

AP/PIB WORLD HISTORY
SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2008
Mrs. Ferry

To prepare you for this challenging and demanding class it will be necessary for you to develop the reading and writing skills necessary to be successful. To this end you will read 4 chapters (of your choosing) from the book **“Salt: A World History” by Mark Kurlansky (ISBN #0142001619, available through Borders or Amazon.com for around \$15 but used copies are presently around \$4-7 from Amazon.)** and give examples of as many of the six themes of world history (see below) as you can find in each chapter. You do not need to summarize the chapter. All you need to do is find “evidence” to support your findings. For each of your chosen 4 chapters identify which theme or themes are present in that chapter and write a couple of sentences that support your claim. You may quote the book directly or paraphrase it for your evidence. There may be multiple themes in any given chapter or maybe only one so be sure to identify as many as you can.

To make this easier, I suggest the following:

- a) Do not wait until the last minute to do this assignment!
- b) Read and have a copy of the themes to refer to as you read the book.
- c) Use index cards and write down the evidence of themes as you come across them. You can then have them all together when you go to rewrite the paper.
- d) You **may not** work in groups or with other students on this assignment, do your own work.
- e) The paper needs to be HANDWRITTEN not typed so write clearly!
- f) There is not a set length required for your paper, find the themes, document them and move on. A couple of sentences per theme are all that is required.
- g) IF the same theme appears more than once in a chapter, you only need to identify and document the theme once.

You are not trying to analyze anything yet just be able to read, recognize and document the themes.

The Themes

AP World History examines six repeating themes in world history and uses examples from different time periods, different cultures and different geographical areas to compare, analyze and help understand the world around us today and how we got here. The six themes are (explanations follow each theme):

- 1) The dynamics of change and continuity across world history, and the causes and processes involved in major changes of these dynamics. (Basically we want to identify changes that have occurred throughout history and the reasons for those changes as well as what things have not changed and try to explain why they have not changed.)
- 2) The patterns and effects of interaction among societies and regions: trade, war, diplomacy, and international organizations. (This is pretty self explanatory- we want to

examine how people get along throughout history and what effect their decisions has had on history.)

3) The effects of technology (agriculture, manufacturing, weaponry etc...), economics (labor systems, economic philosophies etc...), and demography (population growth and decline, diseases, and migrations) on people and the environment.

(One example of this is the use of pesticides in agriculture that adversely affected the health of people and animals as well as environmental pollution.)

4) Systems of social structure and gender structure (comparing major features within and among societies, and assessing change and continuity). (Basically this is looking at the status and role of women and how it has or has not changed over time along with other aspects of class systems.)

5) Cultural, intellectual, and religious developments, including interactions among and within societies. (Again, this is looking at these areas to see how changes in one area have had “ripple” effects within a culture and if that spilled over into other cultures.)

6) Changes in functions and structures of states and in attitudes toward states and political identities (political culture), including the emergence of the nation-state (types of political organization). (This looks at the development of governments from their beginning to today, national identity [how people came to identify themselves as distinct cultural groups] and how people have changed their views of what governments should be and where their power comes from.)

Due Date: I will collect the summer assignment during the first week of school. Please have it ready to turn in at that time. After the first week I subtract 10% for each day (not block) late. This assignment is worth one test grade or 100 points.

Questions: You may contact me through the school’s email but please be aware that I only check this once a week or so in the summer so please be patient if you don’t hear from me for a few days after you contact me.

Folders for this project are not required. Simply staple the papers together.

Good Luck and I’ll see you in the fall!