

- **Part 1: Preparing for Your AP Course**
- **Part 2: Completing One Map**

Part 1: Preparing for Your First AP Course

In the past, I have required my Advanced Placement (AP) World History students to read *Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond in order to build their historical knowledge prior to the start of the school year. However, this year I am trying something new. This shift is an effort to improve areas that nearly all students struggle with when transitioning into their first college course. Students often have difficulty with the following:

- the amount of reading;
- retaining what they just read;
- staying organized;
- taking notes effectively;
- managing their time wisely; and/or,
- studying for tests that move beyond regurgitation of data to show a mastery of the skills the AP class is built around that they must apply and display.

This does not mean students do not possess these skills. In fact, most AP students do, at least to some extent, as they tend to be the most hardworking students. They just have not developed them to the level needed to be successful in what is a college-level course. Therefore, this summer's assignment is built around teaching, enhancing, and applying those skills so that every student can start next school year in a much better position to achieve success.

You will be reading a series of articles on reading techniques and retention strategies as well as various notetaking styles. Then, using your newly-learned reading techniques, you will read articles about a variety of important topics, including:

- time management;
- how to study effectively; and,
- stress management.

Directions: You will summarize the content contained in the articles utilizing your preferred notetaking style. These notes will be due on the first day of school. Your notes must be handwritten and should be written using pencil or blue or black pen. Although it is just a suggestion (not a requirement), your notes should not exceed 3 pages in length. More is not always better. Part of being an AP student is learning how to do high-level work in a concise manner and time crunch. Write your name in the top left corner of each page of your notes.

Assessment: We will have a discussion during the first week of school where students will be evaluated on their participation and quality of their comments to demonstrate they read the articles.

Read each of the following articles in the order they appear, as they have been sequenced carefully and each builds on the previous one(s). If a link does not work, try again or Google the article.

1. Notetaking Styles Article: Five Notetaking Methods (University of Redlands)
https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/91D2F15F-DAF4-C2F7-B659ECCACE9E7375/1five_methods_of_notetaking.docx_updated_7-09.pdf
2. Retention Article: 8 Tips to Remember What You Need (SharpBrains)
<https://sharpbrains.com/blog/2009/05/14/8-tips-to-remember-what-you-read/>

3. Time Management / Organization Article: Study Skills – Time Management (University of Ottawa)
<https://sass.uottawa.ca/en/mentoring/tools/time-management>
4. Test Anxiety Article: Test Anxiety (Penn State)
<https://pennstatelearning.psu.edu/test-anxiety>
5. Stress Management Article: Student Guide to Surviving Stress (LearnPsychology)
<https://www.learnpsychology.org/student-stress-anxiety-guide/>

Part 2: Completing One Map

Checking out books for this assignment is not recommended or required. The Internet is all you need. This assignment is especially important. It will help to improve your familiarity with world geography. Although it is not due until the first day of class, getting an early start and taking your time will greatly benefit you. That is because real learning takes time.

Expectation: The expectation for this assignment is that you will complete it individually. It is recommended that you take your time and think deeply about it. Late assignments will not be accepted, as you – along with all of your classmates – will be assessed on information contained in the assignment during the first week of classes.

Assessment: You will take a quiz during the first week of classes on the information contained in the assignment.

Grading:

Requirements: The student’s map...	Points Earned / Points Possible
includes all required features, which are specific to the map and the AP Period(s).	_____ / 29 (.5 point per feature)
features legible writing/text and outlining or coloring that is pleasing in appearance.	_____ / 11
Total	_____ / 40

Directions: Using a BLANK world map of your choosing, which is available on the Internet, label and outline or color the features included in the map’s list. Print neatly to ensure that your map can be read easily. Later, use your map to aid you in memorizing the listed features. (If you are concerned about legibility and would like to split up the features into more than one map, that is permitted.)

Map: World Geography

Continents: Label and color	Oceans, Seas, & Waterways: Label and color	Regions: Label and outline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Africa ○ Antarctica ○ Asia ○ Australia ○ Europe ○ North America ○ South America 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amazon River ○ Atlantic Ocean ○ Arctic Ocean ○ Arabian Sea ○ Baltic Sea ○ Bay of Bengal ○ Black Sea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Caribbean ○ Central Africa ○ Central America ○ Central Asia ○ Eastern Africa ○ East Asia ○ Eastern Europe

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Bering Sea○ Caribbean Sea○ Caspian Sea○ Chiang Jiang (Yangtze) River○ Colorado River○ Columbia River○ East China Sea○ English Channel○ Euphrates River○ Ganges River○ Huang He (Yellow) River○ Indian Ocean○ Indus River○ Mediterranean Sea○ Mississippi River○ Niger River○ Nile River○ Ohio River○ Pacific Ocean○ Persian Gulf○ Philippine Sea○ Red Sea○ Rio Grande○ South China Sea○ Tigris River○ Yellow Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Middle East○ North Africa○ North America○ Oceania○ Russia○ Southern Africa○ South America○ South Asia○ Southeast Asia○ West Africa○ Western Europe
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