

Summer 2023

Dear Parents:

Background knowledge in the various cultures, political and economic vocabulary and geography has traditionally been among the biggest obstacles to success for our students. It is difficult to teach new content when students do not have a base to build from. In the effort to try to address this concern, students entering 9th grade Western Civilization or Honors World I will complete this assignment.

Students will need to purchase the book, *Sugar Changed The World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom and Science* by Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos. The book can be purchased online from MBS or Amazon.com or in a bookstore.

Sugar Changed the World chronicles the history of the sugar trade, spanning the entire ninth and tenth grade curriculum from ancient times to the Age of Exploration to the modern day. The demand for this raw resource affected cultures around the globe, shaping our modern world. The content of this book will serve a valuable reference point for our students as they progress through the world history curriculum and prepare for future historical studies.

Students will be assessed through answering the questions that follow as well as a quiz the first week of school.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Rob Sarmiento
Social Studies Chair
Arlington Catholic High School
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Name: _____ Class: _____

Summer Reading Questions Western Civilization or Honors World History I

How Sugar Changed the World (Summer Reading Questions)

Directions: Answer the following questions while reading on a separate paper, typed responses are preferred. Be brief, yet complete, in your responses. These should be ready to turn in the first week of school, although your teacher will give you a specific due date for your class.

Prologue: Age of Honey:

1. How did early man acquire honey?
2. How did bees mirror human lives?
3. Why was honey “a way of living” for early man?

Part One: From Magic to Spice

1. Who is Herodotus?
2. Describe Sugar Cane

Gods and Rituals:

1. Look at the map on page 11. How did sugar cane spread?
2. How did Indians first come to make crystallized sugar?

The World’s First True University:

1. What is Jandi Shapur? What are examples of cultural diffusion that took place there?

The Storm of God:

1. How did Muslim conquest lead to cultural diffusion (specific examples)?
2. Describe how Egypt became a “sugar laboratory.”

Fortress Europe:

1. Describe the “intellectual” state of Europe following the fall of Rome?
2. Why did Europeans desire spices?

The Champagne Fairs:

1. Describe how the fairs operated.
2. List three goods and state where they came from?
3. How did Italian merchants acquire their goods? Where?
4. What negative effect did a physician note about sugar?
5. Why was sugar so expensive and hard to get for many Europeans?

6. How else, besides trade, did Europeans become exposed to sugar?

Out of War Comes Sweetness:

1. How were the crusades more than battle?
2. What new knowledge was acquired by the Europeans?

The Problems with Sugar Cane:

1. What are the two problems with sugar cane?
2. What labor was required to make a lot of sugar cane?
3. What new method of organizing sugar productions did the Muslims develop?
4. Why were plantations so different from traditional farms?
5. Who were the first slaves used on plantations?
6. Look at the picture on page 28. Create a flow map of the steps of production.
7. What were the Spanish and Portuguese exploring?
8. What did Columbus describe sugar as?

Part Two: Hell

1. Describe the “white gold” rush.
2. What distracted the Spanish from farming?
3. What other European countries began to produce sugar in the New World?
4. Who worked on the plantations?
5. How many slaves were brought from Africa to Brazil? What enabled that trade?
6. Where else were slaves from Africa taken?
7. What happened to the price of sugar due to the sugar plantations in the New World?

A Cycle of Death and Sweetness:

1. Who is Olaudah Equiano?
2. What did Equiano write about?
3. Bubble map: Describe the daily lives of African slaves on a sugar plantation.
4. Why is the idea of triangular trade incorrect?
5. Why might one be considered lucky to be a “specialist?”
6. Why was an ax kept near the grinder?
7. What type of sugar was the most valuable?

Portrait Gallery of Sugar Work:

1. Circle Map: What events, common things, themes, etc. do you notice in the photographs?
2. What is your reaction to the excerpt from the children’s book on the production of sugar (pictures 9-14)

The Pulse of Sugar Life:

1. How do we know of the African slave experience on a sugar plantation?
Examples?
2. How would owners make the price of flight or rebellion too high?
3. What was Palmares?

