

AP Human Geography
Summer Assignment – 2026/2027
Due: Friday, September 11

Welcome to AP Human Geography! AP Human Geography is a college survey course taught in high school. Students may earn college credit with a passing score on the College Board AP Human Geography Examination given in early May 2027. To be successful on that exam, we have to complete the course by the end of April. Don't worry – all previous students really have done just that; I know that you can too! We need to get a “head-start” this summer. It is important that you complete this assignment – it is graded and counts as a significant part of your first quarter grade. Those in AP Human Geography are required to complete the AP assignments ONLY; you are **NOT** required to do the honors or regents summer reading, although they are good books.

Required Course Textbook: *Human Geography for the AP® Course, Second Edition*
Barbara Hildebran, Seth Dixon, Kenneth Keller, Max Lu, Roderick Neumann

This summer assignment is designed to build skills, habits, and curiosity, not just memorize content. You will practice how geographers think: asking questions, analyzing evidence, interpreting data, connecting local and global issues, and communicating arguments clearly. The goal is to prepare you for discussion-based, analytical work throughout the year and to encourage long-term engagement rather than last-minute cramming.

You should work on this assignment over several weeks, not all at once.

You will complete four interconnected components:

1. Foundational Reading & Annotation (Textbook + External Text)
2. Geographic Thinking Journal (Current Events Analysis)
3. Primary Source & Data Investigation
4. Mini Research Project: A Geographic Question

Each component builds skills you will use all year: reading complex texts, analyzing sources, using evidence, and constructing geographic arguments.

Part 1: Foundational Reading & Annotation

Part A: Textbook Skill-Building Readings

Read the following sections from your textbook:

- Introduction: *Thinking Like a Geographer* (or equivalent opening chapter)
- Chapter 1: *Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives*

Focus on skills, not memorization. You are not expected to master every term yet.

Annotation Task

As you read, annotate/take notes on a Google Docs for:

- Key geographic questions being asked
- Ways geographers explain patterns (spatial, cultural, economic, political)
- Examples of scale (local, regional, global)
- Connections to real-world issues

After reading, write a 1 page reflection addressing:

- What does it mean to *think geographically*?
- Which ideas or examples surprised you?
- How does geography differ from history or economics?

Part B: Complex External Text

Read the following:

- A geography-related article from *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, or *National Geographic* focusing on migration, urbanization, climate, food systems, or globalization

Provided Links (You don't have to use these if you don't want to):

https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/impact-globalization-place/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/cities?utm_source=chatgpt.com

https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/article/city-living-benefits-and-disadvantages-different-around-the-world?utm_source=chatgpt.com

https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/article/migration?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Written Response (1 page)

- What geographic factors shape the issue discussed?
- What *scale/scales* (local, national, global) matter most in this text?
- What questions does the text raise that are not fully answered?

Part 2: Geographic Thinking Journal

Time Frame: At least 4 different weeks during the summer

Create a digital journal with 4 entries, each based on a *current event*.

Entry Requirements (Each Entry 1-2 paragraphs)

Choose a news story related to:

- Migration or refugees
- Cities or urban growth
- Climate change or environmental conflict
- Economic inequality or development
- Cultural identity, language, or religion
- Borders, territory, or geopolitics

For each entry, include:

1. Summary – What is happening?
2. Geographic Concepts – Which ideas from Chapter 1 apply? (location, scale, region, human-environment interaction, spatial patterns)
3. Why Geography Matters – How does geography help explain *why* this issue exists?
4. Your Question – What would you want to investigate further as a geographer?

You are encouraged to revisit textbook ideas as you write each entry.

Part 3: Primary Source & Data Investigation

Geographers work with maps, data, images, and first-hand accounts. These are all components that you must familiarise yourself with for the duration of this class.

Maps & Spatial Data (Primary Source)

Compare and contrast two maps of the same place from two different times periods (ex: historical vs. modern city maps)

Analysis Questions (Answer in 1–2 pages)

- What patterns (similarities/differences/changes) do you observe?
- What geographic processes might explain these patterns?
- What *scale* is most useful for understanding this source?
- What does this source *not* show or explain?

Include the sources on your works cited page.

Part 4: A Geographic Question

This project introduces you to inquiry-based research, a major focus of AP Human Geography.

Step 1: Develop a Geographic Question

Your question should:

- Be open-ended (not yes/no)
- Involve place, space, or human-environment interaction

Examples:

- How does climate influence migration patterns in a specific region?
- Why has a particular city grown so rapidly in recent decades?
- How do cultural practices shape land use in a community?

Step 2: Research (3–4 Sources)

Use a mix of:

- News articles
- Academic or educational websites
- Maps or datasets

Step 3: Final Product

- **Create an Google Slides (8–10 slides) presentation based on your geographic question**

Your presentation must include the following:

- Explain *where* and *why* the issue occurs
- Use evidence from the articles to support your argument
- Answer the argument in full (Like a DBQ essay)

- Use geographic vocabulary
- Include at least one map or spatial reference

Submission & Expectations

- All work must be **your own!** No AI, Plagiarism, Copy+Paste, or cheating of any kind. Cheating will result in an automatic **ZERO**.
- Sources must be cited on a Works Cited Page (informal citation is acceptable)
- Neatness, clarity, and thoughtfulness matter more than length
- Must be submitted online through Google Classroom on Friday, 9/11/26.
- No late work will be accepted!!!

This assignment will serve as a foundation for early class discussions, writing tasks, and assessments. Have a great summer!