

Activating Strategy

Describe a technological development that has occurred in your lifetime. Explain how this technological development positively or negatively impacted your life or society.

Activating Strategy

What could be considered a technological development in Georgia in the time period after the American Revolution? Why?

**How did technological
developments after the
American Revolution
impact the growth of
Georgia?**

SS8H5c. Explain how technological developments, including the cotton gin and railroads, had an impact on Georgia's growth.

Use your graphic organizer to summarize key information from the lesson.

The graphic organizer is a rectangular frame with a white background. The top-left corner features a large, stylized cotton plant with a single cotton boll. The top-right corner contains a title box. The bottom-left corner has a text box for summarization. The bottom-right corner is an open space for notes, framed by a decorative border of railroad tracks.

Cotton Gin

Technological Developments in Georgia after the American Revolution

Railroads

Summarize how technological developments after the American Revolution had an impact on Georgia's growth.

During the late 1800s, tobacco was one of Georgia's most important crops. However, it was destroying the soil.

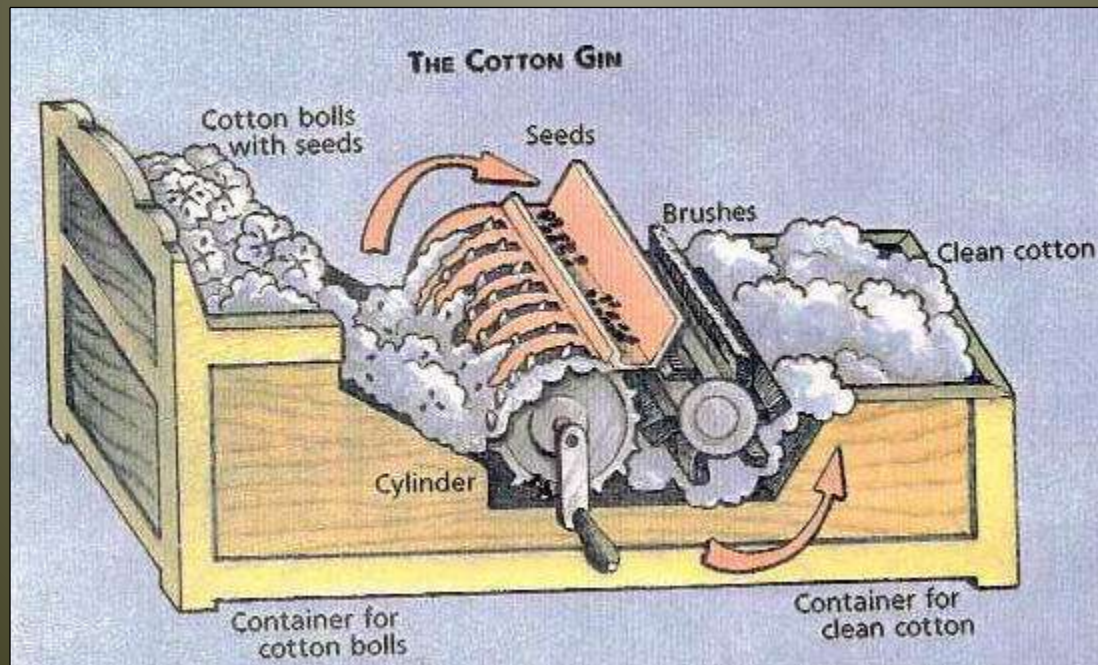
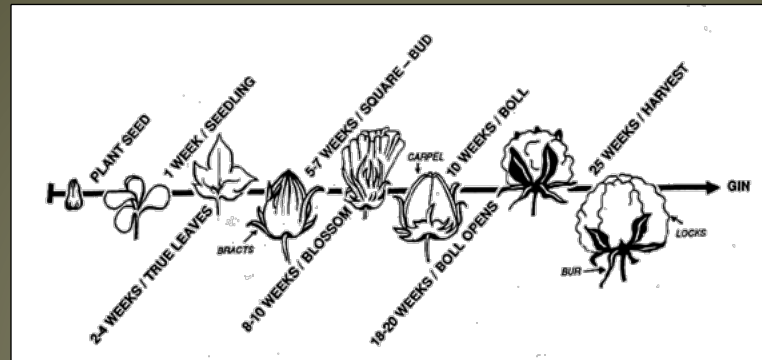
As an alternative to tobacco, the state was looking for ways to make growing cotton profitable.

Until that point, cotton had to be, for lack of a better word, “deseeded” by hand.

