

AP United States History, 2026 Summer Assignment

Your APUSH summer assignment is as follows:

1. Read **Chapters 1 and 2 of your textbook, American Pageant AP Edition, 17th edition** - links below. Because the AP Exam occurs in EARLY MAY, we are often pressed for time. These early chapters will be reviewed in class, but we will move through them very quickly; therefore, you must have already read them in order to keep up with the rest of the class. There will be a **reading exam** on these chapters (Unit 1) when school begins (tentatively scheduled for the second week of the school year).
 - o [Chapter 1: New World Beginnings, 33,000 B.C. - A.D. 1680](#)
 - o [Chapter 2: The Conquest for North America, 1500 - 1664](#)
2. I am including a short introductory video you may watch that summarizes each chapter but does not replace reading each chapter.
 - o [Chapter 1: Video Link](#)
 - o [Chapter 2: Video Link](#)
3. Answer the [Unit Learning Objective Questions for Unit 1 \(Chapters 1-2\)](#)

IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU ALSO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Read **Chapters 3 through 6 of your textbook** and answer the **Unit Learning Objective Questions for Unit 2 (Chapters 3-5)**. These are due the third week of school, but beginning of the year “craziness” and work for other classes may mean that you have more time over the summer.
 - o [Chapter 3: Settling the English Colonies, 1619 - 1700](#)
 - o [Chapter 4: American Life in the Seventeenth Century, 1607-1692](#)
 - o [Chapter 5: Colonial Society on the Eve of Revolution, 1700-1775](#)
 2. Answer the [Unit Learning Objective Questions for Unit 2 \(Chapters 3-5\)](#)
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Information about the Unit Learning Objectives

The learning objectives are collected on the day before each unit test (approximately every 1-2 weeks) and are graded. The purpose of answering these questions is to make sure that you understand the important information that is being covered by the chapters as you read. The answers to the questions may require information from just part of the chapter or from the entire chapter (or even multiple chapters), so it is to your advantage to read first and then write out the answers to the chapter objectives. ***This assignment must always be completed individually, in your own words (DO NOT USE AI), and in paragraph form.*** Once the school year starts, these may be submitted using Turnitin.com. Your first two sets of questions are attached. Please do not double-space your answers.

AP US History Unit Learning Objectives – Unit 1 (Chapters 1-2) [Summer] and Unit 2 (Chapters 3-5) [to get ahead if you wish]

The questions should be answered in paragraph format. They are NOT to be considered as full essay questions. Each answer should contain about 5-10 sentences (but more may be necessary). Make sure you are answering the question that is being asked and that you are addressing ALL PARTS of each question. For example, Unit 1, question 3 asks you to “explain the causes of exploration and conquest of the New World by various European nations.” Your answer should contain several causes (not just one), such as the influence of the Crusades, the publication of Marco Polo’s accounts of his journey to China, and the creation of better maps at the beginning of the Renaissance to make the unknown less fearful, etc. Your answer should also address the experiences of different European nations (Spain, Portugal, France, England, etc).

The answers to these questions need to be written IN YOUR OWN WORDS and you may NOT work with other students to complete this assignment. To ensure that each student is doing their own work, these questions may be submitted via Turnitin.com. A class password will be given out at the start of the school year. This assignment is vital practice for your AP Exam essays – both the new shorter free-response format and the traditional essay. These are the specific topics that the College Board is likely to include on the AP Exam itself. **THE FIRST SET (Chapters 1-2) WILL BE DUE THE DAY OF THE UNIT 1 EXAM (tentatively**

scheduled for the second week of the school year).

SUMMER SET UNIT 1 – Due the Second Tuesday of the School Year

Era 1 1491-1607

Unit 1 Chapters 1-2

1. Explain the context for European encounters in the Americas from 1491 to 1607.
 2. Explain how and why various native populations in the period before European contact interacted with the natural environment in North America.
 3. Explain the causes of exploration and conquest of the New World by various European nations.
 4. Explain causes of the Columbian Exchange and its effect on Europe and the Americas during the period after 1492.
 5. Explain how the growth of the Spanish Empire in North America shaped the development of social and economic structures over time.
 6. Explain how and why European and Native American perspectives of others developed and changed in the period.
 7. Explain the effects of the development of transatlantic voyages from 1491 to 1607.
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OPTIONAL/STRONGLY RECOMMENDED SUMMER WORK – UNIT 2 – Due after the start of the school year (approximately week 2-3).

Era 2 1607-1754

Unit 2 Chapters 3-5

1. Explain the context for the colonization of North America from 1607 to 1754.
2. Explain how and why various European colonies developed and expanded from 1607 to 1754.
3. Explain how and why environmental and other factors shaped the development and expansion of various British colonies that developed and expanded from 1607 to 1754.
4. Explain causes and effects of transatlantic trade over time.
5. Explain how and why interactions between various European nations and American Indians changed over time.

6. Explain the causes and effects of slavery in the various British colonial regions.
 7. Explain how enslaved people responded to slavery.
 8. Explain how and why the movement of a variety of people and ideas across the Atlantic contributed to the development of American culture over time.
 9. Explain how and why the different goals and interests of European leaders and colonists affected how they viewed themselves and their relationship with Britain.
 10. Compare the effects of the development of colonial society in the various regions of North America.
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If you need some additional help (besides reading your textbook) to answer these questions, consider watching the videos for APUSH located at the following YouTube channels...

- [Heimler's History](#)
- [Jocz Productions](#)
- [Marco Learning](#)
- [Tom Richey](#)