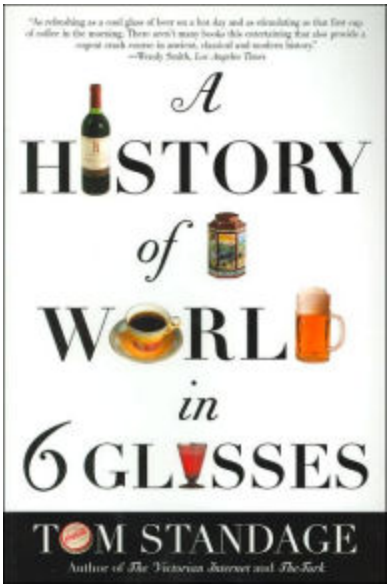
AP World History 2026-2027
Summer Reading Assignment



Welcome to AP World History. You are embarking on a new and exciting experience. You will be studying college level work, taking the Advanced Placement exam and possibly earning college credit. The purpose of this course is to study the history of the world through global trends, by looking at the big picture on the one hand, and examining specific case studies on the other. Your introduction to this type of thinking will be through the summer reading assignment.

Summer Reading Assignment

A HISTORY OF THE WORLD IN 6 GLASSES by Tom Standage (2005)
ISBN: 978-0-8027-1552-4



The particular book you have been assigned to read is one that provides an excellent and thought provoking look at world history through the humble beverage. What we drink is something most people take for granted, not giving their potables a second thought. As you will learn throughout this class; everything, from what we drink to the clothes we wear, from the technology we use; to the religion we practice; everything has an interrelated history.

About the author: Tom Standage is digital editor at The Economist, overseeing the magazine's website, Economist.com, and its smartphone, tablet and e-reader editions. Before that he was business affairs editor, running the back half of the magazine, and he previously served as business editor, technology editor and science correspondent. Tom is also the author of five history books, including "An Edible History of Humanity" (2009), "A History of the World in

Six Glasses" (2005), a New York Times bestseller, and "The Victorian Internet" (1998), described by the Wall Street Journal as a "dot-com cult classic". He writes the video-game column for Intelligent Life, The Economist's lifestyle magazine, is a regular commentator on BBC radio, and has written for other publications including the Guardian, the Daily Telegraph, the New York Times and Wired. He holds a degree in engineering and computer science from Oxford University, and is the least musical member of a musical family. He is married and lives in London with his wife and children, and is currently working on his next book, on the prehistory of social media. It is entitled “Writing on the Wall: Social Media - The First 2,000 Years” (scheduled for release on Oct 15, 2013).

Tom Standage starts with a bold hypothesis—that each epoch, from the Stone Age to the present, has had its signature beverage—and takes readers on an extraordinary trip through world history. The Economist's technology editor has the ability to connect the smallest detail to the big picture and a knack for summarizing vast concepts in a few sentences. He explains how, when humans shifted from hunting and gathering to farming, they saved surplus grain, which sometimes fermented into beer. The Greeks took grapes and made wine, later borrowed by the Romans and the Christians. Arabic scientists experimented with distillation and produced spirits, the ideal drink for long voyages of exploration. Coffee also spread quickly from Arabia to Europe, becoming the "intellectual counterpoint to the geographical expansion of the Age of Exploration." European coffee-houses, which functioned as "the Internet of the Age of Reason," facilitated scientific, financial and industrial cross-fertilization. In the British industrial revolution that followed, tea "was the lubricant that kept the factories running smoothly." Finally, the rise of American capitalism is mirrored in the history of Coca-Cola, which started as a more or less handmade medicinal drink but morphed into a mass-produced global commodity over the course of the 20th century. In and around these grand ideas, Standage tucks some wonderful tidbits—on the antibacterial qualities of tea, Mecca's coffee trials in 1511, Visigoth penalties for destroying vineyards—ending with a thought provoking proposal for the future of humanity. He suspects it may hinge on our ability to facilitate clean supplies of water to an ever expanding population.

Reading Questions: The questions provided for this book are meant to jumpstart your historical thinking skills. It is not enough to read about history; you must learn to “do” history. ***The answers to each of these questions should be several sentences. Our motto for this and all AP tasks is, “Don’t give a Global I answer to an AP question.”*** **This assignment is worth 200 points and is a major grade for the first marking period.**

BEER



1. How is the discovery of beer linked to the growth of the first “civilizations”?
2. What does this history of beer in the ancient world tell us about the early civilizations?
3. What sources does the author use to gather his information on the use of beer?
4. What were some of the uses of beer by ancient cultures? Nourishment? Ritual? Religious?
5. How did beer “civilize” man, according to Standage?
6. What is the relationship between beer and writing, commerce, and health?

