

AP World History Summer Reading and World Geography Assignment

PART 1 – *Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond

PART 2 – Map assignment (attached)

Welcome to AP World History. Your first assignment will be to access Jared Diamond's book *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. I suggest you start by using the digital options below because they are free, however, if you feel intrigued by the arguments made by Jared Diamond or you prefer a hardcopy, his book is available at the public library, or for purchase. Here are the ways to access the information:

- An entire electronic copy and abbreviated version of the book is posted on a google classroom. Just go to <https://classroom.google.com> and use **u7ph9r** as the class code. **YOUR SCHOOL EMAIL WILL NEED TO BE USED TO ACCESS THE GOOGLE CLASSROOM.**
 - A video series is available on youtube.com. This will not answer all of the questions, but it will reinforce the main topics discussed in the book. A link is available on google classroom.
 - The full book (hardcopy) and audio book are available at the Santa Clarita Public Library or through various book retailers.
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The following strategy is suggested for completing this summer reading assignment

- Read the questions for the chapter before you start reading
- Read the entire chapter *without* writing full answers
 - Highlight, underline or flag with post-it notes, important sections as you discover them
- Write your answers to the questions after you have read the entire section or chapter
 - Purchase a Composition book or spiral bound notebook to keep your notes. You will turn this in the first day of school.
 - Most answers should be a few sentences long (Don't write a book!)
- Keep in mind that all of the answers to these questions are the theories of the book's author, Jared Diamond. Therefore, the words "According to Jared Diamond," can be added to each question.

Guns, Germs, and Steel – Guided Reading Questions

Prologue: Yali's Question

1. What is Yali's Question?
2. What are three considerations Diamond discusses as he ponders Yali's question?

I. Part One: From Eden to Cajamarca

Chapter One: Up to the Starting Line

1. What was the “Great Leap Forward”? Which peoples did it impact, and what probably catalyzed this change?

Chapter Two: A Natural Experiment of History

1. What message is Diamond trying to convey with his focus on the conflict of the Maori-Mori people?

2. What were the six environmental factors that contribute to the differences among Polynesian societies? Of the six, which do you think plays the greatest role in differentiation and why?

Chapter Three: Collision at Cajamarca

1. What happened at Cajamarca?

2. How did Atahualpa come to be at Cajamarca?

3. How did Pizarro come to be at Cajamarca? Why didn't Atahualpa instead try to conquer Spain?

4. Why did Atahualpa walk into the trap?

II. Part Two: The Rise and Spread of Food Production

Chapter Four: Farmer Power

1. According to Figure 4.1 what is a prerequisite to the development of technology?

2. In one paragraph or less please summarize how domestication of livestock and farming changed societies.

Chapter Five: History's Haves and Have-nots

1. Examine Figure 5.1 and Table 5.1; apply your knowledge of environmental and geographic factors to identify what these regions have in common. What environmental factors probably contributed to the success of these crops in their respective regions?

Chapter 6: To Farm or Not to Farm

1. What five factors contributed to the transition from hunter gatherer to farming?

Chapter 7: How to Make an Almond

1. Describe three of the many factors that contribute to whether or not a plant becomes a crop that humans choose to domesticate.

Chapter 8: Apples or Indians

1. Identify at least four of the Fertile Crescent's advantages in terms of food production.

2. Identify New Guinea's 3 severe limitations.

3. When comparing Eastern United States, New Guinea, and the Fertile Crescent, what caused such a great difference in production?

4. What happened when more productive crops arrived from elsewhere (p. 153)

5. What two conclusions does Diamond want to exaggerate?

Chapter 9: Zebras, Unhappy Marriages, and the Anna Karenina Principle

1. What is the Anna Karenina Principle (when applied to the domestication of animals)?
2. List the five major domestic mammals. List the minor nine.
3. What are six reasons that 134 of the 148 “big wild terrestrial herbivorous mammals” cannot be domesticated?

