

TEXTBOOK SCAVENGER HUNT

Directions: Complete the following by skimming through your world history textbook.

The Table of Contents

The table of contents provides insight into how the author(s) have chosen to organize the textbook. Sometimes textbooks have a brief table of contents as well as a more detailed one. Use the detailed one to answer these questions. Periodization refers to how historical time is divided up. Sometimes certain periods are named (for example, "The Age of Exploration") and sometimes periods begin or end with a turning point or event (for example, the voyages of Columbus). Other time periods overlap.

1. What is the periodization used in your textbook? (List the periods with their names and dates.)

2. Is the periodization determined by specific end dates or is it overlapping?

Global Balance

3. a. In looking through the topics of the table of contents, do certain places come up more often than others?

b. What places, if any, seem left out at particular times?

c. Name two places mentioned in the table of contents about which you know very little, if anything.

The Text

4. Does the text include passages before or after sections, units or chapters that provide a big-picture explanation of the time period or topic? If yes, why might this be helpful to read (even if it is not assigned!)?

5. Choose one chapter and skim through it to answer the following question. How has the author(s) made the text more readable (font, side margin sub-headings, use of color, bold, italics, visuals on every page, etc.)? List all the ways below.

6. As this is a college text, some of the vocabulary words may be difficult. Read one random paragraph and identify any words you do not know. In your reading for the course, how will you deal with these unfamiliar words? (Look all of them up in the dictionary? Use context clues? Look up ones that come up repeatedly?)

Visuals

Textbook authors work hard to find a variety of images to complement the text. These images include photographs of contemporary places or artwork, drawings, paintings, pictures of artifacts, diagrams, charts, and maps.

7. Choose THREE different types of visuals in the text. Record the page number and a brief phrase describing each below.

- a.
- b.
- c.

8. Why did these images interest you?

Sidebars/Documents

Textbooks often have inserts or sidebars at the beginning or end of chapters, or sometimes right in the chapter. These short pieces focus on a particular topic in more depth. They are often like feature stories in a newspaper, focusing on a human-interest topic.

9. Skimming through the book (or often these are listed in a separate table of contents), write down the titles of THREE sidebars that look interesting to you.

- a.
- b.
- c.

Extras

Many texts have additional features at the end of the book. Sometimes these might include a pronunciation key, a glossary, index, timelines, or an atlas. Some texts might have these types of features throughout the book.

10. What is included at the end of your textbook?

11. Where would you go to find timelines?

12. Describe how you would look for a particular map in the book.

The Big Picture

13. Just from this brief look at your textbook, do you get a sense of how the authors see world history? Is their world history one about dates, places, and names or about themes, processes, and concepts? Some combination of the two? Explain why you think this.

14. What do you like most about this textbook?

15. What do you expect the greatest challenge will be in reading this textbook? How will you try to overcome that?