Wine



1. How did the use of wine differ from that of beer in ancient Greece and Rome?
2. How was wine used by the Greeks?
3. How and why did wine develop into a form of a status symbol in Greece?
4. How was wine consumed? What does this tell us about the ancient Greek culture?
5. How did the use of wine in Roman culture differ from that of ancient Greece?
6. What is the relationship between wine and empire, medicine, and religion.

Spirits



1. What is the origin of distilled spirits?
2. What is the connection between spirits and colonization?
3. How was the production of spirits connected to slavery?
4. What role did spirits play on the high seas?
5. In the 18th century, how did spirits help Britain have a more superior navy than France?
6. Why were spirits an important staple in Colonial America?
7. How did rum play a role in the American Revolution?
8. What were the negative effects/uses of spirits? (Use entire chapter to answer this)

Coffee



1. Who did Europeans get coffee from and how did it spread to Europe?
2. Why was it so important to Europe's development that many people's beverage of choice switched from alcohol to coffee?
3. Describe coffee's effect on the global balance of power (in terms of commerce).
4. How did coffee play a pivotal role in the scientific revolution? (give lots of detail)
5. How did coffee play a pivotal role in the 'financial revolution'?
6. How did coffee play a pivotal role in the French Revolution? (give lots of detail and go into the Enlightenment)

Tea



1. When did tea first become a mainstream drink in Asia? In Europe?
2. How did the consumption of tea in Europe differ from how it was consumed in China or Japan?

3. If tea arrived in Europe around the same time as when coffee did, why did it not find the immediate success that coffee had?
4. How did tea transform English society? Who were its main consumers and what were some of the new rituals that surrounded tea?
5. How was tea an integral part of the Industrial Revolution?
6. What was the connection between tea and politics?
7. How was tea connected to the opium trade and the Opium War of 1839-1842?
8. What role did the tea trade and production play in the British rule over India?

Coca-Cola



1. What was the origin of coke?
2. How was this beverage used medicinally and what were the additives?
3. What was the relationship of Coke and World War II?
4. How was coke thought of by the communist during the Cold War?
5. What is meant by “globalization in a bottle”?
6.How did Coca-Cola materialize into an American value? How did this help and hurt Coca-Cola? (and, in some ways, America itself?)

Epilogue - Water

1. Describe how the scientific advancements of the 19th century brought the history of beverages full circle.
2. Which water’s quality is more tightly controlled-tap or bottled?
3. How many people have no access to safe water today?
4. How has access to water affected international relations?

See the next page to find out how to TURN IN YOUR PAPER

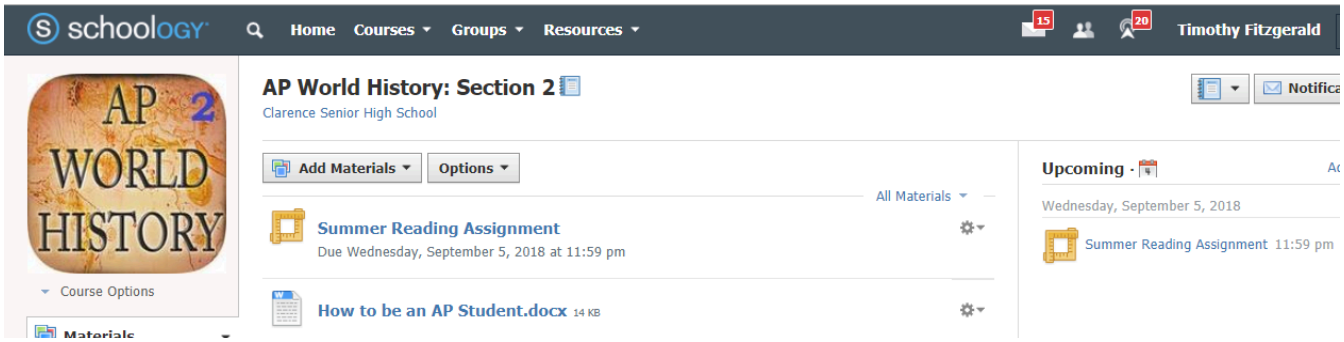
How to Submit

You should create a document for the entire assignment and add to it as you progress through the steps. You can do this easily by copying all of the questions and pasting them into a new Google Doc with your name as the title.

Please submit the assignment to your AP World teacher following the instructions below. Our class in Schoology will post sometime in August and the assignment will be added in early September.

1. You will submit this to your teacher's Schoology page by **11:59 PM on Friday, September 4th**.

2. **The assignment is uploaded to Turnitin.com through Schoology. This is a plagiarism detection site. Every year there are students who plagiarize, and receive a 0 on the assignment. Do not choose to be that person.**



Questions?

If you have any questions about the assignment you can e-mail:

Mr. Meyer at mmeyer@clarenceschools.org
Mr. Fitzgerald at tfitzgerald@clarenceschools.org

We have an exciting and challenging year ahead of us. We look forward to helping you all meet the challenge. Have a great summer.