

AP Human Geography Basic Background Knowledge List

Sometimes, you just gotta know where stuff is located. This is one of those times. Part of entering an AP class is an assumption of a certain level of background knowledge and skills. Please review this list and be prepared on *any assessment* that you may receive to match the names with the places.

Basic map and atlas skills:

-Using an atlas to locate information

-reading and interpreting a map

-using latitude and longitude to locate and find places

Be able to locate on a map the following places

General Stuff:

4 Oceans

7 Continents

Equator

Tropic of Cancer

Tropic of Capricorn

Major Mountain Ranges:

Himalayas

Rockies

Andes

Alps

Caucasus

Urals

Appalachians

Major Rivers:

Rhine

Amazon

Yangtze

Mississippi

Ganges

Nile

Congo

Major Deserts/Randoms

Sahara

Great Sandy Desert Australia

Gobi

Siberia

Major Climate Regions-which parts of the world would fit into each category

Tropical

Dry

Mild

Continental

Polar

Major Bodies of Water

Great Lakes

Mediterranean Sea

Black Sea

Caspian Sea

Red Sea

Arabian Sea

South China Sea

Caribbean Sea

Aral Sea

Chokepoints (straits & channels)

Strait of Gibraltar

Panama Canal

Suez Canal

Strait of Malacca

English Channel

Bosphorus & Dardanelles

Strait of Hormuz

Major World Cities

New York City

London

Tokyo

Paris

Cairo

Sydney

Sao Paulo

Johannesburg

Moscow

Hong Kong

Chicago

Beijing

Bombay (Mumbai)

Mexico City

Tehran

Washington DC

Lagos

Calcutta

Toronto

Singapore

Canadian Provinces

British Columbia

Yukon Territory

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Northwest Territories

Manitoba

Quebec

New Brunswick

Nova Scotia

Newfoundland and Labrador

Nunavut

Ontario

Major World Regions

Middle East

South East Asia

South Asia

Sub-Saharan Africa

Latin America

Central America

Caribbean

Western Europe

Eastern Europe

Former USSR

Oceania

You should:

-Have some sense of development of the regions

Rich (highly developed),

Developing (middle income),

Poor (less developed)

-know some of the cultural

characteristics of regions-major

*religions, languages, ethnicities,
etc*

Africa

South Africa
Madagascar
Sudan
Niger
Algeria
Nigeria
Somalia
Morocco
Libya
Egypt
Kenya
Chad
Mali
Congo/Zaire
Rwanda
Botswana
Ethiopia
Zimbabwe

**North America & South
America**

United State
Argentina
Guatemala
Bolivia
Cuba
Brazil
Haiti
Chile
Honduras
Colombia
Costa Rica
Ecuador
Bahamas
Peru
Panama
Venezuela
Nicaragua
El Salvador
Canada
Mexico

Asia

Vietnam
Thailand
Japan
India
Singapore
Burma
Mongolia

China
Cambodia
Indonesia
South Korea
Philippines

Europe

Ireland
Russia
Sweden
Greece
Romania
Slovakia
Czech Republic
Norway
Spain
Croatia
Yugoslavia
Germany
France
United Kingdom
Italy
Poland
Finland
Bosnia

Southwest Asia

Kuwait
Syria
Iraq
Lebanon
Saudi Arabia
Israel
Iran
Jordan
Turkey
Afghanistan

Other

Australia
New Zealand

All 50 US States & Regions

Northeast
Southeast
Midwest
Southwest
Rocky Mountains
Pacific West