

Dear Future AP Human Geography Student,

Congratulations on enrolling in AP Human Geography (APHG)—one of the most challenging and rewarding social science courses available in high school. This course is taught at a college level and will ask you to think in new ways, make global connections, and analyze patterns of human behavior across space and place. Whether this is your first AP course or one of several, it will require dedication, self-discipline, and consistent effort to succeed.

APHG is not just about memorizing maps. It's about understanding *why* things happen *where* they do—and how those patterns shape our world. To do this, you need to know where countries and regions are located. This is not optional background knowledge—it's a core skill that will be used every day in this class.

Think of it this way: if you had to look up every word in the dictionary before reading a book, reading would become impossible. The same is true for geography. If you don't know where countries are, you'll struggle to understand migration patterns, trade relationships, political boundaries, religious diffusion, urbanization, and more.

Summer Assignment Overview

Your task this summer is to learn the names and locations of all recognized countries in the world and the states of the United States:

- There are currently about 195–196 countries, depending on the source.
- We will use [Seterra.com](https://www.seterra.com) as our official map-learning tool.
- Seterra provides interactive geography quizzes by region—these are free and easy to use on any device.

Expectations and Grading

- You will be tested on country locations during the first few weeks of school.
- Each quiz will focus on a specific world region or continent (e.g., Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Europe).
- The region **will not be** announced in advance.
- Your first quiz will be the first Friday of the first full week of school.
- These quizzes will be graded and counted as part of your overall course grade.

Recommended Study Strategy

To help you manage your time, here's a suggested pacing guide:

| Week | Suggested Region(s) to Practice | |
|--------|---|--|
| Week 1 | United States and Canada | |
| Week 2 | Latin America (Mexico, Central & South America) | |
| Week 3 | Europe | |
| Week 4 | Sub-Saharan Africa | |
| Week 5 | North Africa & Middle East (SW Asia) | |
| Week 6 | South, East, and Southeast Asia | |
| Week 7 | Oceania and the Caribbean | |

Try to master **one region per week**, reviewing previously studied regions every few days.

Final Notes

- This is a required assignment and will set the foundation for everything we do.
- Take this seriously, and you will start the year strong.
- If you're struggling or new to geography, **start early and ask questions**.
- **You will not be allowed to use notes or maps during quizzes.**

Questions?

Please email me at Batemanj@scsk12.org over the summer if you have questions or need clarification.