

12-1 – Growth of the Cotton Industry- Pages 376-381

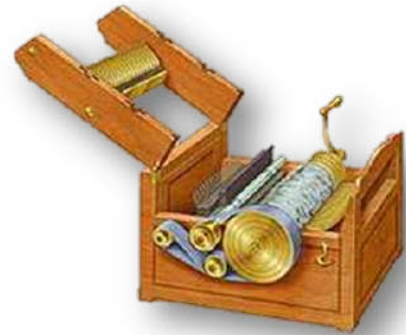
Essential Question: *How did the invention of the cotton gin make the South a one-crop economy and increase the need for slave labor?*



Main Idea 1:

The invention of the cotton gin revived the economy of the South.

- Prices for major southern crops—**tobacco**, rice, and **indigo**—**fell** after the **American Revolution**.
- ★ The South's first major **cash** crop was **tobacco**.
- Cotton was not **profitable**, because of the **difficulty** of removing **seeds**.
- Demand for American **cotton** grew **rapidly** with the rise of **British** textile **mills**.
- **Eli Whitney** patented the **cotton gin**, a machine to **remove** seeds from **cotton**, in **1793**.
- ★ The **cotton** gin worked by **cranking** the **machine** and “teeth” separated green **seeds** from cotton **fibers**.
- Before the **invention** of the cotton gin, the **value** of **slaves**
- ★ **dropped** in the South.
- Prices for **crops** were **low**, so some farmers **decreased** production and **demand** for slaves **declined**.
- Planters—**large-scale** farmers—soon adopted the **cotton gin** and were able to process **tons** of **cotton** much **faster** than **hand** processing.
- A healthy **cotton** crop could now **guarantee** financial **success** because of **high** demand.



Main Idea 2:

The cotton gin created a cotton boom in which farmers grew little else.

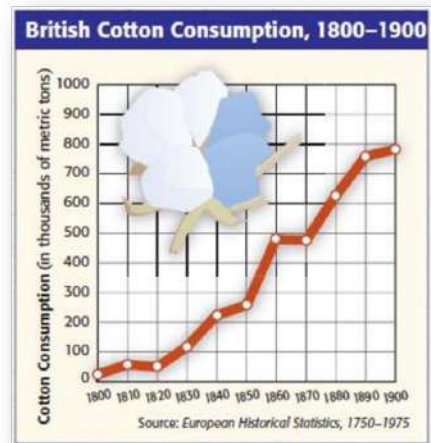
- Cotton gin made **cotton** so **profitable** that **southern** farmers **abandoned** other crops
- Removal of **Native Americans** opened up more **land** for **cotton** farmers in Southeast
- Development of new types of **cotton** helped spread **production** throughout **South**, as far west as **Texas**
 - **United States** produced more than **half** the cotton grown in the **world** by **1840**
 - Economic **boom** attracted new **settlers**, built up **wealth** among white **southerners**, and firmly established **slavery** in the **South**

Cotton Belt

- **Cotton** had many **advantages** as **cash** crop: **inexpensive** to market and easy to **store** and **transport**.
- Cotton had major **disadvantage**—used up **nutrients** in soil—so **farmers** began **crop rotation**.
- ★ **Crop rotation** refers to **changing** the type of **plant** grown on a given plot each **year** in order to **protect** the land from **mineral** loss.
- Farmers developed **stronger** types of **cotton** through crossbreeding, which **expanded** the **cotton** industry.
- Cotton **industry** was **labor** intensive; need for more **slaves** caused **increase** in **internal** slave **trade**. Instead of **paying** free workers, **planters** used **enslaved** Africans.

Cotton Trade

- Southern **cotton** was used to make **cloth** in **England** and the **North**.
- **Great Britain** became the South's most **valued** foreign **trading** partner.
- Increased **trade** led to the **growth** of **port** cities, including Charleston, Savannah, and **New Orleans**.
- Crop **brokers**, called **factors**, managed the cotton **trade**.



Main Idea 3:

Some people encouraged southerners to focus on other crops and industries.

Agriculture

- **Corn**—primary **food** crop
- Other food crops—**rice**, sweet potatoes, **wheat**, and **sugarcane**
- ★ **Sugar** became an important southern food **crop** after **1795** when a new sugar **processing** system was **invented**.
- **Tobacco** production **increased** when a slave developed an improved **drying** process.
- Hemp and **flax** also became **cash** crops.
- As long as agriculture **profits** remained **high**, investors preferred to **invest** in **land**.

Industry

- **Factories** in South built to serve **farmers'** needs
- Nation's first steam-powered **sawmill** built in **Louisiana** in 1803
- Entrepreneurs began **investing** in **cotton** mills by **1840s**
- Tredegar **Iron** Works: one of nation's most productive **iron** works
 - ★ Southern **factory** that turned **iron** into useful products for **industry** and the **military**
- Industry remained a **small** part of southern **economy**
- ★ Cash crops **hurt** the South's **economy** because they took capitalists' **attention** away from southern **industry**.

