



AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

2011-2012 SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Objectives:

The intent of the summer reading assignment is multi-faceted: to read a book that is very funny¹; to move from the literary aspects of the novel to geographic relevance through a mapping exercise²; and to familiarize the students with a website that we will be using frequently in the future for navigational purposes³. You will also be using this book to answer the question **What is an American?**⁴

Assignment:

Read The Lost Continent: Travels in Small-Town America. Bill Bryson 1990.

As you read, label on the map the locations discussed in the book, as accurately as possible, based on the descriptions from the book. If necessary, more than one map may be used, BUT a list of the locations must be typed on a separate sheet of paper.⁵

- Be VERY specific. However, only label places where he actually stops, not all the places he travels by or through.
- As you read the book, write down Bryson's initial ideas about the attributes of the quintessential American town. You should also write down what Bryson finds in its place. When you have finished the book, look at your notes. Compare the differences between the reality of what Bryson finds and what he is searching for. How do these discrepancies determine what it actually means to be an American?

Your answer should be **typed** (Arial or Times New Roman 12pt font, double-spaced). It should be **no less than one page and no more than two pages.**⁶

Please bring your completed assignment to your first AP Human Geography Class.

I realise that you will have a multitude of things to do this summer but the activities I have given you are really straight-forward and will be more than useful for this class.

If you have any problems over the summer, please do not hesitate to contact me⁷.

You can reach me at this address over the summer: igoodwin@aacps.org⁸

If you can't find this because you lost it, try emailing me at the above address⁹

I hope that you all have a relaxing summer. Keep smiling and be happy.

Mr. Goodwin.

¹ They make me laugh so it's time for you to start to understand my humour (n.b. spelling).

² What I mean is to trace Bryson's travels / route (pronounced "root") on a map

³ The web can be used for activities other than IM-ing and illegal downloading.

⁴ I dunno- I'm an English teacher, not a teacher of English.

⁵ Alternatively, mapquest, googlemaps etc. work well too.

⁶ No messing with the borders either- 1" all the way around

⁷ Cancel that- just don't contact me.

⁸ In the event that you receive no answer please do not worry. I'll be fine, most probably drinking ice cold drinks in the sunshine.

⁹ See footnotes 7 and 8