

AP WORLD SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

2025-2026

Welcome to AP World History! Congratulations on challenging yourself to take this difficult and comprehensive course. You are committing yourself to becoming a **MASTER** of world history content spanning from the Post Classical Age to the present. In addition to content mastery, you will use historical thinking, analysis, and writing skills on a daily basis. You are expected to **MASTER THESE SKILLS**, which you will use to answer Stimulus-Based Multiple Choice Questions (SBMC), Short Answer Questions (SAQ), Long Essay Questions (LEQ), and Document Based Questions (DBQ).

MASTERY requires a commitment to practice and prepare. Your first commitment is the completion of a **SUMMER ASSIGNMENT**. AP World students are expected to complete the summer assignment **BEFORE** the first class meeting.

PART I: WORLD RELIGIONS

Print and complete the WORLD RELIGIONS CHART and QUESTIONS.

Expectations:

- Research and complete each section of the chart
- You may use bullet points in the chart
- Questions (after chart) should be complete sentences

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions please email kathrynsmith@abs.misd.net. I will periodically check my emails over the summer.

PART 2: MINI - DBQ

Answer the following question in 1-2 paragraphs:

Are there man-bats on the moon?

Expectations:

- Consult the documents to support your answer
- Include:
 - A thesis: your decisive answer to the question (yes or no?)
 - Paragraph 1: 2-3 sentences that support your argument with evidence from the sources
 - Paragraph 2: 2-3 sentences explaining WHY the evidence led you to say yes or no
 - For example, if you said no, what about the evidence seemed suspect?
 - If you said yes, what about the evidence seemed convincing?

There is no right or wrong answer, it's how you use the evidence!

Name: _____

Period: _____

PART 1: WORLD RELIGIONS

	Confucianism	Daoism
Time/Place of Founding		
Deity(s)		
Founder/Leaders <i>(if known)</i>		
Key Texts		
Basic Beliefs and Practices		
Expansion/ Influence <i>(where did it spread geographically by 1200 C.E.?)</i>		
Political and Social Role <i>(How was this religion/belief system utilized to assert political authority and/or reinforce social hierarchies?)</i>		

	Hinduism	Buddhism
Time/Place of Founding		
Deity(s)		
Founder/Leaders <i>(if known)</i>		
Key Texts		
Basic Beliefs and Practices		
Expansion/ Influence <i>(where did it spread geographically by 1200 C.E.?)</i>		
Political and Social Role <i>(How was this religion/belief system utilized to assert political authority and/or reinforce social hierarchies?)</i>		

	Judaism	Christianity
Time/Place of Founding		
Deity(s)		
Founder/Leaders <i>(if known)</i>		
Key Texts		
Basic Beliefs and Practices		
Expansion/ Influence <i>(where did it spread geographically by 1200 C.E.?)</i>		
Political and Social Role <i>(How was this religion/belief system utilized to assert political authority and/or reinforce social hierarchies?)</i>		

	Islam
Time/Place of Founding	
Deity(s)	
Founder/Leaders <i>(if known)</i>	
Key Texts	
Basic Beliefs and Practices	
Expansion/ Influence <i>(where did it spread geographically by 1200 C.E.?)</i>	
Political and Social Role <i>(How was this religion/belief system utilized to assert political authority and/or reinforce social hierarchies?)</i>	

1. How did Confucianism create and support a rigid social hierarchy? Who had power? Who didn't?
2. How did Confucianism provide legitimacy for the government?
3. How did Confucianism reinforce the patriarchy in Chinese society?
4. How was Buddhism similar to Christianity?
5. How are Mahayana and Theravada Buddhism similar and/or different?
6. What was the role of the Catholic Church in medieval Europe?
7. How are Judaism, Christianity, and Islam interrelated?

1. How did Confucianism create and support a rigid social hierarchy? Who had power? Who didn't?
2. How did Confucianism provide legitimacy for the government?
3. How did Confucianism reinforce the patriarchy in Chinese society?
4. How was Buddhism similar to Christianity?
5. How are Mahayana and Theravada Buddhism similar and/or different?
6. What was the role of the Catholic Church in medieval Europe?
7. How are Judaism, Christianity, and Islam interrelated?

PART 2: MINI-DBQ

In this assignment, all you need to do is answer the following question in 1-2 paragraphs:

Are there man-bats on the moon?

To answer this question, consult the following image and excerpts to support your answer.

Your answer should include:

- A thesis: your decisive answer on this question (yes, or no?)
- Paragraph 1: Two to three sentences that support your argument with evidence from the image and excerpts
- Paragraph 2: Two to three sentences explaining WHY the evidence led you to say yes or no. For example, if you said no, what about the evidence seemed suspect? If you said yes, what about the evidence seemed convincing? I want to hear about the details!

Historical Background:

- Yes, this is a real question. “In 1835, an incredible story broke in the Sun Newspaper, New York City, which reported that the famed astronomer Sir John Herschel had made Great Astronomical Discoveries. While cataloging and mapping nebulae in the night sky at the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, Herschel trained his reportedly hyper powerful telescope on the Moon.”
- Herschel went on to discover that the moon was in fact populated with an abundance of creatures, including intelligent man-bats who were capable of building great cathedrals and engaging in deity worship.

Source #1: An artist's rendering of the various forms of intelligent life found on the moon, including man-bats. *The New York Sun*. August 28th, 1835



ALTRE SCOPERTE FATTE NELLA LUNA DAL SIG. HERSCHEL.

Source #2: *The New York Sun*, August 1835

We were thrilled...to perceive four successive flocks of large winged creatures, wholly unlike any kind of birds, descend with a slow even motion from the cliffs on the western side, and alight upon the plain. . . .

Certainly they were like human beings, for their wings had now disappeared, and their attitude in walking was both erect and dignified....They averaged four feet in height, were covered, except on the face, with short and glossy copper-colored hair, and had wings composed of a thin membrane, without hair, lying snugly upon their backs,...The face, which was of a yellowish flesh color, was a slight improvement upon that of the large orang outang, being more open and intelligent in its expression, and having a much greater expansion of forehead. The mouth, however, was very prominent, though somewhat relieved by a thick beard upon the lower jaw, and by lips far more human than those of any species of similar genus.

Source #3: A description of the telescope which was capable of magnifying the inhabitants of the moon. *The New York Sun*, August 1835

It is well known that the great reflecting telescope of the late elder Herschel, with an object-glass four feet in diameter, and a tube forty feet in length, possesses a magnifying power of more than six thousand times.... Sir John Herschel had submitted his plans and calculations in adaptation to an object-glass of twenty-four feet in diameter: just six times the size of his venerable father's. For casting this ponderous mass, he selected the large glass-house of Messrs.

The weight of this ponderous lens was 14,826 lbs. or nearly seven tons after being polished; and its estimated magnifying power 42,000 times. It was therefore presumed to be capable of representing objects in our lunar satellite of little more than eighteen inches in diameter, providing its focal image of them could be rendered distinct by the transfusion of article light.