

26-27 AP Environmental Science Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP Environmental Science (APES)! I am thrilled about the upcoming school year and hope you are as well.

APES is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in Environmental Science. This interdisciplinary course encompasses topics in chemistry, physics, geology, biology, environmental studies, and geography. It also incorporates sociological, political, and global perspectives. APES aims to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, identify and analyze environmental problems—both natural and human-made—evaluate the associated risks, and examine alternative solutions for resolving and preventing these problems.

This summer assignment is designed to introduce you to Environmental Science, covering basic ecology concepts, environmental exploration, and essential math skills that will be utilized throughout the year. It will also start covering the units required for the AP exam in May 2026.

To be a successful APES student, you must be willing to spend significant time outside of class preparing and completing work. Remember, this course is modeled after a college course, so both the fast pace and the depth of information may be new to you. Dedication, commitment, and total immersion into the field of environmental science are crucial.

My goal is to inspire your interest in the fascinating topics we will explore together over the course of the year.

Weight of the assignment towards grade: completion.

In addition, you will have a test covering all the information reviewed on the summer assignment (we will review together all the topics before the test). **That test will count for 10% of your first-quarter grade.**

If you have any questions about this assignment over the summer, please feel free to email me at adelina.valle@asfg.edu.mx

Thank you in advance for the time you invested in these assignments.

- Dr. Valle

Task 1. Join the APES 26-27 course on Google Classroom.

CODE: 6frmx72

Task 2. Get a two-inch binder (any color it's ok) and two packs of lined or graph binder paper. **Write down your NAME and APES on the cover (outside).**

Task 3. Introduction to APES

Take detailed handwritten notes on both videos and answer the reflection questions (handwritten). Bring your notes on the first day of school.

Material: Computer required to watch the videos. Paper and pen. News outlet.

Directions:

1. On YouTube, watch the [video Is APES easy?](#) From the beginning to minute 2:06.
2. Then, watch the video [Environmental Science](#)
3. Take detailed, clean, neat, and handwritten notes on the material presented.
4. Answer the following reflection questions:
 - a. What environmental topics do you hope to learn about this year?
 - b. Why is it important for high school students to take this course?
 - c. Do you consider yourself to be environmentally conscientious? Explain
5. Look at the news (newspaper, online, tv). Research and **write a two-paragraph summary** of one current environmental issue that stands out to you. Make connections to the video. Include the link or picture of the news. Be prepared to discuss it in class.

Task 4. Math skills

Most calculations on tests and the AP exam are designed to be straightforward, often resulting in whole numbers or a few decimal places.

The real challenge lies in setting up problems correctly and mastering basic math skills. With practice, you'll become a math expert by exam time. Before jumping to using your fancy scientific calculator, let's start honing your math skills! **You'll be tested on these skills during the second week of school.**

Content:

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|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Averages | • Metric Units |
| • Percentages and Percent Change | • Scientific Notation |
| | • Dimensional Analysis |

[Review this document to complete task 4.](#)