This process took a long time to accomplish, and most farmers could not “clean” more than one pound of cotton a day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXp-O6Sleyg>

Until...the Cotton Gin



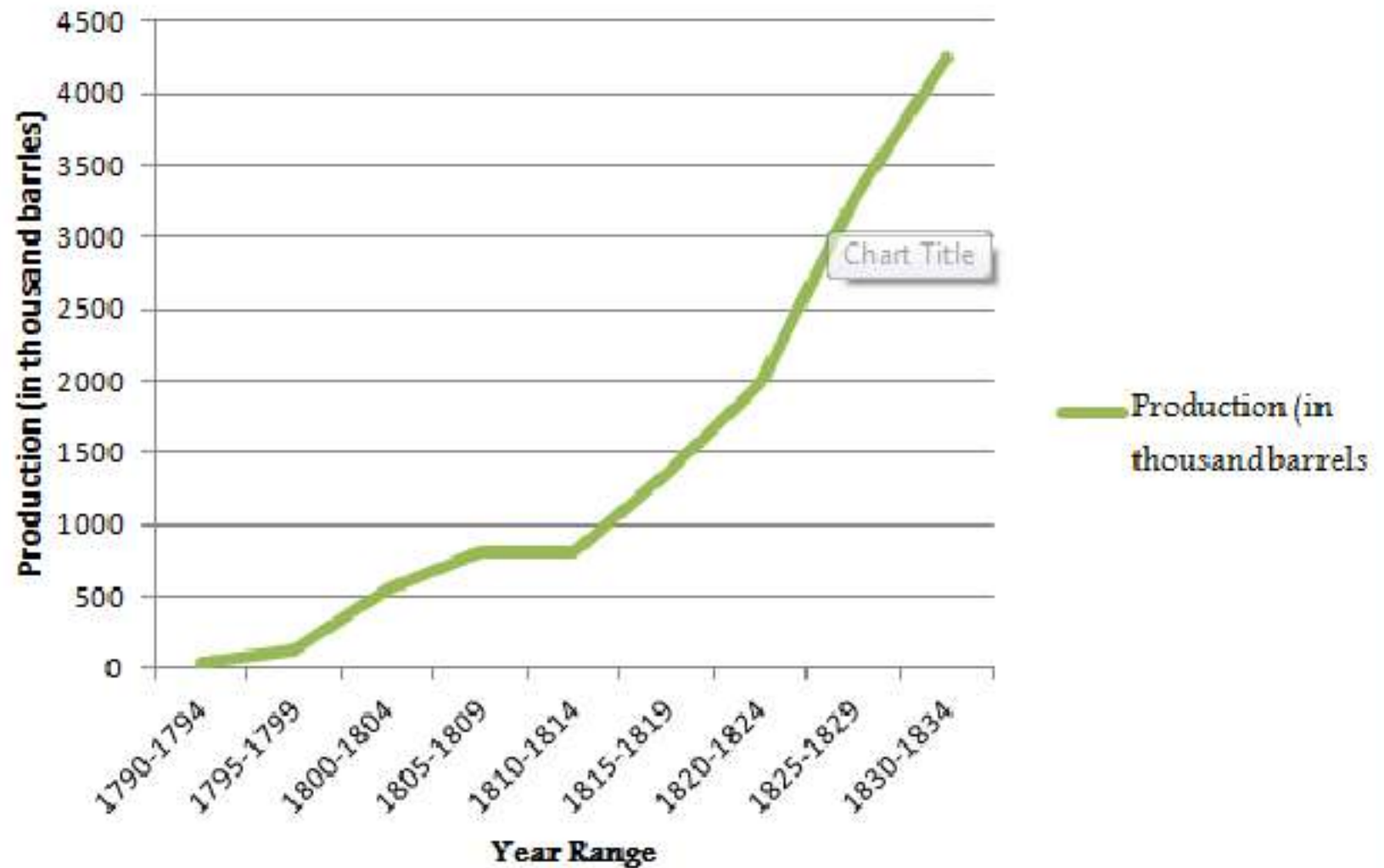
Invention of the Cotton Gin

- According to some, the idea for the cotton gin was conceived by Eli Whitney, a northerner who moved to Georgia in 1793
- The cotton gin was capable of removing the seeds from up to 50 pounds of cotton a day

Invention of the Cotton Gin

- **Due to the machine's efficiency, the growth of cotton became profitable in Georgia and the rest of the South**
- **This led to westward expansion as farmers began to seek out land capable of producing the crop**

US Cotton Production



Think, Pair, Share

- Describe a positive effect of the invention of the cotton gin on the development of Georgia.
- What might be a negative effect of the invention of the cotton gin on the development of Georgia.

Negative Effects of the Cotton Gin

- It made the South overly dependent on one crop
- Due to its effectiveness, slavery increased in the South. Due to cotton's profitability more slaves were needed in its production

How did the cotton gin lead to the South's defense of slavery?

