

Name _____
Date _____
Period _____

AP World History
Ms. Avar

File: Reading

Practice Exercise: How to Read Your AP World History Textbook

"Students today are wedded to technology. In this class, you will be wedded to books and paper."

Peter Mehlbach

Pre-Reading

1. Browse (5-10 minutes)

Browse, or look over things in the chapter that catch your eye in Chapter ____ . These should include the chapter title, headings, subheadings, pictures, maps, illustrations, inset readings, etc. You're not reading for comprehension here, you're just familiarizing yourself with the material. Make some generalizations below about the content of this chapter. Ask yourself "What is this chapter about?"

2. Read the Conclusion (5-10 minutes)

That's right, read the conclusion (~~At~~ the very end) of the chapter first. By focusing on the big picture, the conclusion gives you an idea of how the chapter is organized and what the main themes of the chapter are. You might ask yourself one or more of the following questions before, during, or after reading the conclusion:

- What is this chapter trying to explain to me?
- How are the bits of information in this chapter connected?
- What are the major themes of the chapter?

Now, read the conclusion of Chapter ____ on pages ____ . After you've read the conclusion, indicate how you would answer one of the questions above.

3. Read the chapter introduction (5-10 minutes)

Each chapter begins with an introduction that is designed to illustrate at least one major theme of the chapter. Read introduction of Chapter__ on page__ and then Ask yourself the following question and write your answer below.

- What larger points or themes is this chapter intended to illustrate?

4. Read the Chapter Headings (5-10 minutes)

In each chapter, you will find 3-5 headings. These are printed in large Blue script. Don't confuse the headings with the subheadings. Subheadings are Purple color and are printed in smaller script. Ignore these for now. For each heading, you should develop a question that you expect might be answered in that section. For this exercise, choose one of the headings in Chapter__. Write the heading and one question about that heading below. Don't choose the conclusion since you've already read that.

Heading: _____

Question: _____

Reading

5. Reading the Chapter (45 min.-1 hr.)

Believe it or not, you're finally ready to actually read Chapter__. Below are some tips to help you be a more effective AP World History reader.

- Turn off the TV and computer. Take off the headphones. Now is not the time to "multi-task."
- Choose a quiet environment with as few distractions as possible.
- Underline key terms and take notes in the margins. The more active a reader you are, the more effective a reader you are.
- Take a break every 30 minutes or so. If you're having comprehension trouble, stop reading and come back to it again later.

You will probably find it necessary to read chapters more than once. A lot of information is packed into a relatively small number of pages and you are responsible for knowing all of it.