

U.S. History - Summer Assignment

1. Read **Atlantic Magazine** article, “1491” ([attached here](#)) by Charles C. Mann. Print or download it, and as you read, please highlight/underline/make notes in the margins about what you think are important facts or ideas as you read this pdf.

2. Then you will respond to the following prompt (in a 1/2 to a full page, double spaced). Please print it out and bring to the first day of class.

Prompt: In the nineteenth century, historian George Bancroft described pre-contact America as “an unproductive waste. . . . Its only inhabitants were a few scattered tribes of feeble barbarians, destitute of commerce and of political connection.” Now that you have read the article, “1491,” **respond to one** of the following prompts (try to use evidence from the reading):

- Do you agree with this 19th century historian based on your reading of the article, “1491”? Why?
- Do you disagree with this 19th century historian based on your reading of the article, “1491”? Why?
- Do you think the answer is complex, and this 19th century historian and the article “1491” make valid points? Why?

Questions? Simply email Don at dkaplan@solebury.org.