

AP Human Geography Summer Work

Welcome to AP Human Geography! In this course you will explore the patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use and alteration of the Earth's surface. This summer you will complete Unit 1- Thinking Geographically of the course and begin to master maps of the world.

In this PDF:

- Unit 1 Thinking Geographically Objectives- READ
 - You do not complete this. It is a guide to what this unit will cover.
- Chapter 1 Reading Guide- DO
 - Use Chapter 1 of the book *The Cultural Landscape 13 edition* by Rubenstein to answer the questions.
 - No need to use complete sentences. You must handwrite.
- Chapter 1 Vocab- DO
 - You must handwrite the vocab terms and definitions from the book.
- Free Response (FRQ) on Distortion- DO
 - Handwrite on lined paper. You may use chapter 1 of the book.
- Map Game Instructions- PLAY

Important dates:

- August 13, 2026- 1st day of school. Reading guide, Vocab and FRQ due.
- August 17, 2026 Map Quiz, vocab quiz
- August 24, 2026- Unit 1 Test
- TBD May 2027- AP CollegeBoard Exam

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Mrs. Dressel

KBAT (Know, Be Able To do) Taken directly from the College Board's "Course and Exam Description" for AP Human Geography.

Topic	Description
1.1 Introduction to Maps	A. Geographers use maps and data to depict relationships of time, space, and scale. <i>1. Identify types of maps. The types of information presented in maps and different kinds of spatial patterns and relationships portrayed in maps.</i> a. Types of maps include reference maps and thematic maps. b. Types of spatial patterns represented on maps include absolute and relative distance and direction, clustering, dispersal, and elevation. c. All maps are selective in information; map projections inevitably distort spatial relationships in shape area distance and direction
1.2 Geographic Data	A. Geographers use maps and data to depict relationships of time, space, and scale. <i>1. Identify different methods of geographic data collection.</i> a. Data may be gathered in the field by organizations or by individuals. b. Geospatial technologies include geographic information systems (GIS), satellite navigation systems, remote sensing, and online mapping and visualization. c. Spatial information can come from written accounts in the form of field observations, media reports, travel narratives, policy documents, personal interviews, landscape analysis, and photographic interpretation.
1.3 The Power of Geographic Data	A. Geographers use maps and data to depict relationships of time, space, and scale. <i>1. Explain the geographical effects of decisions made using geographical information.</i> a. Geospatial and geographical data, including census data and satellite imagery, are used at all scales for personal, business and organizational, and governmental decision making purposes.
1.4 Spatial Concepts	A. Geographers analyze relationships among and between places to reveal important spatial patterns. <i>1. Define major geographic concepts that illustrate spatial relationships.</i> a. Spatial concepts include absolute and relative location, space, place, flows, distance decay, time-space compression, and pattern.
1.5 Human Environment Interaction	A. Geographers analyze relationships among and between places to reveal important spatial patterns. <i>1. Explain how major geographic concepts illustrate spatial relationships.</i> a. Concepts of nature and society include sustainability, natural resources, and land use. b. Theories regarding the interaction of the natural environment with human societies have evolved from environmental determinism to possibilism.

1.6 Scale of Analysis	A. Geographers analyze relationships among and between places to reveal important spatial patterns. <i>1. Define scales of analysis used by geographers.</i> a. Scales of analysis include global, regional, national, and local. <i>2. Explain what scales of analysis reveal.</i> a. Patterns and processes at different scales reveal variations in, and different interpretations of data.
1.7 Regional Analysis	A. Geographers analyze complex issues and relationships with a distinctively spatial perspective. <i>1. Describe different ways that geographers define regions.</i> a. Regions are defined based on one or more unifying characteristics or on patterns of activity. b. Types of regions include formal, functional, and perceptual/vernacular. c. regional boundaries are transitional and often contested and overlapping. d. Geographers apply regional analysis at local, national, and global scales.

Key Issue 1: Why is Geography a Science? Pages 4-13

1. Which three basic concepts explain why different locations are interrelated?
2. What are two purposes of maps?
3. What is the advantage of a **large-scale map**? (which shows only a small portion of the earth's surface – like a neighborhood)
4. What advantage does a map, which shows the entire globe, a **small-scale map**, have?

