

ELEVENTH GRADE

REGULAR WORLD HISTORY

SUMMER READING 2018

SUMMER TEXT: *An Edible History of Humanity* By Tom Standage

All Regular World History students are expected to read: *An Edible History of Humanity*. **All students will be expected to write down notes as they read along.** Students will be expected to bring these notes to class on the first few days of school they can use them in the book discussion during class. These notes will help students be prepared to discuss the book and share their observations.

All students must e-mail their answers to **ALL** the guided questions by **8:00 am (EST) Tuesday, August 28** to Mr. O at omahonye@mjbha.org. Late entries will be accepted up until 6 pm on Friday August 31. However, ten percent (10%) will be deducted for each day they are late. If any student does **NOT** email their answers to Mr. O, he/she will earn an automatic **ZERO (0)** on their first homework grade. This will have the effect of lowering the homework grade for the first quarter by at least 25%. **DON'T GET A ZERO-do your summer reading and answer the questions!** It is recommended that students do their summer reading as early as possible to avoid any technical or other problems. Remember, late entries will result in a deduction of 10% for each day they are late! If any student submits the same answers to the questions as another student, all students involved (regardless of role) will automatically receive a zero (0) for their first homework grade (because it is plagiarism!). The same applies to any student who copies answers from the Internet or any other source. The penalty is a 0 on your first homework grade.

Bonus points will be given to any student who sends Mr. O a picture of them reading "*An Edible History of Humanity*." Be creative! The photograph (jpeg please) should be sent to Mr. O at omahonye@mjbha.org

STUDENTS SHOULD BRING THEIR READING NOTES TO CLASS THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF SCHOOL!!!

Chapter 1: The Invention of Farming

1. Farming emerged from what three places and time periods to spread throughout the world to become mankind's chief means of food production?
2. What factors led to farming?
3. What made maize attractive to man as a farming crop?
4. Explain the impact of mutations on maize, wheat and rice.

Chapter 2: The Roots of Modernity

5. Give three reasons why the adoption of farming was "the worst mistake in the history of the human race."

6. What were some of the elements that contributed to the evolution of sedentism and farming?
7. How did farming and domestication spread almost everywhere across the world?
8. Why is farming and domestication “profoundly unnatural”?

Chapter 3: Food, Wealth, and Power

9. How did powerful leaders, such as “big men,” emerge and how did they end up in control of the agricultural surplus?
10. Describe how the stratification of society was made possible and how it transformed the nature of human existence.
11. How/in what ways was food used to reveal power structures and control in civilizations? Give specific examples from the book.

Chapter 4: Follow the Food

12. How did the farmers, their rulers, and the gods all depend upon each other for their survival?
13. Explain how wealth and poverty seemed to be inevitable consequences of agriculture and civilization?

Chapter 5: Splinters of Paradise

14. Why were people willing to pay such high prices for spices?
15. What was the secret of the seasonal trade winds and why was it important to the spice trade?
16. Who was Ibn Battuta? Who was Zheng He?
17. What was the “Muslim Curtain”?
18. Why did European explorers seek radical new sea routes to the East?

Chapter 6: Seeds of Empire

19. Explain the connection between Columbus and the search for spices.
20. What foodstuffs did the Americas provide to the rest of the world?
21. How did the Portuguese obtain spices on their voyages to India? How successful were they?
22. How did the Dutch East India Company, or VOC, conduct their spice trade and how did they treat the native populations where the spices were found?

Chapter 7: New World, New Foods

23. In the 17th and 18th centuries, what were the overlapping triangles of trade?
24. What did Adam Smith, the Scottish philosopher and economist, say about the potato in his book *The Wealth of Nations*?
25. What was Thomas Malthus’ theory on the connection between the population and food supply?

Chapter 8: The Steam Engine and the Potato

26. How did Great Britain become the first industrialized country in the world?

27. What was the impact of the potato famine in Ireland in the 1840's?
28. What is the connection between "free trade" and the repeal of the Corn Laws in Britain?

Chapter 9: The Fuel of War

29. How could food be used both offensively (as a weapon) and defensively?
30. How did the British failure to provide adequate supplies of food to their armies during the American Revolutionary War contribute to its defeat?
31. Why did Napoleon's invasion of Russia in 1812 turn out to be such a disaster?
32. Discuss Nicolas Appert's discovery. How did this process change the food supplies of the military and civilian populations?
33. What was the second invention in the 19th century that transformed military logistics? Why?

Chapter 10: Food Fight

34. What was Stalin's plan called Collectivization? Why didn't it work?
35. Describe the horrific results of Stalin's plan.
36. What was the result of the "Great Leap Forward"? How did it get resolved?
37. Explain Russian Yegor Gaidar's point of view that "the regime disintegrated in large part because it could not feed its people."

Chapter 11: Feeding the World

38. What is the "Green Revolution"? What are its plusses and minuses?

Chapter 12: Paradoxes of the Future

39. Explain and give examples of the connection between agricultural production and industrialization in developing areas.
40. What are the parts of the second "Green Revolution" or the "doubly green revolution"?