

**Hunter College of the City University of New York**  
**Department of Geography**  
**Geography of New York State**  
**Exercise 18/19 – Double Extra Credit**

**Malls, Farms and the River – Field Trip to Orange and Rockland Counties**

Due no later than the date of the final exam.

*The purpose of this exercise is for you to view and document some of the site and situation factors we have addressed all semester. This exercise may be completed in one of two ways.*

**(1) Drive the Route.** *It takes approximately a full day (8-10 hours) to drive it with stops to make observations. It covers urban, suburban and rural landscapes. You can divide the route into two one-day excursions. Bring your NYS road map, the Moon Handbook and the geology map.*

**(2) Virtual Tour.** *From your computer, do a virtual tour using the <http://maps.google.com> web site. Use the map, terrain, and satellite buttons and the zoom in and zoom out feature to get different views of the route. Consult your NYS road map, the Moon Handbook and the geology map as you answer the questions.*

**ASSIGNMENT**

**Part I - Instructions**

1. Study the route outlined in “**Part II**” below.
2. Using any of the free mapping programs linked to an Internet search engine or to a travel and tourist web site, enter the bold-faced place names listed to create a route map.
3. Go to <http://maps.google.com> to find supporting maps and satellite images. By entering the names listed below in Part II, you can view maps and images of these areas that will help you plan your trip or complete the exercise. Begin by entering the name of **your neighborhood or town** as the starting point.
4. Drive the actual route or follow the virtual route.
5. Observe the roadside landscape.
6. Record examples of the physical and cultural landscape along the route by taking pictures of the landscape, unique locations and different land use. (**CAUTION: If you are the driver please remember to pull your vehicle well off to the side of the road before you take a picture or write down information DO NOT TEXT and DRIVE.**) If you do the virtual tour, you will need to capture a screen shot of the place being discussed.
7. (a) Describe what you observe. Include physical features and human land use. (b) Name each physiographic region through which you pass (consult Exercise 3). (c) Attach appropriate pictures and annotated maps to your write-up.

**Part II – The Route**

**In addition to paragraphs 6 and 7 above, comment on the following segments of the route.**

1. (a) What did you have to do to enter New Jersey from **Manhattan, NY** or one of the boroughs of **New York City** or from **Westchester County**? (b) Why was this necessary?
2. What is the name of the high ground in New Jersey paralleling the Hudson River?
3. Describe land use along New Jersey Rte. 17 from **Rutherford, NJ** to **Mahwah, NJ**.
4. In the Mahwah, NJ/**Suffern, NY** area of Rockland County, the *Ramapo Highlands* are seen to the left. (a) How do they influence your travel?

5. Staying on NY Route 17, past **Tuxedo Park, NY**, you will turn left on to Route 17A and head into Orange County. (a) Describe the landscape along Route 17A to **Greenwood Lake, NY**. (b) What action created this landscape?
6. Follow Route 17A from Greenwood Lake to **Bellvale, NY** and **Warwick, NY**. At the top of the ridge before descending into Warwick pull into the parking lot of the Bellvale Creamery on Kain Road. (a) Describe the view from the parking lot.
7. Continue on Route 17A to Warwick. Once past Warwick, look for the sign for County Road 1A to **Pine Island, NY**. *Feel free to randomly explore the side roads of this area.* (a) Describe the major activity surrounding the village of Pine Island. (b) The areas with buildings are called “islands”? Why do you think this designation came about? Check the terrain map. (c) From the signs on buildings and other places, list the products produced in the area. If doing the virtual tour, use the “satellite” feature and under “search maps” click on “businesses.”
8. After driving the side roads of the area, make your way toward **Florida, NY** and **Chester, NY**.
9. At Chester, you will pick up Route 17M (slow country) or Route 17 (high speed interstate) going east toward **Harriman, NY** and the NYS Thruway. Along the way, you will pass a *Museum Village* at **Monroe, NY**, an orthodox Jewish community at **Kiryas Joel, NY** and the **Woodbury Commons Premium Outlets** shopping mall at on NY Route 32 in **Central Valley, NY**. (a) Give a geographic reason for the location of the Woodbury Commons Outlets.
10. At Harriman, follow US Route 6A across the Hudson Highlands to **Bear Mountain State Park, NY**. The state park has trails to the river and natural history, animal habitat, and historic displays in its free museum and zoo. (*The Bear Mountain Bridge crosses the Hudson River here. Three miles north of Bear Mountain is the US Military Academy at West Point, NY. The free West Point Museum is located outside of the academy in Highland Falls, NY. If you have time, go north to Highland Falls.*) (a) Describe the appearance of the Hudson at Bear Mountain.
11. Leaving Bear Mountain, take Route 9W south into Rockland County. This road follows the west shoreline of the Hudson, passing through a number of small towns of historic significance such as **Stony Point, NY, Haverstraw, NY, Nyack, NY** and **Piermont, NY**. (a) Why did each town develop where they did? (b) Describe appearance of the Hudson River along this route. (c) Is it narrow or wide?
12. If you need a fast way back to NYC after Bear Mountain, take the Palisades Interstate Parkway south to **Fort Lee, NJ** and the George Washington Bridge instead of Route 9W. (*You can get the answer for town development from the Moon Handbook and see the answer to Q:11c from the bridge.*) Otherwise, at Nyack, cross the Hudson River at the Tappan Zee Bridge to **Tarrytown, NY** (*you can also see the answer to Q:11c from this bridge*) where you will take the NYS Thruway south to **Yonkers, NY** and the Bronx. From there make your way home.

**DRIVE SAFELY. PULL OFF THE ROAD AND PARK ON THE SHOULDER BEFORE TAKING PICTURES OR WRITING NOTES. WHEN WALKING ALONG THE ROADSIDE, BE AWARE OF ON-COMING TRAFFIC.**