

Economics and World Geography Summer Reading 2018-2019

Study Guide

Book: *This Fleeting World: A Short History of Humanity* by David Christian
(ISBN 978=1-933782-04-1)

NOTE: This book is required for all rising 9th graders who are NOT enrolled in AP Human Geography.

Welcome to the upper school! Our 9th and 10th grade offerings in the History Department take a “big history” approach, meaning that they explore the interconnectedness of everything. As your summer reading book explains:

Learning to recognize global patterns, over both time and space, and connect those patterns with inter-regional, regional, and local developments are among the most important and challenging habits of mind developed through the study of world history. (p. XIII)

The summer reading book and this assignment are designed to help you make the transition from a strictly linear approach to history to one that emphasizes a more networked approach. If you don't understand the previous sentence, you will when you finish the book. . The book takes a “big history” approach and divides human history into three periods. There is one assignment for each period. The first two assignments ask you to map important events and to place them on a timeline. The third assignment asks you to engage in a bit of historical analysis.

Big History Periodization and Corresponding Assignments

Beginnings: The Era of Foragers – 250,000 – 8,000 BCE pp. 1 - 22

There is a list of key events from this era on page 2. There are 11 events in this list, and you are to select 4 additional events from the chapter that you think are important to this era. You are to map the hearth of each of these 15 events and show diffusion patterns of each (if there are any) on a world map. You may draw a world map or print one out that you find on-line. I would suggest that you draw or print a map without country boundaries, as these did not exist during this period. A blank map with continents and major islands will work best. You are also to construct a time line with equal increments of time and plot each of the 15 events on it. I would suggest that you draw the time line either at the bottom of the map or on the back of it.

Acceleration: The Agrarian Era – 8,000 BCE – 1750 CE pp. 23 - 57

There is a list of key events from this era on page 26. There are 17 events in this list and you are to select 3 additional events from the chapter that you think are important to this era. You are to map the hearth of each of these 20 events and show diffusion patterns of each (if there are any) on a world map. The map you do this on should be identical to the one above, before you add the events, hearths, and diffusion patterns. You are also to construct a time line with equal increments of time and plot each of the 20 events on it. Again, do this in the same manner as you did the above assignment.

Our World: The Modern Era – 1750 – pp. 58 - 92

Select three of the key features and trends of the modern era from page 59 and in a few paragraphs explain why the three you chose are the most important features and/or trends of the modern era. Use as much specific evidence as you can to support your arguments.