

Upper School Summer Enrichment for General History Courses 9-12

The Upper School History Department Summer Enrichment is a list of recommended reading and other media. Students are expected to read at least one book or engage with at least two pieces of media. While there is no specific assignment attached to student choices, the enrichment work will be considered in the coursework during the year.

Dear Students:

Understanding world history in today's world is critical, as it is an understanding of our identity and the human condition. Our world has shrunk immeasurably, and what affects other parts of the world affects the United States. Growing our knowledge strengthens our ability to navigate this world well. As you plan your summer, take the time to delve into some great reading and fascinating documentaries. Spend time reflecting on the universe and your place in it. Not only will this help you in your history classes in the fall of 2023, but it will also help you develop a richer perspective on life.

Below are lists of recommendations. You are expected to read at least one book or watch at least two documentaries. As you read or watch, it is important to take notes. This helps to retain what you have learned and will come in handy later in the year. You can use this [note-taking guideline for reference](#). While there is no specific assignment attached to your choices, the enrichment work will be considered in your coursework during the year. Have a wonderful summer!

Civics and Government

Books to Read

- Kendi, Ibram, *How to Be an Antiracist*
- Obama, Barack, *A Promised Land*
- Klinenberg, Eric, *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life*

Documentaries to Watch

[Plot to Overturn the Election](#)

[America After 9/11](#)

[The Making of the Constitution](#)

World History

Books to Read

- Yousafzai, Malala, *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban*
- Gyasi, Yaa, *Homegoing*
- Lalami, Laila, *The Moor's Account*
- Brown, Daniel James, *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*
- Weider, Ben *The Murder of Napoleon*

- Goldberg, Michelle, *The Goddess Pose: The Audacious Life of Indra Devi, the Woman Who Helped Bring Yoga to the West*
- Kurlansky, Mark, *Salt: A World History Paperback – Illustrated, January 28, 2003*
- Gordon, Stewart, *When Asia Was the World: Traveling Merchants, Scholars, Warriors, and Monks Who Created the "Riches of the East"*
- Weatherford, Jack, *Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World*

Documentaries to Watch

- [Frontline Report on North Korea](#)
- The Cold War Series- Episodes 10 -24 ONLY CNN (Each Episode can be watched as a single documentary)[Cold War 10of24 Cuba](#)
- [The Romanovs and the Russian Revolution](#)
- [Blood and Oil \(History of the Middle East during WWI\)](#)
- [Poor Us- Animated History](#)
- [Guns, Germs, and Steel](#) -Part II ONLY
- [Africa's Great Civilizations](#)
- [Haitian Revolution](#) OR <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/haitian-revolution-toussaint-louverture/>
- [Iranian Revolution](#)
- [Brazil- an Inconvenient History \(story of slavery in Brazil\)](#)
- LISTEN TO ANY TED RADIO HOUR AVAILABLE ON NPR- this will count as a documentary. <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510298/ted-radio-hour>
- [The British Empire](#)
- Frontline: The Plastic Wars: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/plastic-wars/>
- Frontline: China Undercover <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/china-undercover/>
- Nigeria's Transformation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sAHRcyVwYo>
- [Putin's Road to War](#)
- [Massacre in El Salvador](#)
- [Climate of Doubt](#)
- Triumph of Evil [part I](#) and [Part II](#)
- [Saving our planet I; Saving our planet II; Saving our planet III](#)

American History

Books to Read

- Dahl, Robert, *How Democratic is the American Constitution?*
- Ellis, Joseph, *American Creation*
- Ellis, Joseph, *Founding Fathers*
- Klass, Perri, *A Good Time to Be Born: How Science and Public Health Gave Children a Future*
- Foner, Eric, *The Second Founding*
- Blight, David W., *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*

Documentaries to Watch

- [American Presidents \(any episode\)](#)
- [Police on Trial](#)
- [Federal Reserve Policy](#)
- [Putin and the Presidents](#)
- [Americas- Great Indian Nations](#)
- [America after 9/11](#)
- [Secret History of the Credit Card](#)

Additional Choices Available on Netflix:

- I am Not Your Negro
- Knock Down the House
- Amend: The Fight For America
- Living Undocumented