PROLUGE and PART 1: Reading/Discussion Questions: *Collapse* by Jared Diamond

Directions: As you are reading *Collapse* answer the following questions in complete sentences. The Prologue and Part 1 of *Collapse* must be read by 09/24/14.

Prologue:

1. Who was Ozymandias and how does the quote; “Look on my works ye Mighty, and despair!” from Shelley’s famous poem relate to Diamond’s argument?

2. How does Shelley's poem set the tone for the book?

3. What is the major controversy Diamond identifies as pertinent to any understanding of the ecological collapses of past civilizations?

4. What opinions do you have regarding this controversy?


6. What are the five main factors Diamond identifies as possible causes for collapse? (It is useful to keep these in mind when reading about each society.)
Part One:

7. How did Montana go from being one of the richest states in the US to one of the poorest?

8. What environmental factors and damage helped lead to this decline?

9. Which environmental problems discussed by Diamond surprised you the most?

10. Which problems angered you the most?

11. The presumed conflict between environmentalism and business is an important issue to understand when studying environmental problems. What do you think about the quote on the bottom of page 37?

12. Why does the author of the quote distinguish between accountants or attorneys and clergy members?

13. Chapter one ends with four stories shared by current Montana residents. Did any of these stories resonate with you?

14. Which did you find the most compelling and which the most disturbing?