

**AP United States History****Summer Assignments 2026**

**Chapters: Students will read chapters 1 through 4 in the American Pageant AP Edition (Sixteenth Ed. check sahs.org Follett Bookstore for specifics, if the 16<sup>th</sup> AP edition isn't available through Follett you can order from another vendor including Amazon).**

(If you have access for a 13th – 15th AP Edition of the Pageant that will work for the year, you will need to follow the **16th AP Edition chapter/topic order for the school year**)

- Each student must read **Chapters 1-4 and complete the focus questions for the chapters (do not use internet outlines, this is to be your own work!)**. Students must use complete sentences. ***These can be handwritten or typed out.***
- Each student must complete the **KEY TERMS** and **PEOPLE TO KNOW** from Chapters 1-4: Students must use complete sentences. **These can be handwritten or typed out.**

**2. There will be a review test upon the start of the 2026-27 school year. Students must achieve a passing grade to stay in the class. (Two-part exam – Chapter 1-4 Exam and Presidents/Geography Exam)**

You must also purchase by October 1<sup>st</sup> -

**AMSCO PUBLISHING: United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination 2018 or newer Edition.** \*This will be on the Follett Book Store or through the AMSCO publishing site – if you get the newest edition make sure to get the “classic edition”. This text is required by October 1<sup>st</sup>, students may wait until the start of school to make sure they get the correct edition.

**Presidential Knowledge**

Students should know the years served of every President of the United States. (Parties will not be tested, but will help to understand periods of political dominance and the rise of new parties)

**Geographical Knowledge**

- Students must know the locations of the fifty states.
- Students must know the locations of the following physical features – Rocky Mountains, Cascade Mountains, Sierra Nevada Mountains, Appalachian Mountains, Great Plains, Great Lakes (by name and location), Hudson River, Delaware River, Potomac River, Columbia River, Mississippi River, Missouri River, Monongahela River, Ohio River, Allegheny River, Colorado River, Grand Canyon, Black Hills (SD), Teton Mountains, Wasatch Mountains, Great Salt Lake, Rio Grande River, Snake River,
- The Presidential and Geographical knowledge sections will be part of the end of summer exam.
- Chapter one through four Focus Questions, and Terms are due on the first day of regular classes.
- **Failure to turn in summer work will result in removal from the A.P. U.S. History section.**

**\*Summer Work Counts for 10% of your first Semester Grade! Questions – email Mr. da Luz**

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- Focus Questions are on the backside of this sheet. -

**CHAPTER 1 Chapter 1-4 Focus Questions****New World Beginnings, 33,000 B.C.E.–1769 C.E.****Focus Questions**

1. What was Native American society like before European contact? What similarities and differences existed?
2. What factors led to Europe's increased exploration and to the discovery of the New World?
3. What is the Columbian Exchange? What are some of the results of the Columbian Exchange?
4. What was the role of conquistadores and encomienda in establishing a Spanish Empire in the New World?
5. What was the geographic extent of the Spanish Empire in the New World? What nations were challenging Spain's dominance in the New World and where?

**CHAPTER 2****The Planting of English America, 1500–1733****Focus Questions**

1. What international events and domestic changes prompted England to begin colonization?
2. What was it like for the early settlers of Jamestown?
3. Why were Native Americans unable to repel English colonization of North America?
4. What crops were important to the English colonies in the south of North America? How did the cultivation of those crops shape those colonies?
5. How did the English sugar plantations in the Caribbean differ from the English colonies in the south of North America?
6. How did slavery develop in North America during colonization?
7. What features were shared by Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia? What distinguished them from one another?

**CHAPTER 3****Settling the Northern Colonies, 1619–1700****Focus Questions**

1. What religious turmoil in the Old World resulted in the little colony of Plymouth in the New World?
2. Why was the initial and subsequent colonization of the Massachusetts Bay Colony more successful than Plymouth?
3. How did the colony of Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Colony contribute to the origins of American independence and government? What were the contributions to American independence and government from the New England Confederation, the Dominion of New England, and the Glorious Revolution?
4. What role did religious intolerance play in the founding of New England colonies other than Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay and in the founding of some middle colonies?
5. Besides England, what other nations influenced the colonization of the Atlantic coast of North America?
6. How did the colonization of Pennsylvania differ from the New England colonies and other middle colonies?

**CHAPTER 4****American Life in the Seventeenth Century, 1607–1692****Focus Questions**

1. How did the climate in the southern colonies influence life expectancy, family life, immigration, and economic development?
2. What role did Bacon's Rebellion play in the adoption and expansion of slavery in the southern colonies?
3. How were life expectancy, family life, immigration, and economic development different in New England as compared with the southern colonies?
4. What were the differences in the legal standing of women in the southern colonies and in the New England colonies?
5. In what ways were all American colonists similar?