



World Studies: History
Summer Reading
Summer 2020

Dear Incoming Sophomores,

May 2020

We live in an increasingly globalized world, where our futures are inextricably interlinked. Becoming conscientious global citizens requires cultivating the ability to critically examine how history has shaped the world as we know it today. Over the next year, we will explore world history thematically across continents to better understand, critique, and contextualize our present. I look forward to digging into the work with you all in September!

Assignment

As an introduction to comparative cultures and ancient civilizations, you will read portions of Neil MacGregor's book *The History of the World in 100 Objects**

*NOTE: There is a *History of the World in 1000 Objects*. Do NOT read that one!

For this assignment, you will **read the Preface and Introduction and 7 additional chapters** (the chapters are short!). After reading each chapter, you will compose a **written response** to the questions below.

Step One: Read the Preface & Introduction and write one to three, complex sentences to summarize the main points.

Step Two: Pre-read the following questions so you know what to look for as you read. For each chapter (excluding the Preface & Introduction), type a response that addresses questions 1 and 2 below. Write in complete sentences and label each response with the chapter number and name.

1. What *factual information* does this object give us about its home culture? What *evidence* confirms its factual credibility?
2. What about the writer's description of this object is *conjecture*? How do you know?

*conjecture = a conclusion formed on the basis of incomplete information.

As you read, think about the sources we have in studying history, from physical artifacts to written accounts. What are the strengths and weaknesses of different types of sources?

Step Three: Read and respond to **Chapter 1 from Part One: Making Us Human**.

Step Four: Use the following guide to choose **six more chapters** from the book (one chapter per black bullet point listed below). Peruse your options and pick the chapters that are most interesting to you. Please read and respond to:

- **One chapter** from the following:
 - Part One: Making us Human (Chapters 1-5)
 - Part Two: After the Ice Age: Food and Sex (Chapters 6-10)
 - Part Three: The First Cities and States (Chapters 11-15)
 - Part Four: The Beginnings of Science and Literature (Chapters 16-20)
- **One chapter** from the following:
 - Part Five: Old World New Powers (Chapters 21-25)
 - Part Six: The World in the Age of Confucius (Chapters 26-30)
 - Part Seven: Empire Builders (Chapters 31-35)
 - Part Eight: Ancient Pleasures, Modern Spice (Chapters 36-40)
- **One chapter** from Part Nine: Rise of World Faiths (Chapters 41-45)
- **One chapter** from the following:
 - Part Ten: The Silk Road and Beyond (Chapters 46-50)
 - Part Eleven: Inside the Palace, Secrets at Court (Chapters 51-55)
 - Part Twelve: Pilgrims, Raiders, and Traders (Chapters 56-60)
 - Part Thirteen: Status Symbols (Chapters 61-65)
- **One chapter** from Part Fourteen: Meeting the Gods (Chapters 66-70)
- **One chapter** from the following:
 - Part Fifteen: The Threshold of the Modern World (Chapters 71-75)
 - Part Sixteen: The First Global Economy (Chapters 76-80)
 - Part Seventeen: Tolerance and Intolerance (Chapters 81-85)
 - Part Eighteen: Exploration, Exploitation, and Enlightenment (Chapters 86-90)
 - Part Nineteen: Mass Production, Mass Persuasion (Chapters 91-95)
 - Part Twenty: The World of Our Making (Chapters 96-100)

Step Five: Read over your work. Edit & clarify. Be prepared to submit your typed, double-spaced responses on the first day of class. If you're interested, keep reading more of the book just for fun!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to send me an email.

Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

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