**Steps to Active Reading**

1. Gain an overview of the text before reading
   * Make predictions about what you are about to read based on title, author, and any introductory information.
2. Read with Purpose
   * Find the Main Idea (highlight or underline)
   * Read the Questions before you read the text
3. Understand the Vocabulary
   * Highlight any vocab words that you are unsure of
   * Look up or ask for a definition, or use context clues to decode the vocab word
4. Connect what you are reading to background knowledge or personal experience
   * Associate ideas in the text to what you already know
     + What does your reading remind you of?
     + What units or topics have you covered in history class that relate to what you have read?
5. **Keep Track of your Reading**

* Keep a record of your thoughts as you read. Underline and reread and make notes and paraphrase (put information into your own words) as you are reading.
  + Highlight important points
  + Write in the margins of the text any connection you can make
  + Write any questions that you have about your reading
  + Write questions that the reading generates for you
* These notes can be a reminder for you later on
* Think about how this text might be used in the future.