Through the use of the cotton gin, cotton production became very profitable in Georgia. This led to an increase in slavery. Getting rid of slavery would cut into people's profits and effect the state's economy.

Think, Pair, Share

The phrase “King Cotton” is often used to describe Georgia’s agriculture during this time period. Turn to a partner and discuss why it is referred to as “King Cotton”?

Cotton Gin

[select 1-2 videos]

- Bill Nye's Greatest Inventions: The Cotton Gin (approximately 4 minutes)
- The Invention of the Cotton Gin, 1793 (approximately 2 minutes)
- The Growth of Slavery (approximately 7 minutes)

Think, Pair, Share

**What do Atlanta, Augusta,
Columbus, Macon, and
Savannah all have in common?**

Railroads



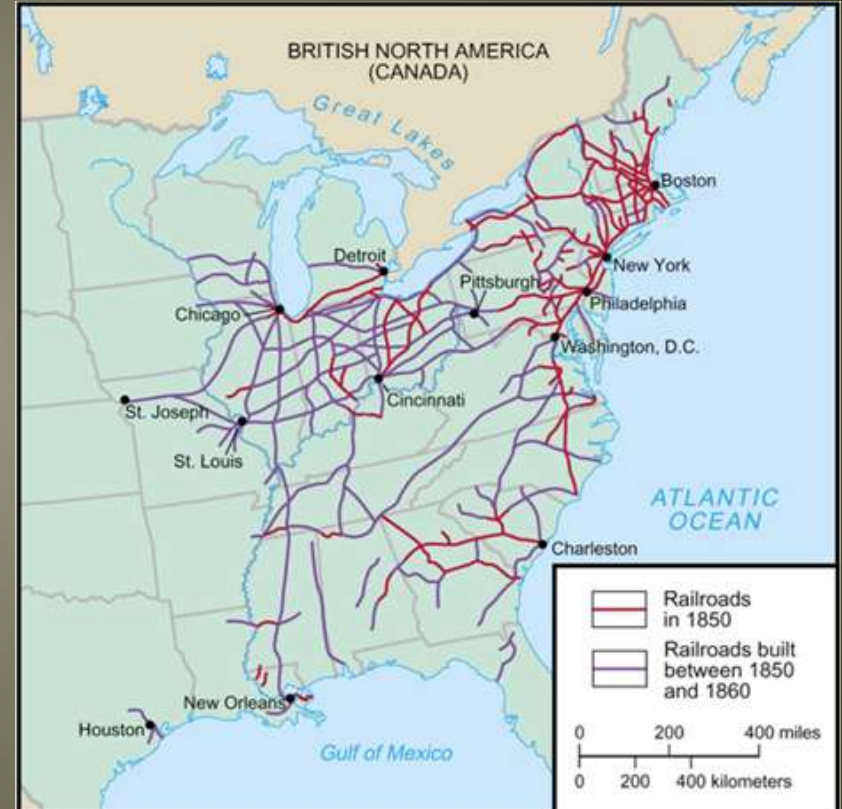
Railroads in Georgia



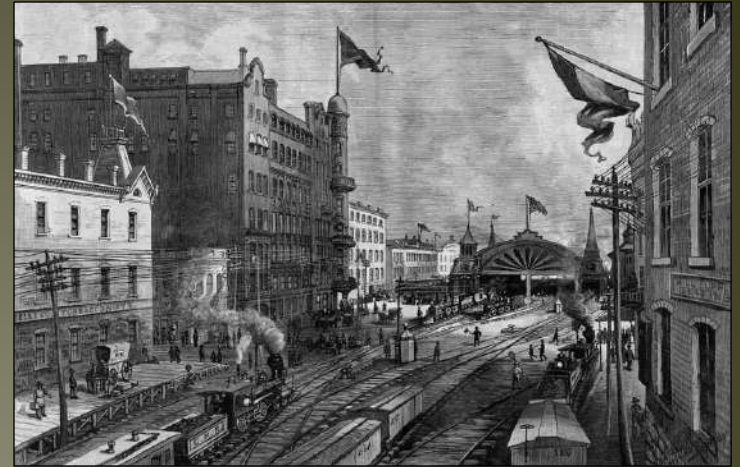
- **An important technological development that had a major impact on the state of Georgia was the invention of the railroad.**
- **Many of Georgia's cities and towns were created due to the railroad**

Railroads in Georgia

- The first Georgia railroad was created to provide a better way to transport cotton to Augusta due to poor road conditions.
- In the 1840s and 1850s, railroads had spread across much of the state
- Georgia had the most miles of track in the Deep South



- The city of Atlanta was created as a railroad hub for the Western and Atlantic Railroad.

