore the story of the United States and the many changes that have shaped North America over the past 600 years.

To help us start the year strong, there will be a required summer assignment. This work covers essential material from our first two units and helps build the geographic understanding that will be important throughout the course.

Your summer assignment focuses on life in North America from 1491 to 1700. Please note the following important expectations:

- There will be an open-note assessment on the summer reading and closed-note map tests during the first week of school.
- All summer work is due on the first day of class.

Your summer assignment is as follows:

1. Read and take handwritten notes on this [reading](#) from one of the textbooks we will use this semester.

Be sure to take thorough notes and focus on including details that answer the learning objectives and include the key terms on the reverse side of this letter. Note: for the summer assignment only, you can skip the insets (skill builders & primary sources). **Note: The length of the reading may seem substantial, but due to the larger font size, numerous images, and reduced text per page, it is shorter and more manageable than it appears.**

2. Study for the map tests. You will need to know the following maps:
 - The colonial map showing the 13 colonies
 - The Native American Culture Region map
 - The current map of the 50 United States.

A few important reminders:

- Be sure to review the attached file for helpful [note-taking strategies](#).
- This assignment is designed to cover the same amount of material we would normally read over two-three weeks during the school year. Completing it during the summer gives us a valuable head start on the content we need to cover before the national exam in May.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me. I will be checking my email periodically throughout the summer.

Once again, welcome to AP US History!

Mrs. Vroman
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Key Terms: Units 1 & 2

A list of learning objectives for the reading can be found [HERE](#).

Note: These are not in the order of your reading. Take notes and then, when you are done, cross-check that you included each of these.

- 1763 Treaty of Paris
- Act of Toleration
- Anne Hutchinson
- Aztecs
- Bacon's Rebellion
- Bartolome De Las Casas
- Battle of Quebec
- Black Legend
- California Tribes
- Chesapeake Bay Colony
- Chesapeake Colonies
- Columbian Exchange
- Columbus
- Conquistadores
- Cortez
- Domesticated animals
- Encomienda
- First Anglo-Powhatan War
- Great Basin Tribes
- Great Plains Tribes
- Head-right system
- House of Burgesses
- Indentured servants
- Jamestown
- Joint stock company
- King Philip's War
- Lord Baltimore
- Massachusetts Bay Company
- Mayflower Compact
- Mercantilism
- Mestizos
- Middle Passage
- NE Tribes
- New Laws of 1542
- New Netherlands
- NW Coast Tribes
- Pilgrims
- Plantation agriculture
- Pocahontas
- Proclamation of 1763
- Puritans
- Quakers
- Rhode Island
- Roanoke Island
- Roger Williams
- Salem Witch Trials
- SE Tribes
- Second Anglo-Powhatan War
- Slave codes
- Slave Trade/Africa
- SW Tribes
- Tobacco
- Triangular Trade
- Virginia company
- William Penn/Pennsylvania

Native American Culture Regions

