

**Plagiarism Exercise**  
**World History & Geography** – from: *studentsfriend.com* - Rev. 3/15/11

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The following excerpt is from page 153 in *World History: Patterns of Civilization* by Burton F. Beers (Prentice Hall, 1991):

Han rulers encouraged commerce between China and western Asia and Europe. The silk industry in China expanded rapidly. Silk was light and easy to carry, and people in Rome and other foreign markets would pay high prices for it. Besides silk, the Chinese traded jade and bronze for horses, rugs, and Roman glass.

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**Decide which underlined phrases or sentences constitute plagiarism and which do not. Explain your decision.**

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1. The Han dynasty traded with Rome over an overland trade route called the Silk Road. At this time, only the Chinese knew how to raise silk worms and produce silk. "Rome and other foreign markets would pay high prices for it." (Beers 153) Chinese silk was worth its weight in gold in Rome.

Plagiarism: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes   X  No Why? **These words are copied directly from the source document, but they are identified as a quote with quotation marks, and the words are properly attributed to the author.**

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2. What if the quotation marks or the citation were removed from the underlined sentence above?

Plagiarism:   X   Yes \_\_\_\_\_No Why? **The author's exact words are used without making it clear that this is a direct quote, and no credit is given to the author.**

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3. The Han dynasty traded with Rome over an overland trade route called the Silk Road. At this time, only the Chinese knew how to raise silk worms and produce silk. Chinese silk was highly valued in trade centers along the Silk Road. In Rome silk was worth its weight in gold.

Plagiarism: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes   X  No Why? **The underlined sentence is not a direct quote from the author, nor is it the author's original idea. The underlined sentence is an acceptable paraphrase of common historical knowledge.**

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4. The Chinese traded bronze and jade for Roman glass and horses over an overland trade route called the Silk Road. At this time, only the Chinese knew how to raise silk worms and produce silk. People in Rome and other cities would pay a high price for it.

Plagiarism:   X   Yes \_\_\_\_\_No Why? **The underlined phrases are basically the author's words with minor changes. Changing the order of words or skipping a few words does not provide protection against plagiarism. If in doubt, attribute the source.**