

**Advanced Placement World History
2018 Summer Reading/Assignment
Wesley Chapel High School
Mr. Weber**

Assignments are due by the first day of the 2018-19 school year.

This Fleeting World: A Short History of Humanity

Directions: Read *This Fleeting World: A Short History of Humanity*, by David Christian, (available at Barnes & Noble, Amazon, etc.) and answer the attached questions. Questions must be handwritten and written in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper. You will also need to be prepared to take a test and be a participant in a discussion on the book during the first week of class.

Consider each of the following questions carefully and be prepared to supply specific evidence and examples to support your points in a class discussion:

Prequel:

1. How do we know about prokaryotes and photosynthesis?
2. What “probably” wiped out the dinosaurs?
3. Where and when did our species begin?

Beginnings: The Era of Foragers

4. Who or what are “foragers”?
5. Why has the era of foragers typically not been studied by historians?
6. What 3 types of evidence are used to study this era?
7. What is the impact of Carbon dating?
8. When did human history begin? Explain the theories and their evidence.
9. What is the significance of symbolic language?
10. How do anthropologists know/learn about foraging communities?
11. Why were population densities low in foraging communities?
12. How were small foraging communities tied together and organized?
13. How did men and women share the work and power?
14. How long would it take for 11 people to become 22 people using the doubling time of the foraging era?

15. Why did Australia and the Americas have so many extinctions of large mammals?

16. What impact did those extinctions have on the history of these regions?

17. What does the term “affluent forager” mean and why were they significant?

Acceleration: The Agrarian Era

18. What is agriculture and how did it impact human life?

19. When and where did agriculture start?

20. How might climate change have contributed to the rise of farming?

21. How might population growth have caused sedentary lifestyles?

22. Where and why did agriculture spread rapidly?

23. What are the 6 characteristics shared by agrarian communities?

24. How did population growth percentages compare in farming villages versus foraging communities?

25. What is the secondary product revolution and how did it impact humans?

26. How can pottery help prove if the theory of a “secondary products” revolution is true?

27. In what regions did irrigation farming have the biggest impact?

28. What are “Malthusian cycles”?

29. Why were sedentary societies susceptible to epidemic disease?

30. What impact did stored surpluses have on society?

31. How did foragers continue to have impact on settled communities?

32. How did the needs of society change as communities became bigger?

33. How/where do archaeologists find evidence of institutionalized hierarchies?

34. How and why did men begin to dominate over women?

35. What are cities and states and what caused them to emerge?

36. What caused imperial states to emerge and what were the limits on imperial rule?

37. What impact did the rise of large empires have on Afro-Eurasian political, social, and economic life?

38. Did the Americas experience expanded political systems in the Agrarian Era? Cite evidence to

support your answer.

39. The Vikings, Mongols, and Ming Admiral Cheng Ho are examples of what phenomenon in the era from 1000-1750?

40. What were the first two large imperial states in the Americas?

41. What roles did West European states play in global networks between 1000 and 1750?

Our World: The Modern Era

42. When did the “Modern Era” begin?

43. What political, social/gender, economic, and technological changes and continuities occurred in the modern era?

44. How has population growth in the modern era impacted the complexity and role of government?

45. In what ways was innovation in the modern era built on change that started in the Agrarian era?

46. How and why has the rise of commercial society increased innovation?

47. How did Western Europe fare in the Agrarian and Modern Eras? Why?

48. What were the time periods and characteristics of the 3 waves of the industrial revolution?

49. What impact did 19th century industrialization have on the wealth and power of countries?

50. How did industrialization change culture?

51. In what ways was the 20th century a time of rivalry?

52. What changes to global relations and power occurred after WWII?

53. What impact has global consumerism had on the earth?

Periodization in World History

54. What is periodization?

55. What are some of the THEORETICAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ETHICAL, and TECHNICAL problems of periodization in World History?

56. Why are the periodization labels ANCIENT, MEDIEVAL, and MODERN problematic?