

**10TH GRADE REQUIRED HISTORY SUMMER READING**  
**GRADE LEVEL**  
**2021**

***Sapiens: A Graphic History*, Volume One, by Yuval Noah Harari, David Vandermeulen, and Daniel Casanave. (ISBN 978-0-06-305133-1)**

This book is a graphic adaptation of the first part of Yuval Noah Harari's *Sapiens: A History of Humankind*. It is an example of "big history." Big history doesn't look at a particular country or event. Instead it zooms out and looks at the big picture: the history of the planet or humanity as a whole. *Sapiens: A Graphic History* examines how Homo Sapiens came to be the only species of humans to survive, as well as the impacts of our species on the planet. It draws on the fields of biology, anthropology, and linguistics, as well as history, to tell this story.

**Answer the following questions in full sentences. These will be collected on the first day of school and will be graded. They will also help you with class discussion and activities during the first week of classes.**

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Scheinmann ([rscheinmann@jbha.org](mailto:rscheinmann@jbha.org))

- 1. What physical characteristics made humans different from other mammals?**
- 2. Explain the interbreeding and replacement theories. Why is this issue controversial?**
- 3. How did language and communication contribute to the development of homo sapiens? Give examples.**
- 4. How did "myths" contribute to the development of human societies? Give examples of prehistoric "myths" and modern "myths."**
- 5. Explain this statement from page 114: "History begins with the cognitive revolution."**
- 6. What are our sources of information about stone age societies? Why are these sources problematic?**
- 7. Explain this statement from page 154: "Collectively, human societies today know far more than stone-age communities. But at the individual level, ancient foragers were the most knowledgeable and skillful people in history!"**
- 8. Define in your own words: Animism. How is it different from theism?**
- 9. What information in this book did you find most interesting or surprising? Why?**