

Guided Reading Questions for *A New Green History of the World*

On additional sheets of paper write out or type your answers to the questions below—each summary should have a thesis!!!!

Ch. 1: The Lessons of Easter Island

Chapter One is intended to capture our attention by examining Easter Island as a microcosm of the whole earth. Summarize what happened on Easter Island & the implications w/ details in a min. of 100 words.

DUE ON: _____

Ch. 2: The Foundations of History

In Chapter Two Ponting continues to lay the foundation for human history by examining the interconnections of ecosystems & the factors that influence humans & human history. Summarize the factors that influence humans, how they influence, & the concepts of interconnected ecosystems w/ details in a min of 200 words.

DUE ON: _____

Ch. 3: 99% of Human History

For this chapter Clive discusses the evolution of the hunters & gatherers before the Neolithic Revolution.

- 1) What points does Clive make concerning the life of early hunters & gatherers? (pages 15 - 23) - 100 words min
- 2) What types of technology are developed & what impacts do these have for man & on the environment as humans expanded around the globe? (pages 23 - 35) - 100 words min.

DUE ON: _____

Ch. 4: The First Great Transition

- 1) What were the causes & immediate impacts of the switch to agriculture? (p. 36 - 42; 52 - 55) - 100 words min
- 2) How did farming start & spread in south-west Asia & what were the effects? (p. 42 - 47) - 100 words min
- 3) Answer the same for China. (p. 48) - 100 words min
- 4) Answer the same for the Americas. (p. 50 - 51) - 100 words min
- 5) Clive then moves into the development of the river valley civilizations. What are the major points he makes concerning each (include the Americas also)? (p. 56 - 66) - 100 words min

DUE ON: _____

Ch. 5: Destruction and Survival

- 1) How did agriculture & the subsequent actions taken by people affect Sumer? (pp. 67- 72) - 100 words min
- 2) What about the Indus Valley? (pp. 72 - 73) - 100 words min
- 3) How does deforestation affect societies? (pp. 73 - 77) - 100 words min
- 4) What about the Nile? (pp. 82 - 86) - 100 words min

DUE ON: _____

Ch. 6: The Long Struggle

- 1) Using information from pp. 87-90, explain how agriculture & population were linked providing supporting evidence & analysis from the chapter in a min of 200 words.
- 2) Ponting examines both China & Europe & the effects of geographical limitations on food production. Read both sections & then compare
China & Europe in a min of 200 words using specific info from the reading.
- 3) From 97-108 Ponting examines the impact of climate on food production, the limitations therein, & the terrible results. Using specific
information from the text, summarize what he discusses in a min of 200 words.
- 4) For the remainder of the chapter, Ponting discusses the impact of globalization on food production. Summarize in a min of 200 words using specific information from the chapter.

DUE ON: _____

Ch. 7: Ways of Thought

In chapter 7 Ponting states that "the way in which human beings have thought about the world around them has been important in legitimizing their treatment of it." In other words, theories & ideas have had a profound impact on the earth's environment. Read through chapter 7 & compare & contrast how the classical, Christian, secular, modern, & Marxist theories thought about the world & economics. (min 1000 words)

DUE ON: _____

Ch. 8: The Rape of the World

In chapter 8 Ponting examines how humans have radically changed the environmental landscape. Read through the chapter & explain Europe's role in this environmental impact & then explain the case studies of the passenger pigeon, the introduction of new species, the impact of fishing, fur trade, sealing, & whaling. Finally, what about the future of conservation & extinction? (min. 1000 words)

DUE ON: _____

Ch. 9: The Foundations of Inequality

In chapter 9 Ponting examines the beginnings of European expansion, the institutions of slavery & indentured servitude, & the impact of agriculture in the Americas, Asia, & Africa. Summarize what labor systems developed during this time and their connection to resource exploitation? (min 1000 words)

DUE ON: _____

Ch. 10: Disease & Death

In chapter 10 Ponting examines the huge impact diseases have had on human populations. Read through the chapter & summarize the role diseases have played throughout history. (min 1000 words)

DUE ON: _____

Ch. 11: The Weight of Numbers

In Chapter 11 Ponting tackles the issue of rapid population growth in the past 200 years. Summarize what he discusses concerning the growth of world population; the impact of that growth on agriculture, deforestation, soil erosion, and water use. (min 1000 words)

DUE ON: _____

Ch. 12: The Second Great Transition

For Chapter 12 Ponting takes a look at the exploitation of the earth's fossil fuels to create industrialized societies. Compare/contrast the various forms of power he covers from human, to animal, water/wind, wood, coal, electricity, oil, and natural gas. (min 1000 words)

DUE ON: _____

Ch. 13: The Rise of the City

In chapter 13 Ponting looks at the changes that have taken place over time in urbanization. Summarize the major changes he discusses in a min of 1000 words.

DUE ON: _____

Ch. 14: Creating an Affluent Society

For this chapter in a min of 1000 words summarize what Ponting discusses in the creation of affluence in the modern age, including what are its characteristics and how did we get here?

DUE ON: _____

Ch. 15: Polluting the World

One of the byproducts of industrialization is pollution. Summarize what Ponting covers in regards to the effects of industrialization and more modern pollution in a min of 1000 words.

DUE ON: _____

Ch 16: The Threat to Global Systems & Ch. 17: The Shadow of the Past

In chapter 16 Ponting covers several of the current pressing problems. Summarize these issues and the prospects for the future in a min of 1000 words.

DUE ON: _____

Topic for Green History of the World paper--The world has undergone massive changes in the past 200 yrs. due to the massive growth in population, use of resources, and the destruction of the environment. Using the evidence from the *Green History*, evaluate the following statement: "Humans have fundamentally changed their relationship with their environment."

Provide specific details to support your thesis and ideas on the subject.

Your paper can be typed & should be approximately 1500-2000 words long.

DUE NO LATER THAN 20 APRIL!!