5. Explain **remote sensing**:

Elements/Components	Uses/Implementation

6. Explain **Global Positioning System**

Elements/Components	Uses/Implementation

7. Geographers use **GIS** (Geographic Information System) to store “layers” of data. Give **four** examples of types of data stored in a single layer.

Answer: Land usage, Elevation, Parcels, streets, customers

8. Explain a **mashup** in relation to geography and GIS.
9. When geographers convert the round Earth to a flat map, they use a **projection**. All projections have some distortion (only a globe has none). List the **four** things that typically become distorted in various projections and explain the distortion.

10. Two important projections are the **Mercator** and the **Winkel**. Complete the chart below to compare their advantages and disadvantages.

	Mercator	Winkel
Advantages		
Disadvantages		

Key Issue 2: Why Is Every Place Unique? Pages 14-19

11. Identify **four** ways in which places can receive names.
12. Describe **site vs. situation**. List some **characteristics of each**.
13. What role do **familiar places** have in understanding **situation** of **unfamiliar places**?
14. One contemporary (current) approach to studying the cultural landscape is called the **regional studies approach**. What do geographers who adopt this view believe regarding regions?
15. Complete the chart below which details types of regions identified by geographers:
- | | Formal Region | Functional Region | Vernacular Region |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Also Called | | | |
| Definition | | | |
| Example | | | |
16. How does a geographer conclude that two (or more) phenomena are “spatially associated,” that is, that they bear some sort of cause and effect relationship?

Key Issue 3: Why Are Different Places Similar?

Pages 20-33

17. In what ways is globalization of culture manifested in the landscape? Provide an example.
18. In what ways has the **communications revolution** played a role in globalization?
19. Why might some group(s) of people oppose globalism or globalization?
20. Describe **SPACE** vs. **DENSITY**
21. In the boxes below, draw 10 dots in each so that the density is the same in each, but illustrate and label the two different kinds of concentration.

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22. List the two different types of **pattern** given in the text.

23. In what ways does each of the following play a role in geography?

Ethnicity	Gender	Sexual Orientation

24. **Diffusion** is defined as the process by which a characteristic spreads across space. With regard to diffusion, define and, where possible, give an example of each of the following:

Diffusion	
Hearth	
Relocation Diffusion	
Hierarchical Diffusion	
Expansion Diffusion	

Contagious Diffusion	
Stimulus Diffusion	

25. How has interaction between places changed? (think **networks**)

26. Global culture and economy are increasingly centered in the 3 core (**hearth**) regions of: (pg 25)

i. _____

27. What are the **three** major reasons for these three areas being **hearts**? (pg 25)

a.

b.

c.

28. Explain why there is an increasing economic gap between regions in the world. (AKA: **uneven development**). (p25)

Key Issue 4: Why Are Some Human Actions Not Sustainable? *Pages 30-37*

29. In the table below, explain and give a bulleted list of details about each of the **pillars of sustainability**

3 Pillars of Sustainability	
Environment <i>(focus on conservation vs. preservation)</i>	
Economy	
Society	

Chapter 1: This is Geography- Reading Guide

30. Explain **two** major criticisms about sustainability.
31. What are the types of **climates** geographers identify? (by letter and name)
32. In what major way does climate influence human activities? (Give an example)
33. Why are human geographers interested in ecosystems involving interaction of humans with the biosphere and abiotic spheres?
- a. For example- soil: What are the **two** major problems with which geographers are concerned as far as soil is concerned?

Ch 1 Vocabulary

At the end of each chapter (Ch 1 pages 44-45), you will find vocabulary words and definitions. You are to handwrite the word and definitions on index cards or a sheet of paper. No typing.

*AP Human is very vocab heavy. Some words will be familiar to you, others new. Much of the course and exam is applying these words and recognizing them on maps.

