

North and South

Lesson 3 Southern Cotton Kingdom

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why do people make economic choices?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How were the economies of the South and North different?*
2. *Why did industry develop slowly in the South?*

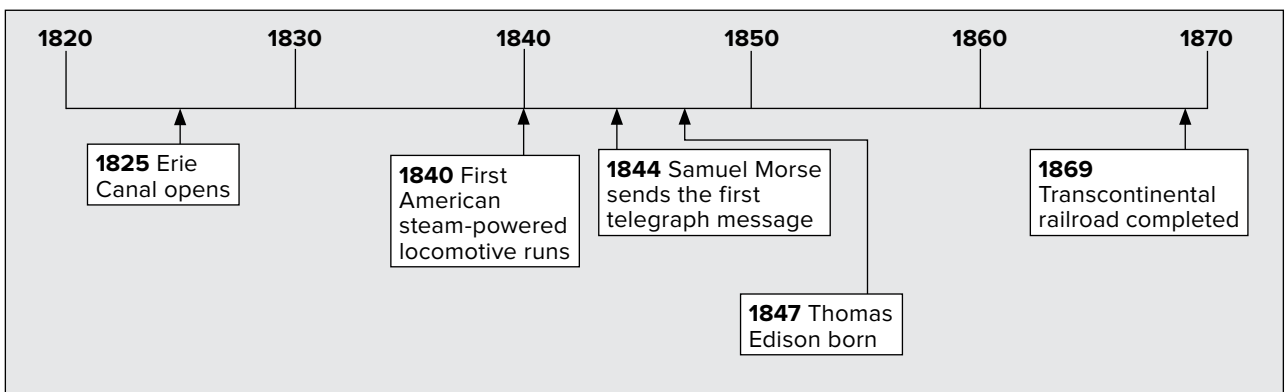
Terms to Know

productivity a measure of how much a worker can produce with a given amount of time and effort
domestic slave trade the trade of enslaved people within the United States

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



North and South

Lesson 3 Southern Cotton Kingdom, *Continued*

Rise of the Cotton Kingdom

In the early years of the United States, the South's economy was based mostly on farming. Most Southerners lived in an area called the Upper South. The Upper South was the Atlantic coast of Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. Fewer people settled in Georgia and South Carolina.

By 1850, the South had changed. People had moved away from the coast. They now lived in the Deep South. The Deep South included Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas.

The economy of the South was very strong. That economy depended, however, on enslaved workers. Slavery was growing in the South, even though it had almost ended in the North.

In colonial times, Southern planters grew mostly rice and tobacco. After the American Revolution, there was less demand for these crops. There was more demand for cotton. Factories in Europe wanted Southern cotton.

It took a lot of time and work to grow and process cotton. After the cotton was picked, workers had to carefully remove the plant's sticky seeds.

Eli Whitney solved this problem. In 1793, he invented a machine called the cotton gin. Whitney's machine quickly removed seeds from cotton fibers. Using the cotton gin, **productivity** went up. Productivity is the amount of anything that a worker can make, or produce, in a given time. Workers could **process** 50 times more cotton using the cotton gin than they used to process by hand.

Fact Sheet: The Cotton Gin

- Invented by Eli Whitney in 1793
- Quickly removed seeds from cotton fibers
- Made it easier to raise a cotton crop
- Workers could process 50 times more cotton each day

The cotton gin had other important consequences, or effects. Being able to use the cotton gin made farmers want to grow more cotton and grow it in more places. Because Southern planters used enslaved workers to plant and pick their cotton, the need for slave labor increased. Slavery spread across a larger area of the South.



