



**Peak to Peak Charter School  
AP and Standard Human Geography: 2008-2009  
Summer Reading Expectations**

Note: For AP students--In addition to reading *The Long Walk*, by Slavomir Rawicz, you must also purchase Jared Diamond's text, *Guns, Germs and Steel* and respond to the questions below. This is not a requirement for students in the standard human geography students.

Recommended supplementary readings for AP Human Geography:

Friedman, Thomas L. *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, 2000.

Barber, Benjamin. *Jihad vs. McWorld*, 2001.

Lapierre, Dominique. *City of Joy*.

Schlosser, Eric. *Fast Food Nation*.

Kunstler, James Howard. *Geography of Nowhere*.

Kunstler, James Howard. *Home From Nowhere*.

Jackson, Kenneth. *Crabgrass Frontier*.

Brzezinski, Zbigniew. *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives*.

***The Long Walk—For Standard and AP Human Geography Students***

Please take time to look over the following questions as you read Slavomir Rawicz's *The Long Walk*. During the first semester, you will be expected to recall and interpret in detail the characters and events in the book. I highly recommend that you write out your impressions in a formal manner as you read, and try to respond to each of the following questions in order to help you complete a more formal essay in the fall semester.

**Essential questions:** There are numerous, interwoven impacts of culture on society as well as impacts of society on culture, which will be explored in your Human Geography course this year. How do cultures adapt to their landscapes, whether social, economic, political and/or physical? What do these adaptations and responses to landscapes tell us about the study of human geography?

**Reading questions to answer:**

1. Where does the story take place at the beginning of the book? Describe living conditions inside Soviet prisons in 1941.
2. Who was Slavomir Rawicz, and why, as a Polish officer, was he in prison? What did Stalin's officers hope to achieve by keeping Poles incarcerated?
3. Why did the N.K.V.D. men want Rawicz to sign a confession? Where was Rawicz sent on the train, and then to march, with the other "criminals"?
4. Despite his brutal treatment and suffering, Rawicz was one of the "lucky" ones. Explain his good fortune upon arriving at Siberian Camp 303.

5. When Rawicz was sent to the Colonel's house to repair his Telefunken, he was at first surprised, but then understanding, of the way he and his wife, Ushakova, treated him. Why did she openly offer her assistance to Rawicz? Explain the couple's situation at Camp 303.
6. Describe the escape Rawicz planned and how he and his core group of seven inmates managed to get to Mongolia. Who did they meet along the way?
7. Having passed through Mongolia, Rawicz and his party came across two very formidable obstacles which cost them dearly. What were they, and how did they impact the walk?
8. Upon reaching India, Smith told his party that "We are safe...We shall be able to live again" (pg. 234). Yet, the turmoil of the walk was far from over. Explain.
9. The long walk Rawicz and his party endured illustrated personal trials, but also represented humankind's struggle to survive and the spirit of cooperation which proved crucial to this struggle. Explain.
10. Rawicz's time in prison and the ordeal of the long walk, although brutal, affirmed the goodness of humanity through those who helped him along the way. Explain.

### ***Guns, Germs and Steel—For AP Human Geography Only!***

Please take time to look over the following questions as you read Jared Diamond's *Guns, Germs and Steel*. During the first semester, you will be expected to recall and interpret in detail the characters and events in the book. I highly recommend that you write out your impressions in a formal manner as you read, and try to respond to each of the following questions in order to help you complete a more formal essay in the fall semester.

