**GUNS, GERMS, AND STEEL**

**GUIDING QUESTIONS**

**Objective:** The goal of the provided guiding questions, is to provide students with an idea of the important information within the documentary Guns, Germs, and Steel. These questions must be contemplated and answered within your notes in order to be successful on upcoming assessments.

**Prompt:** Geography played a tremendous role in the success Europeans had in claiming lands in the Americas and the world at large. Geographer, historian, and Professor Jared Diamond developed a theory in regard to European success in conquering much of the world, and it is based on geography.

1. **Identify** the location on earth where agriculture first began (be specific), and what is this place known as today?  **Identify** and **explain** 3 reasons agriculture is important to the formation of a society.
2. **Explain** why Europeans had a decided geographical advantage over the peoples of the Americas in regard to agriculture.
3. Jared Diamond theorizes that geography was tilted in favor of Europeans. **Identify** and **explain** 3 important aspects of geography (beyond guns, germs, and steel) that led to European success during the age of exploration, and **explain** why these reasons made Europeans “accidental conquerors.”
4. Spanish conquistadors had superior weaponry. **Describe** the weaponry and **explain** a geographic reason why the Spanish had advanced steel and the Inca did not.
5. Jared Diamond theorizes why Europeans were able to conquer the world and uses the shape of the continents (Eurasia and North America) to support his theory. **Identify** and **explain** 2 reasons why the shape of these two continents enabled Europeans to develop more rapidly than the peoples of the Americas.
6. **Identify** and **explain** the significance of Pizzaro’s “secret” weapon.
7. **Define** both Environmental Determinism and Possibilism and **explain** Jared Diamonds perspective in regard to Environmental Determinism.