**Summer Assignment: AP African American Studies – The Geography, Peoples, and History of Africa**

**Teacher: Mr. Myers**

**Objective:**

**We must be ready to move fast in this section because this is an area that most of you have never studied. It is important that you know it before you come to class!**   
This assignment is designed to introduce you to Africa's geographical, cultural, and historical foundations, particularly focusing on the period leading up to and during the Atlantic Slave Trade. You will explore Africa’s rivers, oceans, major countries, environments, and tribes. Additionally, you will examine the significant role Africa played in shaping the Atlantic world, including the forced migration of people during the transatlantic slave trade.

By completing this assignment, you will better understand Africa’s diverse peoples and environments, laying the foundation for deeper discussions in AP African American Studies.

**Instructions:**

* This assignment is comprehensive and requires careful attention. It includes research, map analysis, and written responses.
* Complete all sections below. Make sure your work is neat, detailed, and analytical. Your final submission should be approximately **6-8 pages long** (typed, 12 pt. font, Times New Roman, double-spaced).

**Section 1: Geographical Features of Africa**

**Objective:**  
To familiarize yourself with the key geographical features of Africa that shaped its development.

**Instructions:**

1. **Create a detailed map of Africa** highlighting the following features:
   * Major rivers (e.g., the Nile, Congo, Niger, Zambezi)
   * Major oceans (Atlantic, Indian)
   * Major deserts (Sahara, Kalahari, Namib)
   * Major mountain ranges (Atlas, Drakensberg)
   * Major lakes (Lake Victoria, Lake Tanganyika)
   * The Equator and Tropic of Cancer
   * Major cities (e.g., Cairo, Lagos, Nairobi, Kinshasa)
2. **Write a 2-3 paragraph description** of how these geographical features influenced the development of African civilizations and peoples. Discuss how these features contributed to trade, agriculture, migration patterns, and the development of kingdoms and empires.

**Section 2: Major Regions and Countries of Africa**

**Objective:**  
To understand Africa's political geography, with an emphasis on countries central to the Atlantic Slave Trade.

**Instructions:**

1. Research the following regions and countries of Africa:
   * **North Africa:** Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia
   * **West Africa:** Senegal, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire
   * **Central Africa:** Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Gabon, Cameroon
   * **East Africa:** Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Somalia
   * **Southern Africa:** South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola
2. **Create a map** of Africa with the countries and regions clearly labeled.
3. **Write a 1–2-page summary** of the political and cultural significance of each region during the Atlantic Slave Trade. Focus on the following:
   * The role of West Africa in the slave trade, including major port cities like Goree and Ouidah.
   * The role of North Africa, with respect to the trans-Saharan trade routes and the impact of Islam.
   * The role of East Africa in the Indian Ocean Slave Trade.
   * The development of kingdoms such as the Mali Empire, Ashanti Kingdom, and Kingdom of Kongo.

**Section 3: The People of Africa During the Atlantic Slave Trade**

**Objective:**  
To examine the diversity of African cultures and ethnic groups and their experiences during the Atlantic Slave Trade.

**Instructions:**

1. Research the **major ethnic groups and tribes** involved in or impacted by the Atlantic Slave Trade. Focus on those in **West and Central Africa**, where the majority of slaves came from. Some key tribes and nations to research include:
   * Yoruba
   * Akan
   * Mandinka
   * Igbo
   * Fulani
   * Wolof
   * Kongo
   * Mende
2. **Write a 2-3 page comparative essay** discussing the cultural, social, and political characteristics of these tribes. Focus on:
   * How these ethnic groups lived before the slave trade, including their economic systems, social hierarchies, and spiritual practices.
   * The impact of European slave traders on these groups, including the role of local African leaders in the trade and the disruption of traditional societies.
3. Include a **map** of Africa highlighting the regions where these major tribes were located.

**Section 4: The Impact of the Atlantic Slave Trade on African Geography and Society**

**Objective:**  
To understand the profound impact the Atlantic Slave Trade had on Africa, both geographically and socially.

**Instructions:**

1. **Research the Atlantic Slave Trade** from the African perspective. Focus on how it altered the geography of Africa:
   * Displacement of peoples: Forced migration, destruction of local economies, and the breakdown of societies.
   * Changes in African economies: The growth of European trade outposts and the development of cash crop economies.
   * The involvement of African kingdoms and leaders in the trade, as well as the resistance to it.
2. **Write a 3-4 page essay** exploring the lasting effects of the Atlantic Slave Trade on the African continent. Be sure to address the following questions:
   * How did the transatlantic slave trade impact African political structures and societies?
   * How did the geography of Africa influence the trade routes and the establishment of slave markets along the coast?
   * What was the effect on African populations, including the loss of men, women, and children?
   * How did the slave trade set the stage for later colonialism and the partitioning of Africa?

**Section 5: Reflection and Synthesis**

**Objective:**  
To synthesize your learning about African geography, peoples, and the history of the Atlantic Slave Trade.

**Instructions:**  
Write a **1-2 page reflection** in which you:

* Discuss how the knowledge of Africa’s geography, peoples, and the Atlantic Slave Trade informs our understanding of African American history.
* Reflect on the lasting impact of African cultural traditions and the survival of African identities in the Americas.

**Resources:**

* Use **Google Maps** or a physical atlas to create maps.
* Use reliable academic sources such as:
  + "The African Experience: An Introduction" by W. W. Rostow
  + "The Atlantic Slave Trade: A Census" by David Eltis
  + "Africa: A Biography of the Continent" by John Reader
  + Online databases, such as JSTOR, for academic articles on African history.

**Submission Deadline:** The assignment is due on the first day of class in the fall. Please bring both a digital and printed copy of your work.

**Grading Criteria:**

* Completeness of maps and written sections
* Depth of analysis and critical thinking
* Clarity, organization, and quality of writing
* Proper citation of sources

Good luck, and I look forward to our discussions in the fall!

**Note:** Feel free to email me if you have any questions about the assignment during the summer. mmyers5@wcpss.net