Chapter 10: Spacious Skies and Tilted Axes

1. How did the rate of spread in Eurasia’s East-West axes compare to the spread along the Americas North-South axes? (page 178)
2. In paragraph form, why was the spread of crops from the Fertile Crescent so rapid?
3. Why was the rate of diffusion in the Americas so slow?

III. Part 3: From Food to Guns, Germs, and Steel

Chapter 11: Lethal Gift of Livestock

1. What are two historically famous epidemics?
2. What are the four common characteristics shared by lethal epidemics?
3. Why did the rise of agriculture launch the evolution of infectious diseases?(page 205)
4. List four diseases that are contracted from an animal.

Chapter 12: Blueprints and Borrowed Letters

1. What are the three basic types of writing systems and what is an example of each?
2. What civilization was first to develop a writing system and what was it called?
3. Why did writing arise and spread to some societies, but not to others?

Chapter 13: Necessity’s Mother

1. Look up technology in a dictionary. Define.
2. Bullet out the 14 factors historians have identified as catalysts for the creation of technology.
3. Of the 14, discuss two in complete sentences that you think have the most influential impact on the creation of new technologies.

Chapter 14: From Egalitarianism to Kleptocracy

1. Briefly summarize the four solutions Kleptocrats have resorted to maintain their control and elite lifestyle.
2. Summarize the three theories Diamond discusses to answer the question “How did small, noncentralized, kin-based societies evolve into large centralized ones in which most members are not closely related to each other?”
3. How does food production in make features of complex societies possible? (bullet four reasons)

IV. Part Four: Around the World in Five Chapters

Chapter 15: Yali’s People

1. Why did Australia not develop metal tools, writing, and politically complex societies?
2. Why didn’t more advanced technology reach Australia from its neighbors, Indonesia and New Guinea?

Chapter 16: How China Became Chinese

1. What is Sinification? (look it up online if necessary)

2. How do the Chinese achieve and maintain Sinification?
3. What are some characteristics or accomplishments of the Chinese civilization?

Chapter 17: Speedboat to Polynesia

1. What languages are part of the “Austronesian” family? (Fig. 17.1)
2. Study Fig. 17.2 and write a sentence summarizing the illustration.
3. What was the outcome of Austronesian expansion? (page 350!)

Chapter 18: Hemispheres Colliding

1. Using pages 354-357, make a chart that compares and contrasts Eurasian and Native American society prior to 1492.
2. Describe the five areas of technology that were contributing factors to Europe’s conquest of the Americas.
3. Referencing Table 18.1; Which is the earliest developing society? Second earliest? Third? Which societies never developed writing systems? Which never developed iron tools?
4. What has the Native American population reduced by (%) since 1492?

