

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY – SUMMER 2026

Welcome to AP Human Geography. Details of your summer assignment are provided below. Hopefully by the time you're reading this, you will have either received this assignment from me in person (along with a textbook) or you've been added to our summer Schoology course. The course contains all the resources you will need to complete the listed assignments, including a digital copy of the course textbook.

Terms (20 Points)

Using the list of key terms at the end of Chapter 1 in the textbook, record terms and definitions for the following.

Absolute Location, Contagious Diffusion, Cultural Landscape, Density, Distance Decay, Distribution, Determinism, Formal Region, Functional Region, Geographic Information System, Global Positioning System, Globalization, Hierarchical Diffusion, Pattern, Place, Possibilism, Relocation Diffusion, Site, Situation, Space-time compression, Spatial association, Stimulus Diffusion, Sustainability, Time-Space Compression, Toponym, Vernacular Region

Notes (20 Points)

Using your copy of the textbook, read and take notes on Chapter 1. Chapter 1 is divided into four Key Issues, please take 1-2 pages of notes per Key Issue. Some of you will probably take more, that is fine, but 1-2 pages per Key Issue is the minimum expectation.

In these notes we are striving for quality over quantity. Your notes should include some means or method of organization. This could include but not be limited to Cornell Style, headings/sub-headings, (some) underlining and highlighting to appropriately display key concepts when you (hopefully) revisit them.

Chapter 1 Questions

Complete the Basic Review and Advanced Review Questions for Chapter 1 (see attached). Answer all questions in complete sentences. Bullet points are not acceptable.

Choice Option (30 Points)

Having completed the rest of your summer work, you should now have a better understanding of human geography, its basic principles, and how some of those principles can be observed in real world settings. I've provided a list of movies below, please select from those listed (or clear another one with me) and respond with a brief written response consisting of the following.

1. Summary – Describe the content of the movie that you watched (this doesn't need to be much more than a clear well-developed paragraph)
2. Your Thoughts – Tell me what you think about what you just watched. Was it interesting? Were you aware of the information or was it new? Did you have a positive or negative reaction to the material? Etc. (this also doesn't need to be much more than a clear well-developed paragraph)
3. Connection to Course Content – This is the most important of the three sections (it should also be the longest). Refer back to the rest of the work that you did for Chapter 1 and the summary portion of this assignment, make three specific connections from the movie's content and the material from Chapter 1. Connections should be explored in complete sentences and make use of course specific vocabulary in doing so.

If you choose a movie below from the "Long" list, you only need to watch and write about one. If you choose from the "Short" list you must watch and write about two.

"Long" (~ 1 Hour, Watch 1)

Daughters of Destiny (Netflix)

- The Untouchables

Rotten (Netflix)

- Garlic Breath
- Big Bird
- Milk Money
- Reign of Terror
- The Peanut Problem
- Cod is Dead
- Troubled Water
- A Sweet Deal

- Bitter Chocolate

Dirty Money (Netflix)

- Dirty Gold

Broken (Netflix)

- Recycling Sham

“Megacities of the World” (Youtube)

The Year the Earth Changed (AppleTV+)

Short (~ 1/2 Hour, Watch 2)

Live to 100: Secrets of the Blue Zones (Netflix)

- The Journey Begins
- An Unexpected Discovery
- The End of the Blue Zones
- The Future of Longevity

Home Game (Netflix)

- Calcio Storico
- Highland Games
- Freediving
- Catch Fetiche
- Pehlwani

We are the Champions (Netflix)

- Cheese Rolling

Human Playground (Netflix)

- Breaking the Pain Barrier
- An Ancient Ritual
- God's Playground

Street Food Latin America (Netflix)

- Salvador, Brazil
- Oaxaca, Mexico
- Lima, Peru
- Bogota, Colombia

The Reluctant Traveler (AppleTV+)

- Finland
- Costa Rica
- Maldives
- Tokyo

Home (AppleTV+)

- Bali: Sharma Springs
- Hong Kong: Domestic Transformer
- Maine: Soot House
- South Africa: House of the Big Arch
- Iceland: The Concrete Factory
- Barcelona: Bene's House

Omnivore (AppleTV+)

- Chile
- Salt
- Banana

- Rice

Note: If for technology related purposes, you are unable to complete this portion of the assignment (or if you know of something on a different streaming platform that you'd like verified as appropriate), please contact me and we'll discuss it

Contact

Any questions can be sent via Schoology message or emailed to shane.jensen@cape.k12.dc.us. There is a Schoology course containing all necessary resources for your summer assignment. Assignments will be able to be submitted there, but don't necessarily have to be

Grading Policy

Any portion of the summer work that is submitted before Monday August 17, 2026 will be eligible for extra credit. All work received before Friday August 28, 2026 will be eligible for regular credit.

Work received after Friday August 28, 2026 may be subject to point deductions.

Work can be submitted digitally to the Schoology course or dropped off in the main office at the high school.

Unless special arrangements are made Friday September 18, 2026 will be the cut off point for any late summer work submissions.

I hope all of this is clear, again if there are any questions having read this, or any that arise in the future, please contact me. I'm looking forward to meeting and getting to know all of you this fall. Here's to a great summer, and a great year. All the best until then,

-Jensen

AP Human Geography (Unit 1 Questions)

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Basic Review (2 Points Apiece)

1. Briefly describe the contributions that the following figures made to the study of Geography. *Aristotle, Eratosthenes, Ptolemy, Muhammad al-Idrisi.* (1)
2. Describe the function of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Describe one activity that GIS might be useful for. (1)
3. Geographers utilize both small-scale and large-scale maps to draw conclusions about different locations. Explain how these maps must balance the amount of land area shown and the amount of detail about the area shown. (1)
4. Identify latitude and longitude and describe how they are utilized to determine absolute location. Briefly describe the relationship between latitude and climate. (1)
5. Briefly describe how each of the following thematic maps display their data. Choropleth, cartogram, graduated symbol, dot density, isoline. **(A chart/table would work well here but is not required)** (1)
6. Identify the term toponym. Provide a real-world example for four separate sources that the toponym of a given place can originate from. (1)
7. Define site and situation. For a single location (of your choosing) describe an example of a site factor and a situation factor for that location. (1)
8. Define cultural landscape. Identify two specific locations and describe two ways/methods that their respective cultural landscapes might differ from one another. (1)
9. Define globalization. Describe how globalization has impacted the spread of cultural characteristics and economic practices between different locations in recent decades. (1)
10. Explain distance-decay and time-space compression. Describe how modern methods of transportation and communication have impacted these phenomena. (1)
11. Identify the practice of sustainability. Describe one example of people using resources or ecosystems in a sustainable manner. Describe one example of people using resources or ecosystems in an unsustainable manner. (1)

Advanced Review (4 Points Apiece)

1. Explain why distortion is an unavoidable problem when it comes to creating maps of Earth's surface. Identify and briefly describe the four possible types of distortion. (1)
2. Describe an advantage and disadvantage of the Mercator map projection. Select two additional map projections and describe one way apiece that they differ from Mercator. (1)
3. Explain the importance of regions as a tool for geographers engaging in spatial analysis. Describe an example apiece of formal, functional, and vernacular regions. (1)

4. Identify the term distribution (as it relates to the study of our course). Describe the three properties that are associated with distribution. (1)
5. Identify the difference between relocation and expansion diffusion. Explain (with examples) the three sub-categories of expansion diffusion. (1)
6. Describe the basic principles of Environmental Determinism and identify one historical geographer who was an environmental determinist. Describe one way that possibilism draws similar conclusions to environmental determinism. Explain how the two perspectives differ regarding human agency. (1)