

**AP US History
Summer Assignment 2026**

Becerra/Comblo

Welcome to AP US History. In preparation for this college level course, please complete the summer assignment outlined below. The assignment will be collected on the first day of class, and the quality of your work will be assessed. Bring a hardcopy to class. Complete the following over the course of the summer:

- **Read Chapters 1 -3 (link provided)**
- **Complete ALL tasks indicated**
- **Hardcopy of written work to be submitted first day of class**

There are 9 periods of study in this course, so it is essential that summer work be completed on time.

American History Connecting with the Past, Alan Brinkley 14th ed. Use the following link to access the textbook:

<https://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/brinkley-textbook/52564168>

Period 1 (1491-1607)

Key Concepts:

1.1: Before the arrival of Europeans, native populations in North America developed a wide variety of social, political, and economic structures based in part on interactions with the environment and each other.

1.2: European overseas expansion resulted in the Columbian Exchange, a series of interactions and adaptations among societies across the Atlantic.

1.3: Contacts among American Indians, Africans, and Europeans challenged the worldviews of each group.

Chapter 1: The Collision of Cultures

Answer the following questions on Chapter 1 reading:

1. Identify and explain the ways in which native peoples interacted and transformed the Native American environment before European colonization.

2. Discuss significant differences and similarities between the pre-Columbian societies that developed in Central & South America compared to those in North America.
3. Identify and explain how technology influenced Columbus' voyage.
4. Identify three main characteristics of Spanish settlements in the New World.
5. For each of the primary sources below, answer the following:
 - Identify and explain the author's perspective, and point-of-view.
 - What evidence is used to support the author's claims.
 - On what issues did the authors agree or disagree? Identify and explain.

Juan Gines de Sepulveda:

https://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/active_learning/explorations/spain/spain_sepulveda.cfm

Bartolome de Las Casas:

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/active_learning/explorations/spain/spain_delascasas.cfm

6. Compare and contrast European settlements (Spanish, French, Dutch, English) in "New World" using the following template

[https://briarcliffny-](https://briarcliffny-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/77700149_briarcliffschools_org/IQBViTrGfj1vSZ2RvX8r9keAQB7b5SUqVSe5He9GzVhiXk?e=Y27JGk)

[my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/77700149_briarcliffschools_org/IQBViTrGfj1vSZ2RvX8r9keAQB7b5SUqVSe5He9GzVhiXk?e=Y27JGk](https://briarcliffny-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/77700149_briarcliffschools_org/IQBViTrGfj1vSZ2RvX8r9keAQB7b5SUqVSe5He9GzVhiXk?e=Y27JGk)

7. Use the following link to expand your understanding of the Columbian Exchange:
<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-resources/essays/columbian-exchange>

Answer the question: To what extent did the Columbian Exchange transform the transatlantic world? Provide evidence in your response.

PERIOD 2 (1607-1754)

Textbook Chapters 2-3

Key Concepts:

Key Concept 2.1: Differences in imperial goals, cultures, and the North American environments that different empires confronted, led Europeans to develop diverse patterns of colonization.

Key Concept 2.2: European colonization efforts in North America stimulated intercultural contact and intensified conflict between the various groups of colonizers and native peoples.

Key Concept 2.3: The increasing political, economic, and cultural exchanges within the "Atlantic World" had a profound impact on the development of colonial societies in North America.

Chapter 2: Transplantations and Borderlands

Questions:

1. Discuss the influence of religion on the development of the early British settlements. Be specific & provide evidence.
2. Compare the similarities and differences of the New England, Middle and Southern English colonies using the following categories:(social, economic, religious, geographic, political)
3. Discuss the relationship between the Native American population and the English settlers. Give examples to support your argument.
4. Identify the size, scope and location of the Spanish empire in the New World by the early 1700's.

Video on 13 English colonies in North America:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lg1-lbb-Qi0>

Start reading Chapter 3: Society and Culture in Provincial America

**Use the following link to the College Board AP US History site for descriptions of the above themes: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-us-history-course-and-exam-description.pdf>*

Additional Resources:

video ***How Native American Civilizations Thrived Before Columbus/ 1491: America Before Columbus*** using the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BmxurJ8eGY>