**Essential questions:** There are numerous, interwoven impacts of culture and geography on the course of human development that will be explored in your Human Geography course this year. This text, in particular, attempts to explore a short history of this development over the past 13,000 years. In trying to give accurate accounts for geopolitical and economic trends even prior to written history, Jared Diamond attempts to address the underlying question: What role has geography had on history? More specifically, why were western Eurasian societies the ones that became disproportionately powerful and innovative when compared to all others? How and why did the rise of capitalism, scientific inquiry, technology and "nasty germs" give western Eurasia an advantage that led to conquest over other peoples and societies? Why didn't similar "ingredients of conquest" arise to the same or even a lesser degree elsewhere in the world? Finally, as the New Guinean politician in Diamond's book put it, "*Why is it*

*that white people developed so much cargo and brought it to New Guinea, but we black people had little cargo of our own?"*

**Reading questions to answer:**

1. What role does the use of language play in Diamond's text in how civilizations are portrayed in history? Give one example from the Prologue and another from the body of the text.
2. What role has climate played in the development and adaptation of human societies over time? Provide three examples from the text.
3. What modern developments accompanied the rise of agriculture following the Neolithic Revolution? Identify 3-5 major impacts on the development of societies that resulted.
4. Explain Diamond's use of the term, the Great Leap Forward, in chapter one. Provide two clear effects resulting from this development in human history.
5. Explore the outcome of the collision between the Moriori and the Maori in chapter two. What roles did population growth and agriculture play in this example?
6. Discuss the resulting population shift that took place as a result of the colonization of the new world by Europeans.
7. What role did the advent of domesticated animals play on the development of human societies discussed in chapter four?
8. Did food production evolve independently in western Europe, or was it triggered by the arrival of plants and animals from other parts of the world?
9. Discuss the role that germs have played over the last 200 years of human development. Provide three examples. Do you agree with Diamond's assertions?
10. Explain why, according to Diamond's assertions in chapter 13, Eurasians, rather than Native American or sub-Saharan Africans, were the ones to invent firearms, oceangoing ships, and steel equipment. Provide a paragraph of rationale based on supporting evidence from the text.

**Peak to Peak Charter School**  
**AP and Standard US Government and Politics**  
Summer Reading Questions

Please look over the following focus ideas and questions to help guide your analysis of the text, *Coyotes: A Journey Through the Secret World of America's Illegal Aliens*, by Ted Conover. Keep in mind that you will be required to complete extensive writing and discussion assignments related to the text and to issue of US immigration policy.

**Essential Questions:**

What are the fundamental causes and effects of migration (immigrants and emigrants) on domestic and international affairs? What founding beliefs, documents and policies shaped US immigration policy during its early years, and how have these shifted over time? What are the most significant costs and benefits of current US policy vis-à-vis Canada and Mexico? What is the future of US immigration policy in an era of globalization, terrorism and economic interdependence?

**Questions requiring a written response:**

Read the following questions. Using specific evidence from the *Coyotes* text, document your responses in complete sentences and demonstrate your understanding of the content presented.

1. What was the Ted Conover's point in assuming the role of a migrant worker?
2. What is *La Migra*? What did Conover experience by crossing the border and working in migrant camps that helped him to understand how immigration policy works (or does not work)?
3. Describe three different characters with whom Conover interacts during his time as a migrant worker. What do each of their stories tell you about their lives and the lives of other Mexicans who survive by illegally crossing the border?
4. How does illegal immigration between the US and Mexico both help and hinder the economies of these two nations?
5. Discuss the various ways in which Conover traveled from place to place to find temporary employment with migrant workers. Which way seemed the most striking to you? Explain.
6. Explore the issue of trust and the role it plays in the lives of illegal migrant workers. How did Conover earn the trust of the migrant workers with whom he spent his time? What did he offer the workers that they needed?
7. Discuss the role of money and how money is used by those seeking employment in the US. What things were the most expensive for migrant workers?
8. Discuss how the US agricultural industry benefits directly from the use of illegal migrant workers. Why are so many migrants willing to work in such poor conditions for low pay in *el Norte*? Why are they willing to risk their lives in the desert and pay hefty fees to *coyotes* to get them across the border?
9. How did migrant workers in the text compare themselves to the average American? What does this tell you?
10. Discuss how the notion of "borders" is used in various ways throughout the text. How do people define "borders" differently? Give an example.