

AP Human Geography Readings for this summer

Please read these in this order. Annotate as you read (take notes in the margin, underline things of interest).

1. The attached article “What is Human Geography”.
2. From Why Geography Matters, by Harm deBlij. Pages 5-7, 12- 22.
3. From Guns, Germs, and Steel by Jared Diamond Chapter 2: “A Natural Experiment of History” p53-66.
4. From Drawing the Line by Mark Monmonier “Place-names, Ethnic Insults, and Ideological Renaming” p45-64.
5. From The Lexus and Olive Branch by Thomas Friedman p29-43.

I also recommend (not required) purchasing a copy of the textbook:

An Introduction to Human Geography by James M. Rubenstein **NINTH EDITION**. You can probably find a used one on Amazon.com, or other sites such as half.com. **MAKE SURE TO GET THE NINTH EDITION!** If you get the book, start looking through it and read chapter 4: Folk and Popular Culture.

Websites to play with this summer

Take fun geography quizzes at:

www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee/

www.FreeRice.com (CHOOSE GEOGRAPHY AS YOUR SUBJECT)

and www.ilike2learn.com/ilike2learn/geography.asp

and www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/

Download and play with Google Earth. <http://earth.google.com/>

Check out maps and learn regions at <http://worldatlas.com/aatlas/world.htm>

Maps to study this summer

Make a few copies of the blank maps: state, nation and world.

Study the “key” maps and quiz yourself using the blanks. You should know everything on the “key maps”. You’ll be quizzed on these during the first week of school, and it’s easier to memorize them if you spread out the studying over the summer and don’t wait for the end.

Recommended movies to watch this summer

These are some fun Hollywood movies that show some aspects of different places on the earth, and how people interact with their environment.

Slumdog Millionaire (India)

The Mosquito Coast (Central America)

Motorcycle Diaries (South America) rated R

Blood Diamond (Africa)

What is Human Geography?

(Adapted from University of Alberta: <http://easweb.eas.ualberta.ca/page/56>)

Human geography (sometimes called Cultural geography) considers all human aspects (immigration, demographics, culture, farming, health, industry, etc). In other words, human geography focuses on how we make places, how we organize space and society, how we interact with each other in places and across space, and how we make sense of others and ourselves in our locality, region, and world.

Physical geography considers natural phenomena (distribution of water, natural resources, soil properties, biodiversity, etc.)

Human geography is a branch of social science that focuses upon the relationship between human societies and the built and natural environment in which they operate. Human Geographers believe that location, space and scale of phenomenon are crucial factors that must be taken into account when developing or applying academic theory. This contextual approach means that geographers often emphasize 'real world' examples as opposed to the theoretical abstractions that are emphasized in some other social science disciplines. It could be said that geographers divide the world spatially as opposed to theoretically as our colleagues in the social sciences do. Human geography graduates often have easy transitions into the workforce because they have been introduced to actual case studies and problem solving approaches throughout their undergraduate degree.

So, What do Human Geographers do once they graduate? There is a World of Opportunities!

Social Science, and geography in particular can be the entry point to a deeply fulfilling career where in addition to being financially successful, you work with real world issues in which you can see direct outcomes on people.

Few people have job titles such as 'Geographer'. Instead people have job titles such as City Planner, Project Manager, Information Specialist, Trail Planner, Research Analyst, Regional Director, Epidemiologist, Political Advisor, Sustainability Coordinator, Community Development Officer, Coordinator, International Trade Consultant, Policy Development Officer, GIS analyst, Consultant, Environmental Assessment Agent, and so on.

Human Geographers are employed by all levels of government, by private consulting firms, by many industrial and retail businesses, and by the non profit sector. There are many opportunities both domestically and internationally. Many graduates have a career that allows them opportunities to work in international positions and/or domestic positions.

The computerized Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software applications are increasingly used in all types of jobs. This is a way of visualizing layers of information (demographic and other) on top of maps. For example, a computerized map of a city showing different income levels of the people living in different neighborhoods, a state map showing areas of pollution, a national map showing election results by county, or a world map showing migration patterns.