

Hunter College - CUNY
Department of Geography
Nature of New York

**Exercise 4: Malls, Farms and the River:
Field Trip to Orange and Rockland Counties
Extra Credit Option**

Due no later than the date of the Final Exam.

PURPOSE: This exercise guides you through a real-life experience viewing and documenting 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 a NYS road map, the Moon Handbook or other NYS travel guide and the geology map for reference.* You may want to organize a spring break or weekend day trip with classmates if you decide to drive the route.

(2) **Virtual Tour.** *From your desktop, laptop or tablet, do a virtual tour using the [GOOGLE MAPS](#) web site. In the upper left corner there are “map,” “terrain,” and “satellite buttons” and the zoom in and out feature for you to get different views of the route. Consult your NYS road map, the Moon Handbook or other NYS travel guide and the geology map as you answer the questions.*

ASSIGNMENT

Part I – Instructions

1. Study the route outlined in “**Part II**” below and the generalized route map on the last pages.
2. Using any of the free mapping programs, apps and/or search engine attached to a travel and tourist web site, enter the bold-faced place names listed in Part II to create a route map.
3. Go to <http://maps.google.com> or to the NYS trip planner on the “*I Love NY*” web site: <http://www.iloveny.com/trip-builder/#.VAT2pMVdXPE> to find supporting maps and 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 address zip code** as the starting point. ***PRINT the route map and attach it to your write up.***
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 5 Physical Maps section). (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 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 across from Manhattan?
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. (4a) 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. (5a) Describe the landscape along Route 17A to **Greenwood Lake, NY**. (5b) 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.* (7a) Describe the major activity surrounding the village of Pine Island. (7b) The areas with buildings are called “islands”? Why do you think this designation came about? Check the terrain map. (7c) 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** 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**. (9a) 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.*) (10a) Describe the setting and appearance of the Hudson River 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**. (11a) Why did each town develop where they did? (11b) Describe setting and appearance of the Hudson River along this route. How does it differ from the Bear Mountain area?
 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:11b from the bridge.*) Otherwise, at Nyack, cross the Hudson River at the new Mario Cuomo Bridge (which replaced the Tappan Zee Bridge; there is a viewing area at the Nyack Waterfront Park and a small exhibit about the building of the new bridge on Main Street in Nyack) to **Tarrytown, NY** (*you can also see the answer to Q:11b from this bridge*) where you will take the NYS Thruway south to **Yonkers, NY** and the Bronx.
 13. From there make your way home.