Chapter 19: How Africa Became Black

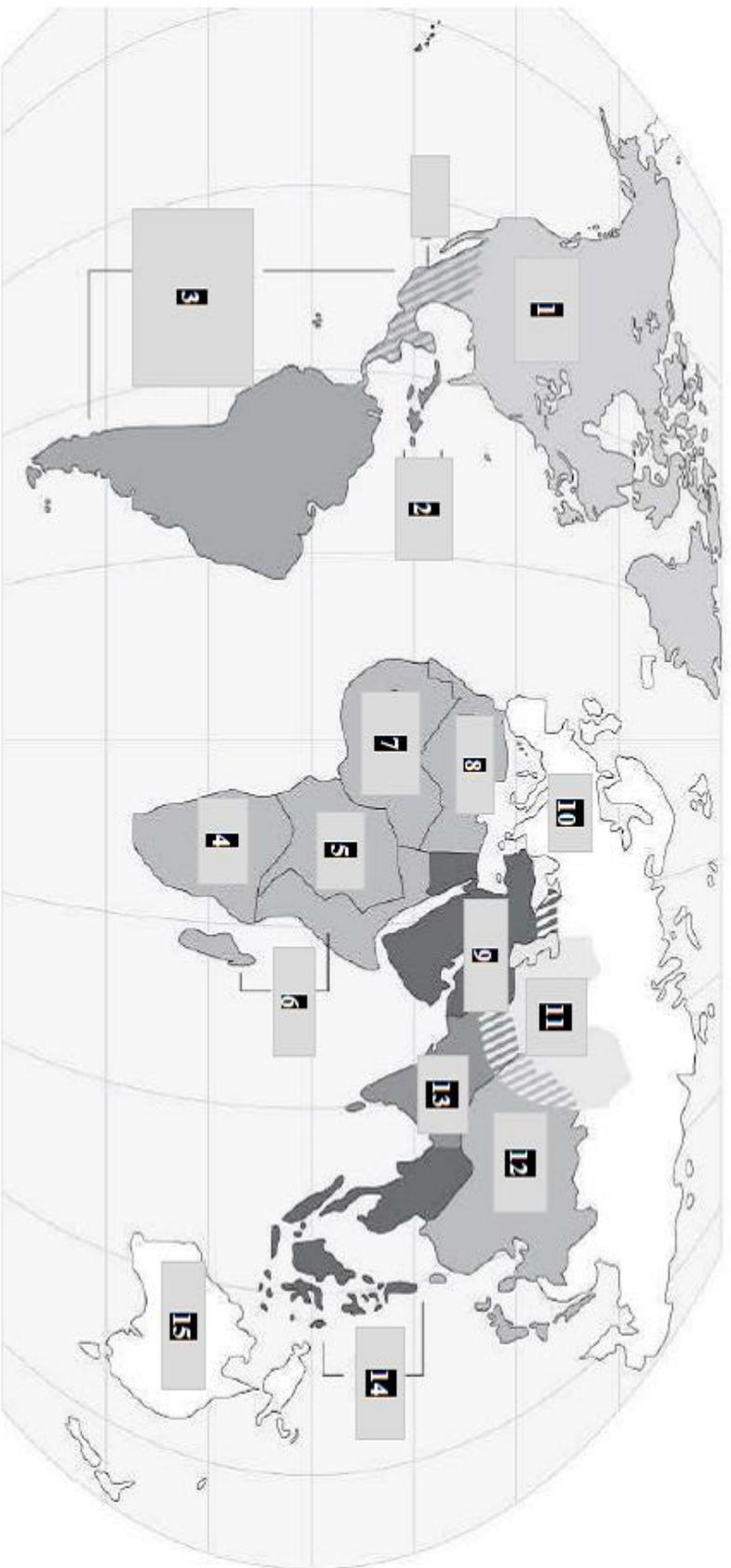
1. List the five major human groups in Africa around 1000 CE (AD).
2. How many different language groups exist in the African continent?
3. Describe the characteristics and growth of the Bantus.
4. What does Diamond project actually happened to the vanished Khoisan populations?

AP World History Map Assignment

Instructions: Complete the attached map assignment

- a. Correctly match the number with the appropriate geographical region
- b. Complete the chart which
 1. identifies the region
 2. gives an example of three modern nations within that region
 3. list the major rivers of the region (the same river can be used in more than one region)
 4. list the major geographical features such as lakes, mountain ranges, deserts etc., (again there can be multiple listings if the feature is trans-regional).

MATCH THE NUMBER WITH THE REGION



- | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| _____ EUROPE | _____ SOUTH ASIA | _____ SOUTHEAST ASIA | _____ MIDDLE EAST |
| _____ NORTH AMERICA | _____ EAST AFRICA | _____ CENTRAL ASIA | _____ OCEANIA |
| _____ CARIBBEAN | _____ CENTRAL AFRICA | _____ EAST ASIA | _____ LATIN AMERICA |
| _____ SOUTHERN AFRICA | _____ WEST AFRICA | _____ NORTH AFRICA | |

