Dear Future AP World History Student:
Congratulations on choosing AP World History. AP World History is a college level course that you
will find to be both interesting and challenging. At the end of the year, when you take the national
AP Exam, you have the opportunity to earn college credit if you pass the exam with a 3 or better,
with many schools requiring a 4 or better.
AP World History is a rigorous course of study that attempts to build a comprehensive
understanding of historical processes through not only intensive reading and writing, but through the
development of complex analytical skills. We will be using a *college-level* text, so naturally a *strong*
reading background is required. This is a serious commitment. While ultimately a rewarding
experience, you should be prepared to spend a considerable amount of time and effort developing
the skills necessary to be successful in this course.

Here are your 2 summer assignments:

1. Read a book! Choose 1 of the offered titles and complete a typed book review answering
the following questions.
<u>Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World</u>, by Jack Weatherford. *The Mongol
army led by Genghis Khan subjugated more lands and people in twenty-five years than the Romans
did in four hundred. In nearly every country the Mongols conquered, they brought an unprecedented
rise in cultural communication, expanded trade, and a blossoming of civilization.*
<u>Salt: A World History</u> by Mark Kurlansky. *A substance so valuable it served as currency,
salt has influenced the establishment of trade routes and cities, provoked and financed wars,
secured empires, and inspired revolutions.*
<u>Plagues and Peoples</u>, by William McNeill. *A classic study of the role of disease in world
history.*
<u>Spice: The History of a Temptation</u>, by Jack Turner. *A brilliant, original history of the
spice trade—and the appetites that fueled it.*

1. How does the readings change your view of history?

2. Did the author show any preconceived bias or biases? If so, what were these

   biases and how did the author support their viewpoint?

3. What questions does the author ask and to what extent does the author answer

    these questions?

4. What were you most surprised to learn about?

5. What were you most disappointed to learn about?

6. Did you enjoy the book? Was it worthwhile?

7. If you were to have a discussion about this book with a friend, what would you

   tell them and would you recommend this book to them?

2. Mapping Exercise

Map #1 - Study the map labeled with specific regions of the world. You will need to understand the location of these regions of the world at the beginning of school. <u>On the first day of school, you will take a short quiz based on your knowledge of the regions of study.</u>

Map #2 - Use the unlabeled map to label Oceans, Seas, Bays, lakes (color them blue) indicate regions that overlap. Rivers (draw them in dark blue)

1 Atlantic Ocean
2. Pacific Ocean
3. Indian Ocean
4. Arctic Ocean
5. North Sea
6. Norwegian Sea
7. Barents Sea
8. Mediterranean Sea
9. Adriatic Sea
10. Aegean Sea
11. Black Sea
12. Caspian Sea
13. Red Sea
14. Persian Gulf
15. Arabian Sea
16. Bay of Bengal
17. South China Sea
18. East China Sea
19. Yellow Sea
20. Sea of Japan
21. Great Lakes
22. English Channel
23. Baltic Sea

1. Nile River
2. Ganges River
3. Tigris
4. Amazon River
5. Indus River
6. Yellow River (Huang He)
7. Yangtze River
8. Rio Grande River
9. Euphrates
10. Mississippi River
11. Irrawaddy River
12. Mekong River
13. Congo River
14. Danube River

Map #3: Label & color Deserts (yellow) and Mountains (Brown)

1. Gobi Desert
2. Kalahari Desert
3. Sahara Desert
4. Thar Desert
5. Sierra Madre Desert
6. Mojave Desert
7. Namib Desert
8. Syrian Desert

1. Alaska Range
2. Rocky Mountains
3. Appalachian Mountains
4. Andes Mountains
5. Alps
6. Atlas Mountains
7. Ural Mountains
8. Hindu Kush
9. Himalaya Mountains

MAP 1

AP World History: World Regions — A Closer Look

North America

Mexico

Latin America,
including regions
of Mesoamerica
and the Caribbean

Caribbean

North Africa

West Africa

Central
Africa

Southern
Africa

East Africa

Middle East

Central
Asia

South
Asia

East Asia

Southeast
Asia

Regional Overlaps