

THIS ASSIGNMENT MUST BE PRINTED AND COMPLETED IN PEN/PENCIL.

APUSH Summer Reading Assignment 2026

Total points: 30 PP points

Due date: Tuesday, August 25th

We will have a 10 pt. AT open note quiz on this information on Friday, August 28th

Name: _____ Period _____ Date _____

AP US History (APUSH) focuses on the following four historical thinking skills:

1. Causation (Cause and Effect)
2. Change and Continuity Over Time (What has changed and stayed the same over time)
3. Comparison (Similarities and Differences)
4. Historical Context (The broader picture of the time period—the political, social, economic, and cultural conditions—that influenced a specific event or document)

APUSH also focuses on the following Command Verbs (what the the prompt is asking you to do):

Identify - just the facts - a person, date, document, event (one sentence answer)

Describe - after you identify the fact, you paint a picture for the reader to understand what the fact is (two sentence answer)

Explain - after your identify the fact, then describe it, you explain the HOW or WHY of the cause, effect, change, continuity, similarity or difference (a minimum of a three sentence response)

Analyze the extent to which - how much conditions have changed OR how significant causes of an event or development are. This command verb is used in Lone Essay Questions (LEQs) and Document Based Questions (DBQs). (a four or five paragraph response)

Chapter 1

A New World of Many Cultures, 1491-1607

Directions:

1. **Pre-Read:** Read the prompts/questions within this guide before you read the chapter.
2. **Skim:** Flip through the chapter and note titles and subtitles. Look at images and read captions. Get a feel for the content you are about to read.
3. **Read/Analyze:** Read the chapter in full WITHOUT taking notes. This will help you understand the big picture and not just “fish” for disconnected answers.
4. **Write:** Bullet your notes and analysis in the spaces provided. Use phrases, not complete sentences for notes.

Key Concept: As native populations migrated and settled across the vast expanse of North America over time, they developed distinct and increasingly complex societies by adapting to and transforming their diverse environments.

Topic 1.2 Native American Societies Before European Contact

Different native societies adapted to and transformed their environments through innovations in agriculture, resource use, and social structure. (MIG-2.0, GEO-1.0)

Explain the impact (effects) of the spread of maize cultivation from present-day Mexico northward into the present-day American Southwest.

Key Concept: Contact among Europeans, Native Americans, and Africans resulted in the Columbian Exchange and significant social, cultural, and political changes on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

Topic 1.3 European Exploration in the Americas

European expansion into the Western Hemisphere generated intense social, religious, political, and economic competition and changes within European societies. (WXT-2.0, WXT-3.0, WOR-1.0)

Explain how technological, religious, economic, and political factors led (caused) to European nations' efforts to explore and conquer the New World.

NOTE: Include the 3 G's in your response.

Tech:

Religious:

Economic:

Political:

Explain how Spain and Portugal resolved their conflicts over territory in the Americas.

Describe where the English and French settled in the New World.

Topic 1.4 Columbian Exchange, Spanish Exploration, and Conquest

The Columbian Exchange and development of the Spanish Empire in the Western Hemisphere resulted in extensive demographic, economic, and social changes. (MIG-1.0, WXT-1.0, GEO-1.0)

Describe the Columbian Exchange (or draw a diagram).

Describe the impacts (effects) of the Columbian Exchange and on both Europe and the Americas.

Europe:

Americas:

Explain the factors that caused an increase in international trade and the impacts of the economies in Europe and the Americas.

NOTE: Include the key terms of capitalism and the joint stock system in your response.

Causes:

Impacts:

Topic 1.5 Labor, Slavery, and Caste in the Spanish Colonial System

In their interactions, Europeans and Native Americans asserted divergent worldviews regarding issues such as religion, gender roles, family, land use, and power. (CUL-1.0, CUL-3.0, CUL-4.0, WOR-1.0)

Describe the encomienda system and its impacts (effects) on life for the Native population.

Description:

Impacts:

Explain the causes of the African slave trade and its effects on people in Africa and the Americas.

Causes:

Impacts:

Describe the Spanish caste system that was developed as the Spanish conquered and explored the New World.

Compare

Topic 1.6 Cultural Interactions in the Americas

Directions: Compare the colonization of the New World by the Spanish, English, and French/Dutch in . When we compare, we always analyze similarities AND differences.

	Spanish	English	French/Dutch
Motivations for Colonization			
Relations with Native Population			
Trading System			

Key Vocabulary Terms

Directions: Describe the key term. Also, explain why it is important during this time period. IF there is a key term that is not in the book, google it.

Encomienda System	
Asiento system	

Printing Press	
Treaty of Tordesillas	
Iroquois Confederation	
Protestant Reformation	
Reconquista	
Columbian Exchange	
Conquistadores	
Pueblo Revolt	
Valladolid Debate	
Joint-stock Company	

