



MILLER SCHOOL of ALBEMARLE

Summer Reading Assignment

Course: Dual Enrollment U.S. History
Grade: 11th
Teacher: Mr. Thomas Fickley
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Required Book: *1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created*, by Charles C. Mann
(ISBN: 978-0307278241)

Greetings! My name is Mr. Fickley, and I will be your history teacher this year. To prepare you for our first week of class, I would like you to read Charles C. Mann's *1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created*.

Assignment Details:

1. Read the book in its entirety. Avoid SparkNotes, CliffsNotes, and other such shortcuts. The purpose of this assignment is for you to spend time in an interesting and eminently readable work of history. Charles C. Mann is a journalist, and his writing is very accessible. Set aside some time to get into the book; once you start, you'll most likely be sucked in. The main point of this assignment is to get you to read the book.
2. After reading the entire book, respond to the 11 questions (listed on the next page). Answers should be in complete sentences. I will not prescribe length; make your answers long enough to answer the questions fully and to show me you have read and thought about the book. Underdeveloped answers will not receive credit. Finally, answer the "summary question" in paragraph form. These responses are due on the first day of class, typed, double spaced, in hard copy, with a heading that includes your name, the date, and the title of the class.
3. Though often the very act of assigning a book drains all the joy out of reading it, remember to have fun. You can learn a lot about history and the world you live in from Mann's thoughtful investigation of trade, disease, ecosystems, religion, and human behavior. This assignment will take time – especially if you are not a habitual reader. Make sure you set aside enough time to complete it well. Waiting until the last week of summer is probably a poor idea. Buy your book early and knock out the assignment before you feel rushed. This paper will count as the first test grade for the year.

Good luck! I look forward to having you in class soon. Have a great summer,
Mr. Fickley

Questions:

1. In the prologue, how does Mann describe the purpose of his book? Include at least one quote in your answer.
2. What are the “two Monuments” of the first chapter, and what do they represent?
3. What effect did the discovery of the “New World” have on Spain? Explain your answer.
4. What did you find most interesting about this chapter?
5. What is the “homogenocene”? What events are responsible for creating it?
6. What is the “Tobacco Coast,” and who originally settled it? What was the region useful for?
7. Who was Opechancanough, and what did he do to the Virginia Company on March 22, 1622? Which page number did you find the story on? Why do you think this event happened?
8. What was “Evil Air,” and how did it affect life in the colonies? How did it affect General Cornwallis?
9. In the chapter on “Lovesick Grass, Foreign Tubers, and Jade Rice,” how did tobacco, sweet potatoes, and rice affect global society? Give a brief description of each, and include a reference to your favorite story from the chapter.
10. How did potatoes impact the course of world history?
11. Where did Europeans find rubber, and how did rubber change global industry and economies? What was it used for?

Summary Question:

This book is about the beginnings of globalization and the process now commonly known as “The Columbian Exchange.” In Dual Enrollment U.S. History, we will begin the year studying the colonial period, when Europeans first washed up on the shores of the Caribbean and North America. In a 300-500 word short essay, describe the global context in which America was first settled. What was America’s place in history from 1500-1750?