

AP Human Geography Summer Assignment

Dear AP Human Geography Student,

AP Human Geography is about nothing less than the WORLD and PEOPLE and the relationship between the two. Consider the following questions:

- 1) ***How does physical geography shape the people in it? How do people impact their geography?***
- 2) ***How is my experience shaped by where I was born?***
- 3) ***What is culture, how and why have cultures evolved differently, and how do they evolve, mix and mingle, or bump up into each other?***

So, rather than contemplating these questions by reading articles out of a text book...over the summer you are going to WATCH these questions evolve in front of your eyes. **The *Out of Eden Walk* is a practice in “slow journalism” that will take place over a seven year period. Journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner Paul Salopek will retrace the steps of our ancestors by walking from Africa to the tip of South America, telling the human stories he encounters along the way.**

His Journey:

THE RIVER OF CULTURE: By Paul Salopek

*I will be walking through many cultures on my walk...On my walking route across the globe, I will be meeting people from hundreds of different cultures. But what *is* culture, really? And how real is it?*

Back in the old days, people used to think of culture as something hard, inflexible, a collection of simple social features—food, dress, language and even a well-defined set of collective personality traits. (Russians are sentimental, Americans are loud, the British have dry humor, etc.) But in truth, culture isn't so simple—or so unchanging.

Cultures change. Modern-day suburbs where people drive cars and watch TV are as “authentic” a human culture as a remote mountain farm where people still light their mud brick houses with kerosene lamps.

*Cultures also mix and merge constantly as people move around, absorbing new ideas. To put it in terms of landscape: Culture isn't an oasis, a pool of water in the desert, separated from another culture by miles of sand. Human culture is instead like a river, constantly flowing, mixing, with whitewater rapids and still pools, to be sure, but it is all interconnected. **Culture is restless. It flows. It lives.***

Your Journey:

Step 1: Start by watching this video...

Out of Eden Walk: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lxx-uxtlpZg>

Step 2: And now, meet Paul Salopek...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=zVKlyb3iMI0&feature=endscreen>

Step 3: Read these explanations of the project philosophies and practicalities:

About: <http://www.outofedenwalk.com/page/about/>

First Blog (look under Archive after you open this link):

<http://outofedenwalk.nationalgeographic.com/2013/01/22/lets-walk/>

Step 4: Your Global Classmates...

See how other students around the world are engaging with the ***Out of Eden Walk*** and **Choose ONE of the following assignments**, inspired by their work:

Mapping Neighborhoods: Draw an annotated map of your neighborhood. Talk about what you like and what you don't. Check out the explanations and examples here:

<http://walktolearn.outofedenwalk.com/2013/04/22/mapping-neighborhoods/>

Slow Looking: Take a walk through your neighborhood, take five pictures, and explain/reflect on the significance of the picture. <https://walktolearn.outofedenwalk.com/2013/05/21/photographing-neighborhoods-as-a-catalyst-for-learning/>

FORMAT: YOU CAN USE WHATEVER FORMAT YOU WISH FOR EACH OF THE ABOVE ASSIGNMENTS.

POSSIBLE FORMATS MIGHT INCLUDE: ***Power Point, Prezi, Drawing, Poster, Photo Story, Printed photos/typed reflections***

SUBMISSION: You may either bring the assignment with you to class, or email it to

cdaubert@aacps.org (grades 10, 11, 12) or jlwoods@aacps.org (grade 9)

Step 5: First day of Class...

Either bring with you or email beforehand your "mapping neighborhoods" or "slow looking" assignment.

And if at any point in this journey you feel fatigued or frustrated, just remind yourself...at least it won't take seven years!!!!

Please email Mr. Christopher Daubert (cdaubert@aacps.org) at Arundel High School with any questions.