

Guns, Germs, and Steel – Jared Diamond

Jared Diamond's Pulitzer Prize winning book will introduce you to the study of world history by making direct connections with world geography. The book provides a framework for answering many of world history's greatest questions by examining the geographical impact on human development and civilization. This book will also prepare you to confront and evaluate history as it relates to the Five AP World History Themes:

- Impact and Interaction among and within major societies.
- Impact of technology, economics, and demography on people and the environment.
- Systems of social structure and gender structure.
- Cultural, religious, and intellectual developments.
- Changes in functions and structures of states and in attitudes towards states and political identities, including the emergence of the nation-state.

Instructions:

Students should read each chapter and complete the corresponding assignments. Each assignment must be placed in its proper order and assembled, bound, and submitted as a packet which is due the first day of school. Please note that this assignment must be 100% complete to receive credit.

Guns, Germs, and Steel – Guided Reading Questions

Prologue: Yali's Question

1. What is Yali's Question?
2. What are three considerations Diamond discusses as he ponders Yali's question?

Chapter 1: Up to the Starting Line

What was the "great leap forward?"

Chapter 2: A Natural Experiment of History

1. What were the six environmental factors that contribute to the difference among Polynesian Societies?

Chapter 3: Collision at Cajamarca

1. Describe the event at Cajamarca.
2. Why was Atahualpa at Cajamarca?
3. If Pizarro came to conquer the Incas, why didn't Atahualpa try to conquer Spain?

Chapter 4: Farmer Power

1. According to Figure 4.1 what is a prerequisite to the development of technology?
2. In one paragraph summarize how domestication of livestock and farming changed societies.

Chapter 5: History's Haves and Have Nots

1. Using figure and table 5.1; describe what the regions have in common and why the crops shown were successful in the corresponding regions.

Chapter 6: To Farm or Not to Farm

List five factors contributed to the transition from hunter gatherer to farming?

Chapter 7: How to make an Almond

List the factors used to determine whether a specific crop will be chosen by humans to domesticate.

Chapter 8: Apples and Indians

1. List four advantages of the Fertile Crescent when considering food production.
2. What are New Guinea's three severe limitations when considering food production?
3. Compare the three regions (Eastern US, New Guinea and the Fertile Crescent) and describe why there is such a great difference in food production.
4. What two conclusions does Diamond want to emphasize?

Chapter 9: Zebras, Unhappy Marriages, and the Anna Karenina Principle

1. What is the Anna Karenina Principle?
2. List the five major domestic mammals, the nine minor ones, and describe why the “big wild terrestrial herbivores” cannot be domesticated

Chapter 10: Spacious Skies and Tilted Axes

Compare the spread of east/west axes in Eurasia to the north/south axes of the Americas.

Chapter 11: Lethal Gift of Livestock

1. What are two historically famous epidemics?
2. What are the four common characteristics shared by lethal epidemics?
3. Why did the rise of agriculture launch the evolution of infectious diseases? (In complete sentences) (page 205)
4. List four diseases that are contracted from an animal

Chapter 12: Blueprints and Borrowed Letters

1. What are the three basic types of writing?
2. Why was writing created in some societies and not in others?

Chapter 13: Necessity's Mother

1. Explain what Diamond means by this phrase, “Necessity is the mother of invention.”
2. List examples, given by Diamond, of inventions driven by necessity
3. Explain why Diamond declares that, “Invention is often the mother of necessity.”
3. List examples, given by Diamond, of inventions NOT driven by necessity.

Chapter 14: From Egalitarianism to Kleptocracy

1. Describe the four solutions Kleptocrats used to maintain their control and lifestyle.
2. What are the three theories that explain how small kinbased societies evolved into large centralized ones?

How does food production allow complex societies to develop (four reasons)?

Chapter 15: Yali's People

1. Why didn't Australia develop metal tools and writing?
2. Why didn't advanced technology from other places reach Australia?

Chapter 16: How China Became Chinese

1. Define Sinification.
2. What are some characteristics and accomplishments of Chinese civilization?

Chapter 17: Speedboat to Polynesia

1. What languages are represented in the "Austronesian" family?
2. Describe the illustration 17.2

Chapter 18: Hemispheres Colliding

1. Using pages 354-357,
make a chart that compares and contrasts Eurasian and Native
American society prior to 1492.
2. Describe the five areas of technology that were contributing factors to Europe's conquest of
the Americas.
3. Referencing Table 18.1; Which is the earliest developing society? Second earliest? Third?
Which societies never developed writing systems? Which never developed iron tools?
What had the Native American population been reduced by (%) since 1492?

Epilogue

1. Describe Diamond's explanation for why Europe rose to be a global leader instead of China or
the Fertile Crescent. (In paragraph form)