



## Millennium High School

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Dear AP World History Students,

Welcome to AP World History! World History is its own academic discipline within the field of history.

According to Professor Strayer:

Not long ago – in the mid-twentieth century – virtually all college-level history courses were organized in terms of particular civilizations or nations.... This world history movement has attempted to create a global understanding of the human past that highlights broad patterns cutting across particular civilizations and countries, while acknowledging in an inclusive factor the distinctive histories of its many peoples. This is, to put it mildly, a tall order. How is it possible to encompass within a single book or course the separate stories of the world's various peoples? Surely it must be something more than just recounting the history of one civilization or culture after another... Despite much debate and argument, one thing is reasonably clear: in world history, nothing stands alone. Excerpted from: Strayer, Robert W. *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*. 2nd ed. Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martins, 2013. Print.

Therefore, this class will use the following approaches to world history:

- A. Defining, tracing, and comparing societies.
- B. Examining contacts among societies.
- C. Tracing larger forces that influence a number of different societies, regardless of direct contact.

In order to prepare for your transition to AP World History, as well as to begin your preparation for the AP exam, you will complete the following summer assignment:

1. **Organize** a dedicated AP World History binder with loose leaf paper. If you would like to take textbook or other notes in a spiral notebook, you may use a notebook that is dedicated to AP World History in addition to your binder.

2. **Read** “Part One Big Picture” and “Chapter 1” (this is page 2 - 41) in your *Ways of the World* textbook. The textbook PDF is posted on Jupiter. You may skip the additional documents and other resources that are after page 41. Some steps that may help you read the chapter effectively are below.

A. Preview the chapter: Skim headings, images, maps, and chapter review information at the end of the chapter.

B. Break down the chapter: Break it into parts, re-read, look up unfamiliar vocabulary for definitions and pronunciation.

3. Take **Chapter Response Notes** on the textbook pages. The purpose of these response notes is for you to have a reference for use in class and a record to go back to throughout the year.

What is required: The notes must be in your own language and should be between approximately 1 - 4 pages.

What is up to you: You can format your response notes as you choose. You can focus in depth on part of the chapter, or more generally on the entire chapter. Your response notes may focus more on content, or can be an analytical response to the ideas that you read. Your response notes can be typed or handwritten.

Some format options for your response notes:

- A. Take notes based on the chapter headings or margin questions.
- B. Take notes based on AP World themes below.
- C. Record key vocabulary.
- D. Write an analytical response to the ideas in the chapter using the AP World skills or questioning stance strategies below.
- E. Or, you can use any other format of your choice that follows the expectations above.

Major World History Themes:

Theme 1: Interaction Between Humans and the Environment	Theme 4: Creation, Expansion, and Interaction of Economic Systems
Theme 2: Development and Interaction of Cultures	Theme 5: Development and Transformation of Social Structures
Theme 3: State-Building, Expansion, and Conflict	Theme 6: Technology and Innovation

Major World History Skills:

Comparison	Explain similarities and differences between various historical developments.
Causation	Explain causes and effects of historical developments.
Continuity & Change	Explain patterns of continuity and/or change over time.

How to Adopt a Questioning Stance for Non-Fiction Reading:

How does this text change your thinking about the topic, event, or idea discussed?
What surprised or stood out to you?
What contradicted, corroborated, or qualified what you already knew?

*If you have additional time and are interested in learning more about world history in order to better prepare for next year, consider the optional enrichment ideas on the following page.*

Bring your response notes to class on the first day of school. Please email me with any questions, but know that it may take me time to respond once summer begins. Have a wonderful summer!

Best,  
Ms. Kappler  
[skappler@millenniumhs.org](mailto:skappler@millenniumhs.org).

## **Optional Enrichment Ideas for AP World History**

### **Videos**

#### **-Crash Course World History Videos**

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9>

#### **-Heimler History Videos – Videos Start at 1200 CE**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_bOoi0e3L3SJ1xx5TZWHPw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_bOoi0e3L3SJ1xx5TZWHPw)

### **Websites**

#### **-Review the AP World History Course Page**

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-world-history/course>

#### **-Time Maps History Atlas - Free maps are on the left side**

<http://www.timemaps.com/history>

#### **-Kahoot - AP World History - Create a free account**

<https://create.kahoot.it/auth/login>

### **Books/General**

#### **-Preview our “Ways of the World” textbook beyond the required chapter.**

#### **-Study world geography.**

**-Read any books about world history - non-fiction or historical fiction. Email Ms. Kappler if you would like any suggestions.**