Explaining

1. On what two things did the economy of the South depend in the early years of the United States?



Mark the Text

2. Underline the definition of the word *productivity*.



Making Connections

3. Why did the need for slave labor increase in the South?

North and South

Lesson 3 Southern Cotton Kingdom, *Continued*



Explaining

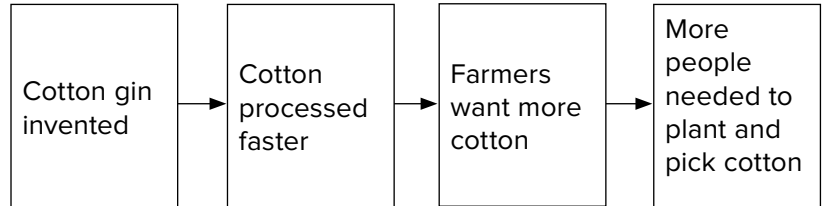
4. What was the domestic slave trade?



Reading Check

5. List three effects that the cotton gin had on the South's economy.

Effects of Cotton Gin on Slavery



By 1860, the Deep South and Upper South grew different crops. The Upper South produced:

- tobacco
- hemp
- wheat
- vegetables

The Deep South produced:

- rice
- sugarcane
- cotton

Many enslaved workers were needed to produce the cotton and sugar crops. As a result, the sale of enslaved Africans was a big business. The Upper South became the place where most of the sales took place. Because this slave trade took place within the United States, it was known as the **domestic slave trade**. *Domestic* means “local.”

Southern Industry

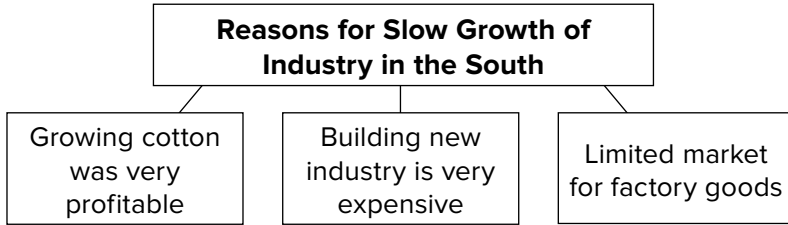
Industry did not grow as quickly in the South as it did in the North. One reason was cotton. Cotton brought great profits. Another reason was the cost of building new industries. To raise the money to build factories, planters would have had to sell enslaved people or land. White Southerners made plenty of money growing cotton, rice, sugar, and tobacco. They also made money selling slaves. They did not feel the need to earn money from industry.

There was not much market, or demand, for factory-made products in the South. Many people in the South were enslaved people. They had no money to buy goods. No market for goods stopped industries from growing.

For these reasons, it is not surprising that some white Southerners just did not want industry.

North and South

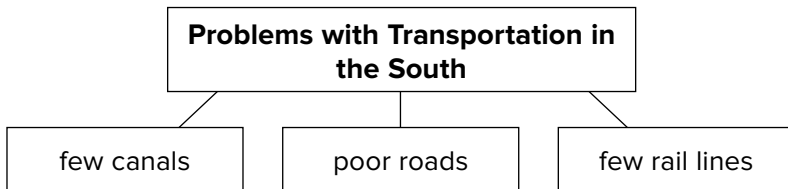
Lesson 3 Southern Cotton Kingdom, *Continued*



Some Southern leaders did want industry in the region. They thought the South depended too much on the North for factory goods. These leaders also thought that factories would improve the economy of the Upper South. A few men opened factories.

Transportation systems in the South were different from those in the North. In the South, farmers and the few factory owners moved their goods on natural waterways. Most towns were located on coasts or along rivers. There were few canals, and roads were poor.

The South had fewer railroads than the North. Southern rail lines were not long, and they were not linked together. Poor railroad systems are another reason Southern cities grew more slowly. By 1860, only about one-third of the nation's rail lines lay within the South. This rail shortage would hurt the South in the years to come.



Glue Foldable here

Check for Understanding

List two ways that the South's economy was different from the North's economy.

Why did industry develop so slowly in the South?



Contrasting

6. How were Southern railroads different from Northern railroads?



Reading Check

7. How did slavery affect the growth of the South's economy?



8. Place a Venn-diagram Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Label the left tab *Northern Economy*, the middle tab *Both*, and the right tab *Southern Economy*. Write what you remember about each region and determine what they had in common. Use the Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.