

AP European History Summer Assignments

Overview:

In this class we must cover nearly 600 years of European History in nine months, so it is imperative that we have a spring-board that helps us delve more quickly into the course material. Your summer assignments will give you the opportunity to sharpen your knowledge of European geography and demonstrate your reading and writing skills while you build a broader context for this year-long course.

Prior to our first day of class in September, you will be expected to complete the following three (3) assignments:

Assignment #1: European Geography

Learn the locations of the various countries and physical features of Europe. Practice the [Europe: Countries Map Quiz](#) and the [Europe: Physical Features Map Quiz](#) on Seterra. You will be expected to complete both of these quizzes for a grade during the first week of school.

Assignment #2: The Later Middle Ages

Read the outline and summary below for Chapter 11: The Later Middle Ages from McKay, *A History of Western Society* (14th Edition). You also may choose to read the entire chapter. In your own words, write a paragraph in response to each question. Be prepared to share your original answers with classmates during the first week of school.

1. How did climate change shape the late Middle Ages?
2. How did the plague reshape European society?
3. What were the causes, course, + consequences of the Hundred Years' War?
4. Why did the church come under increasing criticism?
5. What explains the social unrest of the late Middle Ages?

[Ch.11 - The Later Middle Ages](#) (pdf)

[Ch.11 - Outline and Summary](#)

Assignment #3: Contextualizing the Late Middle Ages

Watch this [Overview of the Middle Ages video](#) and apply what you learned to write a paragraph in your own words explaining the context of the Late Middle Ages period that occurred on the eve of the Renaissance in Europe. Use the acronym Geo-SPRITE (see below) to come up with at least three examples from the Late Middle Ages for your contextualization paragraph. This is an example of how one student used Geo-SPRITE to write a context paragraph for a prompt about Germany and World War II:

Geography (Place, physical, human)	The Second World War in Europe took place with Germany at the forefront of events.
Social (Gender, ethnicity, class)	The Nazi party spewed racist and anti-Semitic propaganda as part of their social agenda.
Political (Authority, diplomacy, law)	The German Nazi party, led by Hitler, came to power by taking advantage of a dire economic situation resulting from the Great Depression. When in power, the Nazis announced they would no longer abide by the disarmament clauses of the Treaty of Versailles and quickly established a military draft.
Religious (Beliefs, influences, practices)	
Intellectual (Learning, literature, arts)	
Technology (Science, machines, medicine)	The Nazis put scientists and engineers to work refining weapons and using the newest technologies to further their social and diplomatic agendas.
Economic (Trade, policies, finance)	

Example Context Paragraph:

The Second World War in Europe took place with Germany at the forefront of events. The German Nazi party, led by Hitler, came to power by taking advantage of a dire economic situation resulting from the Great Depression. The Nazi party also spewed racist and anti-Semitic propaganda as part of their social agenda. When in power, the Nazis announced they would no longer abide by the disarmament clauses of the Treaty of Versailles and quickly established a military draft. The Nazis put scientists and engineers to work refining weapons and using the newest technologies to further their social and diplomatic agendas.

Note that these assignments are due on the first day of class. Assignments #2-3 (a total of six paragraphs) should be accessible in a Google Doc format, ready to be shared with Mr. Poskitt.