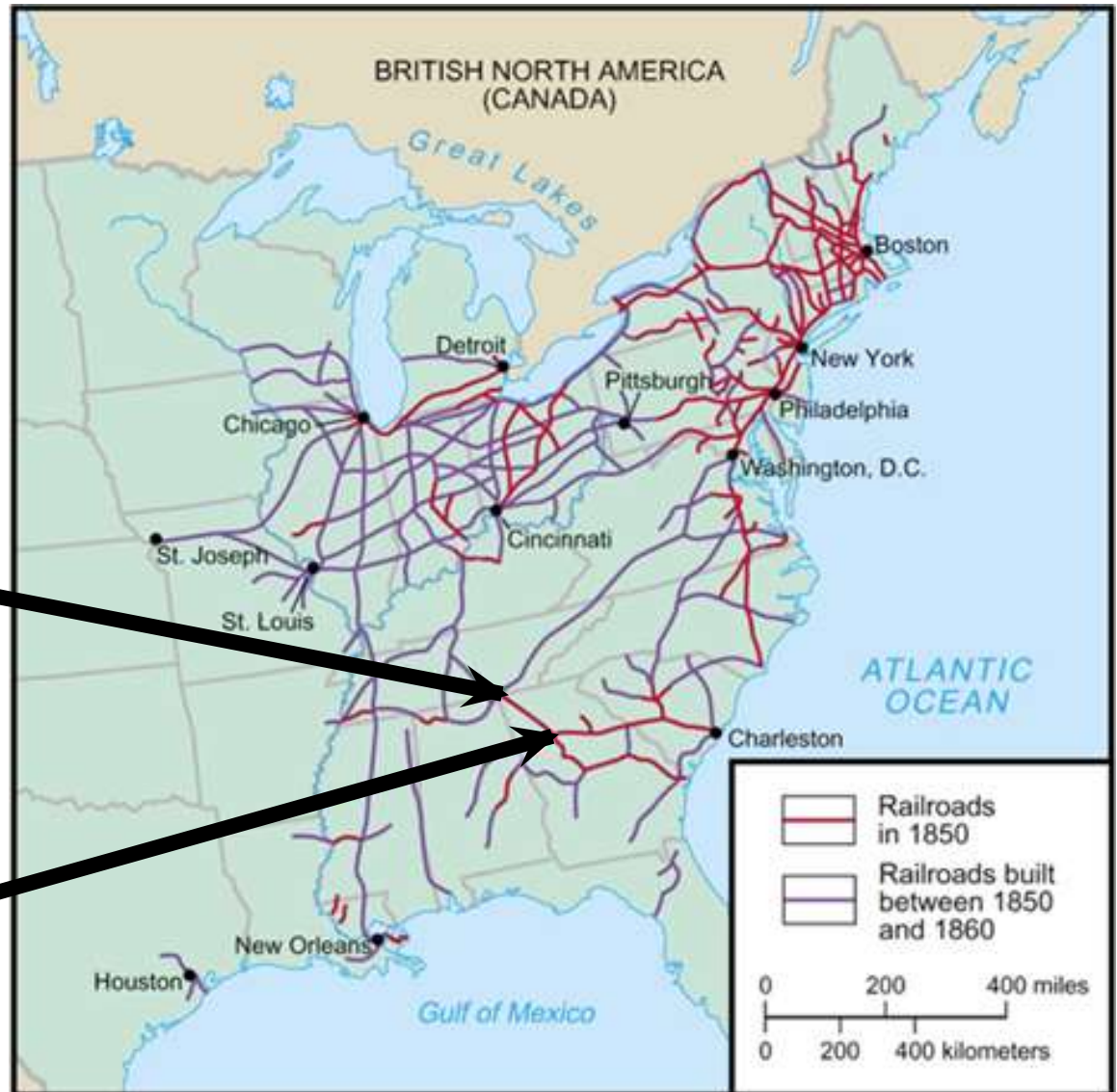


- The track ran from Chattanooga, Tennessee to a small hub called “Terminus”. Terminus changed its name to Marthasville and then finally to Atlanta in 1845.
- Later two other railroad lines combined with this hub, causing the city to grow even more.



Chattanooga

**“Terminus”
Atlanta**



Due to the invention of the railroad, Atlanta became the first major American city to be built on a location without a navigable river.



Writing Prompt

Analyze and explain the relationship between the cotton gin, the introduction of railroads, and a booming economy in Georgia. Use textual evidence from your notes to support your response.

- CC6-8RH1; CC6-8RH3; CC6-8WHST2

Quick Review

1. _____ were the means to transport cotton faster.
2. _____ was the center of railroad traffic in the South.
3. The cotton gin made little impact on Georgia's economy. (T/F) Explain your answer.
4. Railroads were an important factor in Georgia's growth in the 1800s. (T/F) Explain your answer.