

AP United States History Summer Assignment

Mrs. Kelly
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"We are not makers of history. We are made by history." – Martin Luther King, Jr.

Why study history? History is not just the study of a multitude of facts, people, wars, and dates, many of which seem to be forgotten once the discussion becomes silent. The ever-changing field of history is a fascinating journey through events that place an indelible mark on a generation and the people whose contributions continue to impact our lives today. The study of history allows one to understand multiple perspectives of an event or era, to ponder big questions, to discuss effectively and respectfully, and to apply the lessons of the past to the problems of today.

What is the purpose of a summer assignment?

This is a college level American History course, and as such, we will hit the ground running this summer in order to begin our exploration into varying perspectives on the events that have occurred in American history. You will have the opportunity to act as an historian as you begin to think critically about the people and events in history. Much of the study of history comes from the exploration, critical analysis, and collaboration with peers to discover multiple perspectives of an event. As there are high expectations set for this course and these assignments, it is important to understand that the intense work and effort will help you to think critically about the world around you and see the world through the eyes of an historian.

Important Information:

Class Website: Mrs. Kelly's class website is a valuable source of information throughout the year and especially throughout the summer. The summer assignment is posted on the site along with other valuable resources you may need to complete this assignment.

<http://kellyushistorygov.weebly.com>

Reading:

Summer Assignment #1 – Various current events articles of your choosing.

Summer Assignment #2 – *Adventure Tales of America: 1492-1877*.¹ An American history cartoon reading outlining the geographic areas of the United States and settlements of the Native Americans.

Due Date:

Summer Assignment #1 – Your current events assignment is due the first day of school – **August 20**

Summer Assignment #2 – Maps, Reading, and Synthesis Paper is due on **Friday, August 22**

¹ Jody, P. (2000). Native Americans 20,000 B.C. – 1840s A.D. In *Adventure tales of America: 1492-1877* (Vol. 1, pp. 8-11) [PDF].

Summer Assignment #1 – Current Events

The current events portion of the summer assignment will allow us to have a basic knowledge of our top world stories. This will allow us to begin to integrate current events into our classroom learning. By integrating our prior knowledge and citing relevant examples in our modern society we will be able to have thought provoking discussion which will extend our learning beyond the classroom.

1. You are required to collect 3 newspaper (or online) current event articles and complete the attached forms for each article. The parameters of this assignment are as follows:
 - a. The articles you collect should span the summer months – Points will be lost if the dates of your articles are within the same week.
 - b. You must have the hard copy of the article when you turn in your summer assignment.
 - c. Local news is a great source of information (especially with our current elections), however, I would like you to broaden your horizons this summer. I will accept one local news article, but the final two should be national or world news.

Summer Assignment #2 – Maps and Geography

One of the major themes of the AP United States course is the environment and geography. This portion of the summer assignment will focus on this theme by completing a series of map activities and then analyzing these maps in order to better understand the Native American population before colonization.

1. *Map 1* – This is a basic map of the United States.
 - a. Fill in the correct state abbreviation in its appropriate state.
 - b. Using the map on Page 11 of *Adventure Tales of America*, outline and color the following regions (use your best judgment when outlining):
 - i. Eastern Woodlands
 - ii. Southeast
 - iii. Great Plains
 - iv. Southwest
 - v. Great Basin
 - vi. Plateau
 - vii. Coast
2. *Map 2* – U.S. Landforms and Waterways
 - a. Label and color in the following landforms and waterways on the map provided: (This will require some research):

i. Gulf of Mexico	xi. Rio Grande River
ii. Potomac River	xii. Lake Huron
iii. Appalachian Mountains	xiii. Colorado River
iv. Ohio River	xiv. Atlantic Ocean
v. Lake Erie	xv. Great Salt Lake
vi. Ozark Plateau	xvi. Chesapeake Bay
vii. Lake Michigan	xvii. Sierra Nevada Mountains
viii. Pacific Ocean	xviii. Missouri River
ix. Mississippi River	
x. Rocky Mountains	

Summer Assignment #3 – Comparison and Geography

In this portion of the summer assignment, we will compare the lifestyles of four prehistoric Native American groups and then use this information and your maps in from summer assignment #2 to determine what part geography played in Native American immigration.

1. **Reading and Organizer** – Read pp. 8-11 (Section 2 Native Americans). Complete the “Prehistoric Cultures in the United States” graphic organizer.
2. **Synthesis Paper** - Using the Maps from Summer Assignment #2 and information from the reading, answer the following question in a well-written paragraph on the back of the graphic organizer.

What part did geography play in Native American immigration?