**Step One—Read the Chapter and Take Notes As You Go**

This outline reflects the major headings and subheadings in this chapter of your textbook. Use it to take notes as you read each section of the chapter. In your notes, try to restate the main idea of each section.

**Chapter 12: The Worlds of the Fifteenth Century**

I. The Shapes of Human Communities

A. Paleolithic Persistence: Australia and North America

1. Gatherers and hunters have a history, too

2. Manipulation of the environment and trade

3. “Complex” or “affluent” gatherers and hunters

B. Agricultural Village Societies: The Igbo and the Iroquois

1. Egalitarian kinship societies without state systems

2. “The Igbo have no king” but they did trade

3. Great Law of Peace of the Five Nations

C. Pastoral Peoples: Central Asia and West Africa

1. Timur/Tamerlame (d. 1405)

2. Samarkand

3. Fulbe

II. Civilizations of the Fifteenth Century: Comparing China and Europe

A. Ming Dynasty China

1. Emperor Yongle (r. 1402–1422)

2. Confucianism and anti-Mongol policies

3. Economic boom

4. Zheng He’s voyages (1405–1433)

B. European Comparisons: State Building and Cultural Renewal

1. Smaller states in constant conflict

2. Renaissance humanism

C. European Comparisons: Maritime Voyaging

1. Portugal takes the lead after 1415

2. Smaller ships and fleets than the Chinese

3. Motives, goals, and support

III. Civilizations of the Fifteenth Century: The Islamic World

A. In the Islamic Heartland: The Ottoman and Safavid Empires

1. Ottoman size, strength, and longevity

2. 1453: Turkish threat to Europe

3. Shia Safavids versus Sunni Ottomans

B. On the Frontiers of Islam: The Songhay and Mughal Empires

1. Islam and the trans-Sahara trade

2. Political unity and religious diversity in India

3. Muslim merchants and Sufi mystics in Southeast Asia

4. Malacca

IV. Civilizations of the Fifteenth Century: The Americas

A. The Aztec Empire

1. Mexica

2. Tenochtitlán

3. Conquest state and market centers

4. Tlacaelel (1398–1480) and ideology of human sacrifice

B. The Inca Empire

1. 2,500 miles and 10,000,000 subjects

2. State bureaucracy, resettlement, and Quechua

3. *Mita*

4. Gender parallelism but not gender equality

V. Webs of Connection

A. Empires

B. Religion

C. Long-established and long-distance trade

D. Increase in maritime trade

VI. A Preview of Coming Attractions: Looking Ahead to the Modern Era, 1500–2012

A. Extensive trade but not yet truly global

B. Coming linkage of Afro-Eurasia, the Americas, and Oceania

C. Radical change with industrialization

D. Demographic explosion

E. Urbanized, commercialized, and literate

F. Revolution of modernity

G. Rise of Europe and resistance to Europe

VII. Reflections: What If? Chance and Contingency in World History

A. Coincidence, chance, and individual decisions

B. Death of Great Khan Ogodei, 1241?

C. Scuttling the Ming fleet, 1433?

D. Siege of Vienna, 1529?

E. Insightful alternatives