

MAST @ FIU

Biscayne Bay Campus

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT FOR HONORS WORLD HISTORY

Overview

Miami-Dade County Public Schools recognizes the importance of ensuring that students continue to strengthen reading skills and develop a passion for reading beyond instructional requirements. Experience and current research support the idea that students who are actively engaged in reading throughout the summer demonstrate improved academic performance during the following school year. Cultivating pleasurable reading helps build reading skills and enriches students' knowledge base. In addition, increased independent summer reading of both literary and non-fiction text helps prepare students to be successful in meeting more rigorous academic standards as schools transition to Language Arts Florida Standards.

Summer reading provides students with an opportunity for recreational reading, personal exploration, and continued intellectual growth. It serves as an essential component of the instructional process in schools. As stated above, research has shown that students who engage in reading throughout the summer improve academically during the following school year. However, school summer reading plans are not intended to be excessive or curtail students' participation in recreational and/or family activities.

Required Reading

Purchase or obtain the book, *Sugar Changed the Word: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom, and Science* by Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos (paperback).

Book Summary

This award-winning husband-and-wife team discovered that they each had sugar in their family history, they were inspired to trace the globe-spanning story of the sweet substance and to seek out the voices of those who led bitter sugar lives. The trail ran like a bright band from religious ceremonies in India to Europe's Middle Ages, then on to Columbus, who brought the first cane cuttings to the Americas. Sugar was the substance that drove the bloody slave trade and caused the loss of countless lives but it also planted the seeds of revolution that led to freedom in the American colonies, Haiti, and France. With songs, oral histories, maps, and over

80 archival illustrations, here is the story of how one product allows us to see the grand currents of world history in new ways.

Assignment

1. Use the timeline in the back of the book to identify the date ranges [i.e. the periodization scheme] established by the authors (e.g. the Age of Honey, Age of Sugar, Age of Freedom, Age of Science).
2. Create your own timeline using the divisional ages proposed in the text to divide the timeline into segments.
3. Think of each segment as a scrapbook page which you will fill with images, illustrations, maps, etc. emphasizing important elements in that time period (e.g. people, events, innovations, achievements, and so on...)
4. You are encouraged to exercise your creativity in designing the layout and “look” of your timeline scrapbook.