

Name _____

Global Studies 9H

Ms. Johnson



Global 9 Honors Summer Reading Assignment 2026-2027

Hello and thank you for your interest in the Global 9 honors course. This course is intended to strengthen your skills and prepare you for AP World in 10th grade. This is part of a two year course which examines Global History and Geography chronologically. The grade nine curriculum focuses on the history of civilization starting from the beginning of mankind to Age of Absolutism. Important historical, geographic, political and economic characteristics of the societies that developed in each region of the world are studied. Skills assessed in writing include making comparisons, analyzing and identifying bias in sources, identifying continuities and changes, and causation/effects of events.

Below is the assignment for your summer reading that should be completed and handed in on the first day of class. The purpose of this assignment is to allow you to become familiar with the textbook, expose you to the level of reading used in this course, practice evaluating multiple perspectives on a topic, and to introduce the first unit of Global History. Each reading has a set of questions associated with them in the proceeding pages. **Please make sure to answer in full sentences and in your own words. Only handwritten copies will be accepted.**

The reading assignments are as follows. They are to be given to you by your current 8th grade social studies teacher the week of 6/8:

1. The first topic chapter of the textbook.
2. The Worst Mistake in Human History by Jared Diamond
3. The Plough and the Now from the Economist
4. Chapter 1 of *The History of the World in Six Glasses*

There will be an essay requiring evidence from these documents on the second day of class. To prepare for the essay, the scaffolding questions regarding each reading will help you understand the topics. You should also annotate as you read looking for key information regarding the similarities and differences of the Paleolithic and Neolithic societies. The essay prompt is as follows:

Discuss and analyze the continuities and changes between the Paleolithic and Neolithic Ages. Evaluate the consequences of the rise of the Neolithic Age.

Key definitions:

Discuss: to consider or examine by argument, comment, etc.; talk over or write about, especially to explore solutions.

Analyze: to examine critically, so as to bring out the essential elements or give the essence of; to examine carefully and in detail so as to identify causes, key factors, possible results, etc.

Evaluate: to judge or determine the significance, worth, or quality of; to determine or set the value or amount of.

After reading pages 1-13 of your textbook, answer the questions below.

1. Define domesticate (p.4):
2. Why is the work of archeologists important to learning new information about prehistoric peoples? (p.8)
3. What evidence supports the idea that the spread of early humans across the globe was actually a slow process? (p.8)
4. How might the creation of art and development of language have been related? (p.10)
5. How did systematic agriculture change the way of life of prehistoric peoples? (p.12)
6. What were the many characteristics of the complex societies that formed in river valleys? (p.12)

Examine the sources on pages 14-16 in the textbook and answer the questions that follow.

7. Source A: Where did agriculture develop earliest? How might these areas be connected to the development of early civilizations?
8. Source B: How does this image show the main accomplishments of the Neolithic Revolution? What details in this image give the viewer clues about how domestication changed human society?
9. Source C: What might this tool be used for? How might the development of this tool have been affected by, and in turn affected, the spread of agriculture?
10. Source D: How does this image show Mohenjo Daro was an advanced civilization? How did the development of agriculture lead to complex societies, such as Mohenjo-Daro?

After reading and annotating *The Worst Mistake in Human History* by Jared Diamond, answer the questions below.

Questions:

1. What is the thesis (main point) of Diamond's article?
2. When and how did humans "escape" from the hunting and gathering lifestyle?
3. What are the three main reasons that explain the negative effects of agriculture on health?
4. According to the article, why did farming cause deep class and gender divisions?
5. Why did farming communities win the struggle for survival against hunters and gatherers?
6. Come up with an argument that would challenge Diamond's conclusion.

After reading and annotating The Plough and the Now from the Economist, answer the questions below.

Questions:

1. Define matriarchy. Define patriarchy. According to Fernand Brundel, what was the cause of Mesopotamian society moving away from matriarchy?
2. What is the impact of ancestral use of the plough on women today?
3. In your opinion, did the plough cause attitudes to be formed, or did existing attitudes lead to its adoption? Explain your answer.

After reading and annotating Chapter 1 of History of the World in Six Glasses, answer the questions below.

Questions:

1. How might beer have influenced the transition from hunting and gathering to agricultural based societies?
2. In what ways did beer serve more than just a nutrition purpose in Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt?
3. What does the use of beer in religious and ceremonial contexts tell us about its importance in early societies?
4. How did beer help reinforce or reflect the social hierarchy in early civilizations?