**How to Answer a “Short-Answer”**

**Social Studies Question:**

1. Ask yourself “What is the question looking for?

For example:

\*\*Questions with key words like “before” and “after” may be looking for dates or time periods as evidence.

\*\*Questions with key words like “information” or “data” may be looking for specific details in a summary as evidence.

1. Restate the question
2. Summarize the information you have **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**.

Borrowing words directly from the book without quoting is plagiarism.

1. Use quotes only as emphasis. Do not use them as your whole answer.

**Ask yourself “Can I say this in my own way?” if you can, then you should not be using a quote.**

**Example:**

**Q: Did civilization emerge in China before or after it did in Egypt?**

**A:** **[Restate the question]** Civilization emerged in China after it did in Egypt. **[Summarize the information]** I know that Egypt emerged in about 3600 B.C.E., but this text says that China emerged about 3000 B.C.E., so Egypt is older.

**[Source: “ A Land of Differences,” pg. 101, line 2.]**