2026-2027 AP US HISTORY SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Welcome to AP US History! My name is Mr. Allen and I am looking forward to working with all of you over the next year. I hope that we can create a positive classroom environment that will challenge your historical knowledge and help you make bigger connections to how history impacts us today.

The purpose of this particular summer assignment is to get you to focus on history from 1491 to 1607. The work you will complete will help you study the "big picture", recognize trends, and examine the economic, social and political interactions of the people who lived here in North America. It will also explore the causes and effects of European exploration on the people of this continent, as well as, Europe and Africa.

Ultimately, the history you will learn and the skills that you will practice using in this assignment and throughout the school year will allow you to take the **May 2026** AP exam and potentially earn college credit when you move on from Lincoln High School.

This summer assignment is due on **Wednesday, August 26, 2026**. It will be followed by a review and discussion of the material.

Assignment Activities:

- **Activity 1: Joining Google Classroom**
- **Activity 2: AMSCO Guided Reading Unit 1**

Activity 1: Joining Google Classroom & Materials

A successful AP student is a well-organized AP student. Make sure to utilize materials and assignments posted to Google Classroom as well as organizing your Google Drive with an APUSH folder.

- Google Classroom Code:
  - **Period B - pqwxyo3s**
  - **Period D - hca6hja7**
- Please create a folder in your Drive titled APUSH 2026-27.
  - There will be 9 different time periods that we will be studying throughout the year. You can organize your materials and assignments using this method or however you feel would be best for you.
    - Period 1 – 1490-1607
    - Period 2 – 1607-1754
    - Period 3 – 1754-1800
    - Period 4 – 1800-1848
    - Period 5 – 1844-1877
    - Period 6 – 1865-1898
    - Period 7 – 1890- 1945
    - Period 8 – 1945-1980
    - Period 9 – 1980-Present

Activity 2: AMSCO Reading Guide Unit 1 - 1.1-1.7

Skills 1: Key Terms, People & Events

Another ability that successful AP students must develop is the ability to use key vocabulary and terms to enhance their writing. The more an AP student can use specific terminology to bolster their written communication the better they will do in class and on the May 2024 exam. Replace pronouns like he, she, it and them with proper nouns like George Washington, Eleanor Roosevelt, the Patriot Act, and Radical Republicans and you improve your written communication tenfold because it demonstrates a better understanding of what you are talking about.

The following terms are key people, events and ideas from ***Chapter One: A New World of Many Cultures (1491-1607)*** from **AMSCO's United States History - AP Edition**. It is essential that you have a working knowledge of these terms so that you can properly use them in your verbal and written communication.

You should be able to define each of the following for their significance to the time period that they come from. For example, you would not define Christopher Columbus as an "explorer" and be done with it. What did he explore? Why were his discoveries important for the time? How did his accomplishments transform history?

George Washington - First president of the United States.

Example of what to do:

George Washington - Virginian who led colonial forces against British military forces during the Revolutionary War. His most notable victory was at the Battle of Yorktown where British forces surrendered to Washington ending the war. Washington would go on to be elected two terms as the new nation's first president. His noted accomplishments were the squashing of the Whiskey Rebellion, sustaining the growth of a new nation, and his Farewell Address where he warned to "beware of foreign entanglements".

Chapter One Terms		
Corn (Maize)	encomienda system	asiento system
Adena-Hopewell	Joint-stock company	Aztecs
Mayas	conquistadores	Hernan Cortes
Francisco Pizarro	Christopher Columbus	Columbian Exchange
Protestant Reformation	Treaty of Tordesillas	slavery
Bartolomé de Las Casas	Valladolid Debate	Juan Gines de Sepulveda

Skill 2: Short Answer Questions (SAQ)

One of the types of prompt that you will have to practice responding to this year is called the **Short Answer Question** or **SAQ** for short.

This type of question requires you to write a brief response that will ask you to address certain historical themes/ideas and use your analytical skills. These questions can have source material provided or they can be open-ended with no source material provided.

The Do's and Don'ts of a SAQ:

- **DO** answer all three parts of each question that is asked.
- **DO** write your responses in complete sentences.
- **DO** provide at least **ONE** example or piece of evidence to support your response from the reading.
- Responses **DON'T** require a thesis statement but **DO** require a topic sentence.
- **DON'T** develop a persuasive argument.

The best way to ace these types of questions is to remember the acronym **TEA**!

Topic Sentence: Answer the prompt in a clear, declarative sentence.
Evidence: Name a piece of specific historical evidence, and explain.
Analysis: Demonstrate how your evidence proves your topic sentence.

Example of what to do:

a) Briefly describe ONE specific historical difference between the internal migration patterns within the US in the period 1910-1940 and the internal migration patterns in the period 1941-1980.

One major difference with respect to internal migration between the two periods is the direction of the movement. For example, the Great Migration began in 1916 and 1941-1980 there was a large migration to the Sunbelt States. The Great Migration was the movement of black southerners out of the south and into the Northeast and Midwest states, primarily to find work, while the Sunbelt migration involved people from the North moving into the South and West, in many cases for jobs in the defense industry.

Now, it is time for you to practice some of these questions using **TEA**. Throughout the reading guide you are asked to complete these style questions.

Skill 3: Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ)

Another type of question that you will have to practice responding to this year is called the **Multiple Choice Question** or **MCQ** for short.

These are **NOT** like multiple choice questions that you have answered in the past. You will not be tested on obscure trivia.

All MCQs will be tied to a primary or secondary source text, or image. These questions will require you to interpret source material and analyze it as it ties to your broader historical knowledge.

The MCQ may appear to have more than one correct answer. You must “select the one that is best in each case.”

To be good at these MCQs, you need to have a good knowledge of the facts but you must also be able to analyze well and understand themes in our nation’s historical past.

You will be practicing these types of questions throughout the year. They will also measure your understanding of ***Chapter One: A New World of Many Cultures (1491-1607)*** from **AMSCO’s United States History - AP Edition**.

