SQR3 – A Strategy for successful, active reading

Success in social studies comes through active reading, which enables you to
1. Find the main idea and supporting details in a reading selection
2. Understand the general and special vocabulary in a text
3. Compare and contrast information
4. Think about what you are reading – evaluating
5. Concentrate on the material you are reading
6. Remember the ideas and concepts encountered
7. Interpret graphic aids

S – SURVEY  \textit{Scan the reading assignment for the following information}
- glance over terms, questions, or notes provided by the teacher before you read.
- length – approximate the time needed for this assignment.
- title/subtitle indications of subject, themes, and the organization of the reading.
- subjects and themes of illustrations, charts, and graphs.

Q – QUESTION  \textit{Seek the author’s purpose in the reading assignment}
- rephrase headings into questions that indicate the author’s purpose
- each section of reading can be seen as an answer to the question

R – READ & REFLECT  \textit{Limit distractions get down to the task at hand}
- read the selection to find the answers to your questions
- form a mental outline of the material
- jot down brief notes. If something is puzzling, make a note of the problem and page number
- look up words you don’t understand
- relate the ideas you encounter to what you already know and to your own experience
- as you become skilled, you will be able to read quickly, slowing down only when material is difficult or because you need to think carefully about it

R – RECITE  \textit{See it – say it – hear it – draw it – write it!}
- use your visual, auditory, and kinesthetic senses to increase your retention of material
- take notes in your own words, not the author’s
- complete term sheets/questions provided by the teacher
- answer the “question” you created out of each heading/subtitle
- reciting information aloud is a valuable technique – say it out loud to yourself – or to anyone who will listen

R – REVIEW  \textit{Put it all together and make sure you understand it}
- in a few sentences, rephrase the author’s thesis and major supporting evidence
- try to answer the questions you have formulated
- if you forget some information, read those portions of the material again
- study the information (the book, your notes) until recall is automatic
- review often to increase your recall of information