Guided Reading on India Under British Rule

1) Contrast the population of India in the 19th century to all of Africa? How did most of the Indian subcontinent come under British control? (764)

2) What was the state of the Mughal Empire in India in the 18th century? What was the Maratha Confederation and who were the “nawabs”? Which foreign powers had either invaded India or established trading posts there (764-765)

3) Examine the map of page 765. As of the beginning of the 19th century….a) Which major river in the northeast of India ran through a largely Muslim section of India? What is the present day name of the country in that area?

b) Which parts of India were largely controlled by the Hindu Maratha Confederation?

c) Which parts of India were lands under the British East India Company (EIC) rule? Identify the names of two major cities in that region (one is India’s present day capital).

4) Who were the “sepoys”? Who employed them and why? What incident enabled the British to rule Bengal in 1765? When and how were the French ousted from southern India? Where is Bombay and when and how did the British annex this area? (765-766)

5) What does the term the “British Raj” refer to? What were their policies in India before 1850? Why did the ordinary people of India benefit from but also suffer from these policies? (766)
6) How many sepoy troops were there compared to British officers as of 1857? Why did the issuance of new ammunition to the sepoys provoke a rebellion in May 1857? Which Maratha leader promoted the “Sepoy Rebellion”? Why was it a turning point in the history of modern India? Which governmental changes were made by the British?

7) What was the role of Queen Victoria and the British viceroy in India? Describe the bureaucracy of India after 1857? What was the ICS? Why were Indians denied entry into it? (767 and 770)

8) How did the Industrial Revolution affect India in the latter half of the 19th century? Important: Why do you think that the British referred to India as the “Jewel in the Crown”? (771)

9) Who was Rommohun Roy and his “Bramo Samaj” founded in 1828? What reforms did it advocate? What values did many Indian intellectuals turn to after 1857? What role did education play in this process? (771-772)

9) Why did educated middle class Indians convene the Indian National Congress in 1885? What causes did it promote? What did it need to do to effectively challenge British rule? (772)