The Overseer:

1. What was the role of the overseer?
2. Bubble Map: Describe the life of plantation owners.
3. Why did plantation owners rarely use their “Great Houses?”
4. How did overseers punish slaves? 7
5. How were the lives of slave women particularly harsh?
6. According to Equiano, why are 20,000 new African slaves required on the island of Montserrat each year?
7. What percentage of slaves went to North America? What percentage went to the Caribbean, Brazil and South America?
8. How did slave numbers increase in North America? How did they decrease on the sugar islands?

Back in Europe:

1. Like the Muslims, how did European Nobles show their wealth with sugar?

The Best Sort of Chaw?:

1. How did the British become exposed to tea?
2. How did tea, coffee and hot chocolate increase the demand for sugar?
3. How did sugar change the way people ate for the wealthy? Poor?
4. Why did the English need a low cost, filling, hot drink?
5. What radical economic change was taking place in England in the early 1800s?
6. How did sugar aid factory workers?
7. Why were the English the first to build factories to mill cloth?

The Age of Sugar:

1. How were Africans the “true global citizens?”

Part III – Freedom:

1. What does Pauline’s story tell you about the difference between laws in France and the French colonies?
2. What was significant about Pierre Lemerre the Younger’s statement in 1716?

All Men are Equal: America

1. What happened aboard the Polly on April 7, 1765? Why?
2. What was the changing attitude of freemen?
3. What kind of power did “sugar lords” have in England? What was the difference for North American planters?
4. What were the terrible consequences” of the Molasses act?

“Is it lawful to make slaves of others against their will?:

1. What is an abolitionist? What tactics did they use to achieve their goal?
2. What was the effect of the sugar boycott?

All Men are Equal: France:

1. What happened in France in July of 1789? August 1789?
2. What question was left unanswered by the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen?
3. What happened during the French Revolution that was not good news for abolitionists?

The Sound of Liberty:

1. In the late 1700s, what was the center of sugar production?
2. What did the slave commanders vow to do in Haiti?
3. Who is Toussaint L’Overture?
4. What revolutions influenced the Haitian Revolution? What three great principles motivated the Haitians?
5. Why were the British terrified about the events in Haiti? What did the British plan to do about it?
6. Why did the Haitians fight so well?
7. What was going on in France at this time?
8. Who was Napoleon Bonaparte and what changes did he make?
9. Why did Thomas Jefferson not recognize Haiti diplomatically?
10. What bill passed in Britain in 1807?

The Sugar Purchase and the Death State:

1. Why did Napoleon sell the Louisiana Territory to the United States?
2. Bubble Map: Describe life as a slave in Louisiana?
3. What effect did the introduction of machines have?

Sugar in Paradise: “I came seeking the dream”:

1. What groups of people were brought to Hawaii to produce sugar?
2. What effect did sugar have on the population of Hawaii?

Part Four: Back to Our Stories: New Workers, New Sugar

A New System:

1. What was indenture?
2. What was the Emancipation Bill?

Crossing the Black Water:

1. What was the “special problem” for Indian Hindus going to work on sugar plantations?
2. How long was each Indian to work in the colonies? What were they given?
Slavery of Freedom?

The In-between

1. Describe the experience of an indentured servant on the sugar plantation?
2. What did free Africans think about Indian Coolies?
3. Why did many Indians stay when their indenture was over?

Reform:

1. How did planters prefer to pay Indians?
2. What signs pointed to the end of the Age of Sugar?

Sugar and Science:

1. What crop did Napoleon order to be planted in France? Why?

Serfs and Sweetness:

1. Despite having a large empire, why was Russia in a “time warp?”
2. How was beet sugar foreshadowing for the economy of today?
3. What other inventions limited demand for sugarcane?
4. How is sugar used in Brazil today?

The Lawyer:

1. Who is Mohandas K. Gandhi?
2. What did Gandhi think of indenture?
3. What was the Indian experience like in Natal, South Africa?

Satyagraha:

1. What was the Black Act in South Africa?
2. What is Satyagraha?
3. In India, what was Gandhi telling the Indian people to do?
4. Eventually, Gandhi’s leadership led to India doing what in 1947?