

An Edible History of Humanity

AP Modern World History

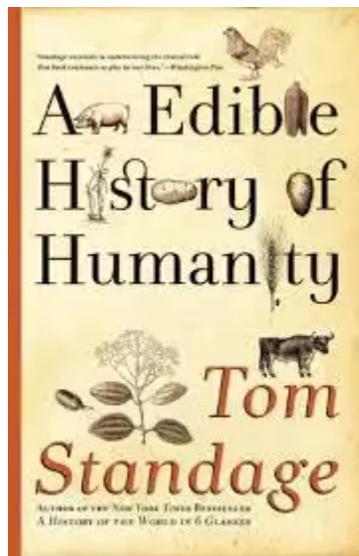
Theresa Martin

theresa.martin@student.dodea.edu

APWH Summer Reading Assignment

Due August 27, 2021

Welcome to AP World History! The following material is a summer assignment for all students entering the course this coming school year. This work is designed to prepare you for coursework that you will encounter throughout the course. During the school year we will explore 10,000 years of human history and learn valuable skills in preparation for the AP Exam in May. This will be an exciting class that will allow us to look at the big picture of history, trace cultures over time, and examine human interactions.



Standage, Tom. *An Edible History of Humanity*. 2010. Available on Amazon or in various book stores.

Each of the chapters in *An Edible History of Humanity* is about the history of the world and its connections through food. Please answer the following questions and prepare for our first Socratic Seminar this year.

Part 1: EDIBLE FOUNDATIONS OF CIVILIZATION

1. Analyze the statement that “the adoption of farming...was the worst mistake in the history of the human race.” Do you agree or disagree? Use the book to support your answer.
2. Describe the importance of the spread of farmers and their knowledge.
3. Analyze the statement that farming “has done more to change the world, and has had a great impact on the environment, than any other human activity,” using the book to support your answer. (Do you agree or disagree?) Use the book to support your answer.

4. Visit: <http://www.history.com/shows/mankind-the-story-of-all-of-us/videos/corn> and answer: - How was maize/corn important for early Central Americans?

Part 2: FOOD AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE

1. Describe how the stratification of society was made possible and how it transformed the nature of human existence.
2. Explain why people had previously regarded the accumulation of food and power to be so dangerous and destabilizing and why this eventually changed.
3. How/in what ways was food used to reveal power structures and control in civilizations? Give specific examples from the book.
4. Explain how the modern world is still connected to food.

Part 3: GLOBAL HIGHWAYS OF FOOD

1. Analyze the impact of spices on trade, geography and the spread of religion.
2. Describe the role that spices played with the spread of the plague.
3. Explain how spices influenced European exploration and colonial empires, giving specific examples from the book.

Part 4: FOOD, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIALIZATION

1. Summarize the spread of sugarcane and its role in world events.
2. Trace the role of the potato in society and its impact on population size, government and economic policies.
3. Discuss the impact of biofuels on farming and food costs as well as on the environment.

Part 5: FOOD AS A WEAPON

1. Describe the impact of food on the American Revolution and the French Army under Napoleon.
2. Analyze the role of food in the American Civil War up through World War II and the Cold War (Berlin Airlift).
3. Explain how food has been and continues to be a way to make a political statement.
4. Visit: <http://www.history.com/shows/modern-marvels/videos/combat-food-tech> and answer: - Give a brief summary of the relationship between food and today's wars?

Part 6: FOOD, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Analyze the impact of the Green Revolution on world economies and population.
2. Describe the Green Revolution and the problems with it. How might a second Green Revolution improve on those problems?
3. Summarize the Epilogue.

4. Visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKm2Ch3-Myg> and answer: - What is a GMF/GMO? - Describe the positives and negatives of GMOs according to Bill Nye.