

Name:

AP Human Geography Summer Assignment

You are about to take a course that will drastically broaden the way that you see and understand the world around you. You will begin to see the geographic causes of the major events that take place in our society. You will begin to see geographic connections between what takes place in your life and what takes place thousands of miles away. You will also begin to better understand the geographic context in which your actions take place, and in doing so, have a better understanding of the world as a whole. First, however, you must understand what human geography means.

This course is not about memorizing terms, though that will be part of it. It is not about identifying places on a map, though that will also be part of it. Rather, it is about making logical connections and critically thinking about how issues related to geography influence human behavior - what we eat, where we live, why we fight, and how we can improve society. You will cover issues ranging from agriculture, urban design, population movements, international relations, business and economics, the spread of cultural trends, and more. It will make you, therefore, a more informed and thoughtful citizen.

Here are the units for the year – hopefully they give a better idea of what will be coming your way. Each explains how geography influences some fundamental ideas:

- Unit 1: Basic Geographic Concepts – Ideas necessary to understand the course
- Unit 2: Agriculture and Industry – What we eat and what we make
- Unit 3: Demographics and Development – Who we are and why are we different
- Unit 4: Cities, Settlements, and Services – Where we live and why
- Unit 5: Migration and Language – What we speak and where we move
- Unit 6: Religion and Culture – What we believe and what we do
- Unit 7: Political Geography – How we organize ourselves and why we don't always get along

The following Guided Reading Graphic Organizer is a quick way of learning about the concepts and tools used by a Geographer.

All the answers are located in Chapter 1 of the Textbook we will be using.

I have made copies of the necessary pages in case you do not receive the book before the year ends.

It will be collected the first week of school and going forward it can be used as a reference sheet throughout the year.

Geography: the study of where things are found on Earth's surface and the reasons for their locations.

Human Geography: asks two simple questions.....

1. Where are people and activities found on earth?
2. Why are they found there?

An example of thinking geographically

- A prehistoric human - crossed a river or climbed a hill, observed what was on the other side. He returned home to tell his fellow villagers about what he saw. He then scratched out the route in the dirt. (a map).
- The second geographer followed that dirt map and reached the other side.

The first question we need to ask..... How do Geographers describe where things are?

Please use the resources provided to answer the questions.

What is a map?
Who creates a map?
Describe a map as a reference tool?
Describe a map as a communication tool?

Compare the uses of early maps to that of contemporary maps.

--

Describe how contemporary mapping has expanded how geographers use maps.

- **Use Hurricane Katrina to show their expanded uses.**

--

When creating a map, two decisions must be made.....

Map Scale

Define the following in your own words.

Give an example demonstrating understanding.

Ratio or fraction

Written scale

Graphic scale

Maps often display scale in one of these three ways.

The appropriate scale for a map depends on the information being portrayed.

Please give examples to prove the above statement as true.

--

Why do cartographers need different types of projections?

--

Define Projection in your own words

--

Types of Projections
Equal Area
Robinson
Mercator

What role does distortion play in creating a projection?

--

To determine location on a map, some type of Geographic Grid is necessary.

What is a Geographic Grid?

--

Define, in your own words, the following terms. Please give examples to show understanding.

Meridian/Longitude

Parallel/latitude

How does a Geographic Grid help in calculating time?

Identify the Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

What is the International Date Line? What role does it play in telling time?

Identify/explain and describe how the following contemporary analytic tools are used when collecting, layering and mixing data (gathered information)

Remote sensing satellites

Geographic Information Science (GIScience)

Global Positioning System (GPS)

Geographic Information System (GIS)

Acting like a Geographer

State a question you have about the area where you live.

Now describe a “mashup” that could be created using GIS that would answer your question.

Why is each point on earth unique?

It's all about “Place” and “Region”.

Define, in your own words, “Place”?

Why do YOU think humans have a strong sense of “Place”?

What types of data would a Geographer use to describe “Place”?

--

How would a Geographer define location?

--

Describe/explain the three ways to identify location.

Give examples of each to demonstrate understanding.

Place names
Site
Situation

Reflection/Application

How would you describe the site and situation of the place where you live? (Please use online maps to help analyze the characteristics of your location)

--

How would Geographers define “region”?

--

Describe what geographers mean by a cultural landscape?

--

Please describe the cultural landscape approach, sometimes called the regional studies approach.

--

Explain, in your own words, the following types of regions.

Give an example of each to demonstrate understanding.

Types of Regions
Formal
Functional
Vernacular

Assignment 2: Country Challenge Presentation

For the second mandatory assignment, you must choose a country that is currently facing some sort of significant challenge. This challenge could be social, demographic, economic, environmental, or political. For your country, you must **create a 5-minute digital presentation** (Google Slides) that is intended to persuade donors to provide funding for a solution to that problem, or an organization that is working to address that problem. In your presentation, you must:

- a. Identify and explain the nature of the challenge your country is facing.
- b. Find one current event article released over the summer about the challenge. You must summarize the main message of the article.
- c. Identify a current solution that is being proposed or suggested in response to this challenge.
- d. Persuade listeners that your challenge is significant enough and your solution/organization worthy enough to receive funding.
- e. Use effective visual elements (such as pictures, charts, very short video clips (under 30 seconds, etc.) that accentuate your argument.

This must be ready when we return to school. You will be participating in a mock conference to generate funding for your solution/organization one day the first week back to school. To ensure that we have little overlap, you **must choose a country that begins with the first letter of your last name!**