

Summer Geography Assignment

Advanced Placement Human Geography, Grade 10 & 11

Goal: The summer assignment in AP Human Geography is designed to help introduce you to the nature and complexity of geography before beginning its formal study. You will have **three different assignments** this summer. Each of the assignments will, in its own way, help to broaden your knowledge of geography by helping to make the concept interesting and relevant to human society. It should assist you in developing engaging and accessible background knowledge for your college-level AP course, and help you meet your goals for success on the AP exam.

While it might be tempting to wait and do the assignments during the last few days before the due dates, working throughout the summer allows you the ability to work without feeling rushed or under an imminent deadline. Spread it out to improve your own understanding, time-management, and keep the stress levels low.

1. Reading Assignment: please read the three articles posted on the class website:

Why Geography?

Defining Geography: What is Where, Why There, and Why Care?

Defining Geographic Scales

These articles provide background to how the science of geography is structure, and why it is a meaningful field of study. Be prepared to take a **Quiz** on the vocabulary and concepts in these articles during the first week of classes. Vocabulary is extremely important for this course! *Please be sure to look up and learn the meaning of any words you do not understand; YOU will be responsible for learning the vocabulary items introduced in the readings!*

2. Current Events Assignment: the study of human geography is both historical *and* contemporary. It is essential that students remain aware of what is happening in the world. Knowledge of world affairs and international current events will enhance your understanding and success in the AP Human Geography course. If you do not already follow the news, you should start now. Read news websites, newspapers, listen to the radio, and/or watch news programs. Be curious about your world, and make it a point to discuss current events with your family and friends.

Find one (1) recent news article related to Geography for each of five (5) different world regions.

- recent means "published during the 2017 summer break"
- the five regions are: Europe, Asia, Africa, South/Central America, and Oceania.

*Do **NOT** choose any news articles that are primarily about North America*

The following are keywords that could be helpful in finding recent news articles about Geography: Population, Population growth, Demographics, Aging, Migration, Immigration, Religion, Language, Culture, Diversity, Ethnicity, Ethnic conflict, Political conflict, Borders, Sustainability, Commercial Farming, Organic Farming, Indigenous culture, Industry, Factories, Economics, Transportation, Development, Infant Mortality, Literacy, Standard of Living, Gender, Empowerment of women, Urbanization, Sprawl, Suburbanization, Eminent Domain, Urban Planning, Traffic, Central Business District, Pollution, Fossil Fuels, Environmental degradation, Green movement, Terrorism.

For each news article you select, please do all of the following:

- Include a website link and/or printout of the article to turn in with your response.
- IN YOUR OWN WORDS, briefly summarize the article (short paragraph)
- Give your own opinion of the article (short paragraph)
- List any terms/vocabulary that you did not understand or learned while reading
- Please use MLA format for citation of the article!

If you are missing any of these five pieces for any of your articles, you will not receive full credit for this assignment, which will count as half of your first **Test Grade** for the year. Your short answers are graded on how you *explain* and provide *supporting examples*. Do not quote heavily or write lengthy essays. Grammar and punctuation are important, but you will not lose points because of them. However, your responses should be clearly typed or printed.

3. World Map Assignment: during the year, we will be working in the context of the world every day. The better you know the world, the easier this class will be for you.

Use a blank world map to label ALL of the following major cultural regions, landforms, and bodies of water. You will have to hand-draw some items onto the map yourself.

A – Continents and Subcontinents (**Red**) and Oceans (**Black**) = 10pts

North America, South America, Central America, Australia, Oceania, Africa, Europe, India, Arabia, Asia, Antarctica, Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic

B – Landforms (**Brown** or **Orange**) = 30pts

Rocky Mts, Appalachian Mts, Great Plains, Canadian Shield, Andes Mts, Los Llanos, Pampas, Atacama Desert, Patagonia, Atlas Mts, Sahara Desert, Sahel, Great Rift Valley, Kalahari Desert, Alps, Pyrenees Mts, North European Plain, Caucasus Mts, Ural Mts, Siberia, Himalayas, Gobi Desert, Outback, Great Barrier Reef

C – Rivers (**Blue**) = 30pts

St. Lawrence, Mississippi/Missouri, Rio Grande, Mackenzie, Amazon, Parana, Nile, Congo, Niger, Zambezi, Danube, Rhine, Volga, Ob, Amur, Tigris/Euphrates, Indus, Ganges, Mekong, Yellow, Yangtze

D – Other Bodies of Water (**Green**) = 30pts

Great Lakes, Hudson Bay, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Bering Sea, Panama Canal, Lake Titicaca, Lake Victoria, Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Suez Canal, North Sea, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Caspian Sea, Aral Sea, Lake Baikal, Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, Straits of Malacca, South China Sea, Sea of Japan/East Sea, Sea of Okhotsk

Maps will count as the second half of your first **Test grade**, based on three criteria:

- correct location of all items
- neatness of presentation, lettering, and colors
- completion of assignment

Turn in your Current Events and World Map Assignments together:

- Completed and turned in by September 8th (first day of class): full credit.
- Completed and turned in by September 9th (second day of class): 80% full credit
- Completed and turned in by September 12th (third day of class): 60% full credit
- No late work will be accepted for the Summer Geography assignment.

The two assignments together will be the equivalent of a major unit test for point value.

Remember that there will also be a vocabulary quiz based on the Reading Assignment, during the first week of the school year!

Questions? (Please put “summer geography assignment” in the subject line of your email)

It is not anticipated that this will be an assignment you will need help on, but if you are having trouble understanding any portion of the assignment or reading, you may contact Mr Lacy at his school e-mail address. E-mail will be checked periodically over the summer, and a response will be written as quickly as possible.

It is hoped that you enjoy your reading. You should see this as an opportunity to learn and anticipate important information that will help you in APHGeo class next year.

Sincerely,

Mr Lacy

klacy@rutherfordschools.org (School)