

Taking Notes

Write down *only* the most important information- don't rewrite the book.

The most effective way to take notes is to pre-read, then take notes on the 2nd pass. If you take notes the first time you read, you are more inclined to write down too much information.

Don't write in complete sentences. Abbreviate familiar words. Use symbols. This is the only time "text" language is good! Save perfect grammar, beautiful prose and spell check for DBQs & LEQs (essays).

This is about understanding the text and acquisition of knowledge. That is your mission.

Look for information that relates to the major focus questions and the big idea at the beginning of each chapter

Check out the vocab at the back of each chapter before reading. Have an idea of the key words and phrases you should be looking for (and taking notes on).

If you don't understand a word- google it. If you gloss over words you don't understand it will detract from your broader understanding of the text.

Always record dates & important people. Dates matter on the test!