--You will not need to copy all of the words. Only the following:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Absolute location | 26. Hearth |
| 2. Acculturation | 27. Hierarchical diffusion |
| 3. Assimilation | 28. Isoline map |
| 4. Behavioral geography | 29. Latitude |
| 5. Cartogram | 30. Location |
| 6. Cartography | 31. Map scale |
| 7. Choropleth map | 32. Network |
| 8. Connection | 33. Place |
| 9. Conservation | 34. Possibilism |
| 10. Contagious diffusion | 35. Projection |
| 11. Cultural landscape | 36. Region |
| 12. Culture | 37. Relocation diffusion |
| 13. Density | 38. Remote sensing |
| 14. Diffusion | 39. Scale |
| 15. Distance decay | 40. Site |
| 16. Distribution | 41. Situation |
| 17. Dot distribution map | 42. Space |
| 18. Environmental determinism | 43. Space-time compression |
| 19. Expansion diffusion | 44. Spatial association |
| 20. Formal region (uniform region) | 45. Stimulus diffusion |
| 21. Functional region | 46. Sustainability |
| 22. Geographic information science | 47. Syncretism |
| 23. Global positioning system | 48. Toponym |
| 24. Globalization | 49. Uneven development |
| 25. Graduated symbol map | 50. Vernacular region |

FRQ: On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions in complete sentences. Make sure to label your answers with the corresponding letters.

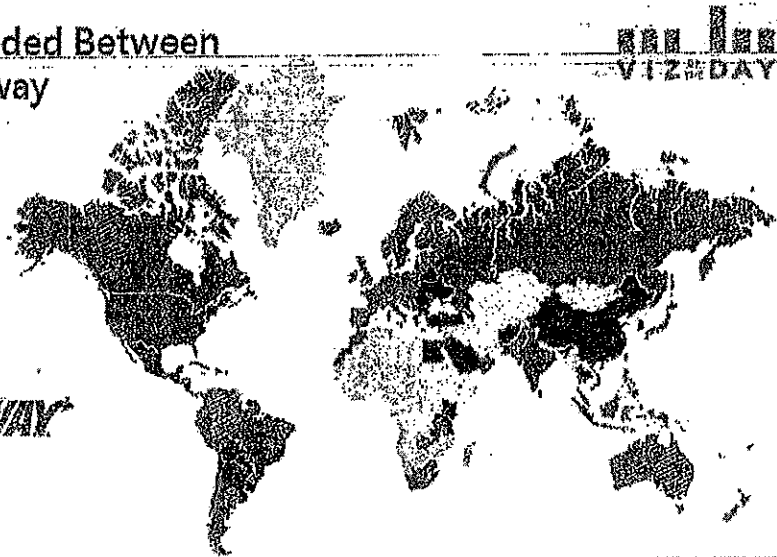
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How the World is Divided Between McDonald's and Subway

- ONLY MCDONALD'S,
NO SUBWAY STORES
- MORE MCDONALD'S
THAN SUBWAY'S STORES
- ONLY SUBWAY STORES,
NO MCDONALD'S
- MORE SUBWAY
THAN MCDONALD'S STORES



SUBWAY



VIZ DAY

knoma

Sources: McDonald's, Subway

- A. Define **Map Projection**.
- B. Describe **TWO** types of distortions found on this map.
- C. Explain why Greenland is depicted as larger than Africa on this projection.
- D. Identify the continent that prefers McDonald's to Subway in most countries.
- E. Compare the popularity of McDonald's and Subway franchises in South American countries.
- F. Apply the data from this map to indicate **TWO** world regions without these fast-food dining options.
- G. To what extent has American culture, represented by these fast-food franchises, diffused across the globe?

Geography Practice with Maps

Rarely will this course ask you what a specific country on the map is, but it will often ask you about the relationships between places. For example, we will study migrations. You will need to know that the wars in Syria have led to refugees being dispersed into Europe. You would need to know where Syria and those countries are on a map to answer the question and understand the concept. To practice this, below are some map games from the Seterra website to help you familiarize with the globe. You will have a map quiz at the beginning of the semester over major elements. For example, do you know where the Mediterranean Sea is? Seterra also has an app to make playing the games easier.

AP Human Geography regions: <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3368>

Continents and Oceans: <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3188>

50 US States: <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3003>

Countries of North and Central America: <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3015>

Countries of South America: <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3016>

Countries of Europe: <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3007>

Countries of the European Union: <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3387>

Countries of the former Soviet Union: <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3048>

Countries of the Middle East: <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3049>

Countries of Asia: <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3167>

Countries of South Asia: <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3166>

Countries of Southeast Asia: <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3033>

Countries of Africa: <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3163>

Countries of Oceania: <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3341>

Major World Cities: <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3127>

