

AP World History Summer Assignment Instructions

The primary purpose of this three-part summer assignment is to help students acquire the base knowledge necessary for instant immersion in AP World History once the 2009/10 academic year begins.

Please remember that you are responsible for your own pacing.

In many cases, I have attached files for download that correspond with each section for those of you who wish to complete your summer assignment electronically. All typed assignments must be in either Times New Roman or Tahoma font **no larger** than 12-pica. The essays should be double spaced. The assignment itself should be placed in a report folder with a cover page that identifies you.

On the first day of school you will be turning in all of the following in a folder in this order:

1. A cover page with your name, date, class, and class period on it
2. A world map of physical features
3. A world map labeled with regions and religions
4. Three religion charts
 - a. Monotheistic religions
 - b. Polytheistic religions
 - c. Semi-religious philosophies
5. Two Free Response Questions
 - a. Compare and Contrast Monotheistic religions
 - b. Compare and Contrast Polytheistic religions

If you have any questions about any part of this assignment feel free to e-mail me, though be aware I will not be able to access my e-mail between July 24 - August 10. I will respond to e-mails as quickly as possible. My e-mail address is eadamek@powayusd.com.

PART I: Physical Geography, Global Regions, & Early Civilizations

Familiarity with the world and its physical features is an important part of AP World History. While you will not be specifically tested on physical features when you take the AP exam, many questions will assume that you have some familiarity with the earth and its topography. Additionally, there will be numerous references to these features during class and in course readings. You are expected to have a mastery of basic physical geography, regional delineations, and the *general locations* of major river valley/classical civilizations on the first day of school.

You will need to conduct some research to complete these maps.

Suggested reference websites for the physical geography maps:

MSN Encarta Global Map <http://encarta.msn.com/encnet/features/mapcenter/map.aspx>

HRW World Atlas http://go.hrw.com/atlas/norm_html/world.htm

And of course, your textbook!

1. Complete the Physical Features Maps

--Label each feature according to this color code:

- Blue**—Oceans, seas, rivers
- Purple**—Bays, gulfs, straits
- Red**—Mountains
- Yellow**—Deserts
- Orange**—All other land features

2. Complete the Major Civilizations Maps Label & color code each major civilization on the appropriate map (NOTE: SOME CIVILIZATIONS WILL OVERLAP!)

3. Complete the Global Regions and Religions Map

Part II: World Religions & Semi-Religious Philosophies

The influence of major religions and semi-religious philosophies on societies will provide a reoccurring theme throughout the course. It is important for you to be familiar with each religion as we proceed. Please follow the directions below:

1. Visit the following sources:

- **BBC Religion & Ethics Website** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/>
- **Infoplease.com** <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0113529.html>
- **And of course your text book!**

2. Complete each of the following charts:

- Western Eurasian Religions Chart
- Eastern Eurasian Religions Chart
- Classical Eastern Semi-Religious Philosophies Chart

An example of the detail expected of you can be found on the Classical Eastern Semi-Religious Philosophies Chart under Taoism. To help you complete each section of the chart, be sure to keep the following in mind:

1. **Symbol**—Draw in and name the appropriate symbol for each religion
2. **Founder/Patriarch**—Name the historical founder (if any)
3. **Place & Date of Origin**—When and where the religion began
4. **Modern Extent**—Where most adherents live today (country, continent)
5. **Holy or Sacred Texts**—Make sure to look at the websites or the Barron's book carefully
6. **Teachings**—Summarize the core beliefs and teachings of each religion (i.e. Islam's 5 Pillars)
7. **Role of Women**—Explain the accepted role of women in each religion

Part III: Compare and Contrasting religions

A key concept that will be visited and revisited over the entirety of this course is connections and interactions between societies. A crucial influencing factor on these interactions is the similarities and the differences between cultures. As we will see as we discuss different civilizations around the world, religion plays a major role in the development of culture. As an introductory exercise to the five major religions of the world and to essay writing in an AP class you will be writing two Free Response Questions (we will be affectionately referring to these as FRQs from here on out!). Though I do not like to give specific lengths or word counts, each response should be about one page in length.

- FRQ 1: Compare and contrast the major monotheistic religions of the world
- FRQ 2: Compare and contrast the major polytheistic religions of the world

