

Module 4: Creating a New Nation - 1788 to the 1840s
Topic 2 Content: The Impact of Technology on Westward Migration Notes

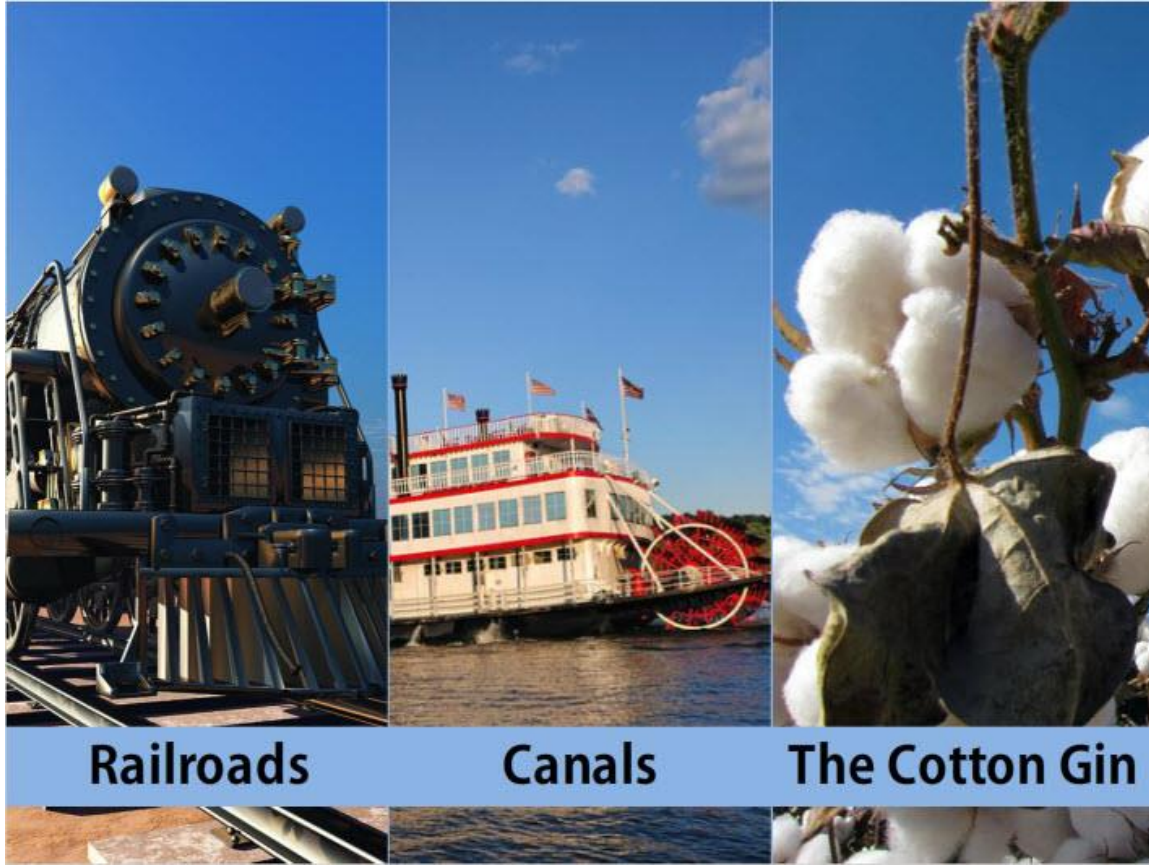
Introduction



The Impact of Technology on Westward Migration

Module 4: Creating a New Nation - 1788 to the 1840s
Topic 2 Content: The Impact of Technology on Westward Migration Notes

Instructions



Select either railroads, canals, or the cotton gin to explore the impact of technology on westward migration.

Module 4: Creating a New Nation - 1788 to the 1840s

Topic 2 Content: The Impact of Technology on Westward Migration Notes


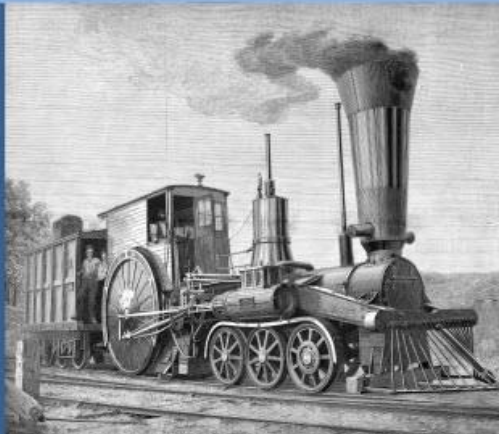
Canals



Canals were the first man-made transportation tool used to transport people and supplies from the coast to areas in the West. Rivers and lakes already served as major transportation systems during this time. Canals allowed for the connection of major bodies of water with one another. One of the most famous, the Erie Canal, joined the Northeast with the West by connecting the Hudson River in New York with the Great Lakes. These water transportation systems allowed farmers on the frontier to send back their agriculture products for manufactured goods from the coasts, allowing for a growing industrial economy.

Module 4: Creating a New Nation - 1788 to the 1840s
Topic 2 Content: The Impact of Technology on Westward Migration Notes

Railroad

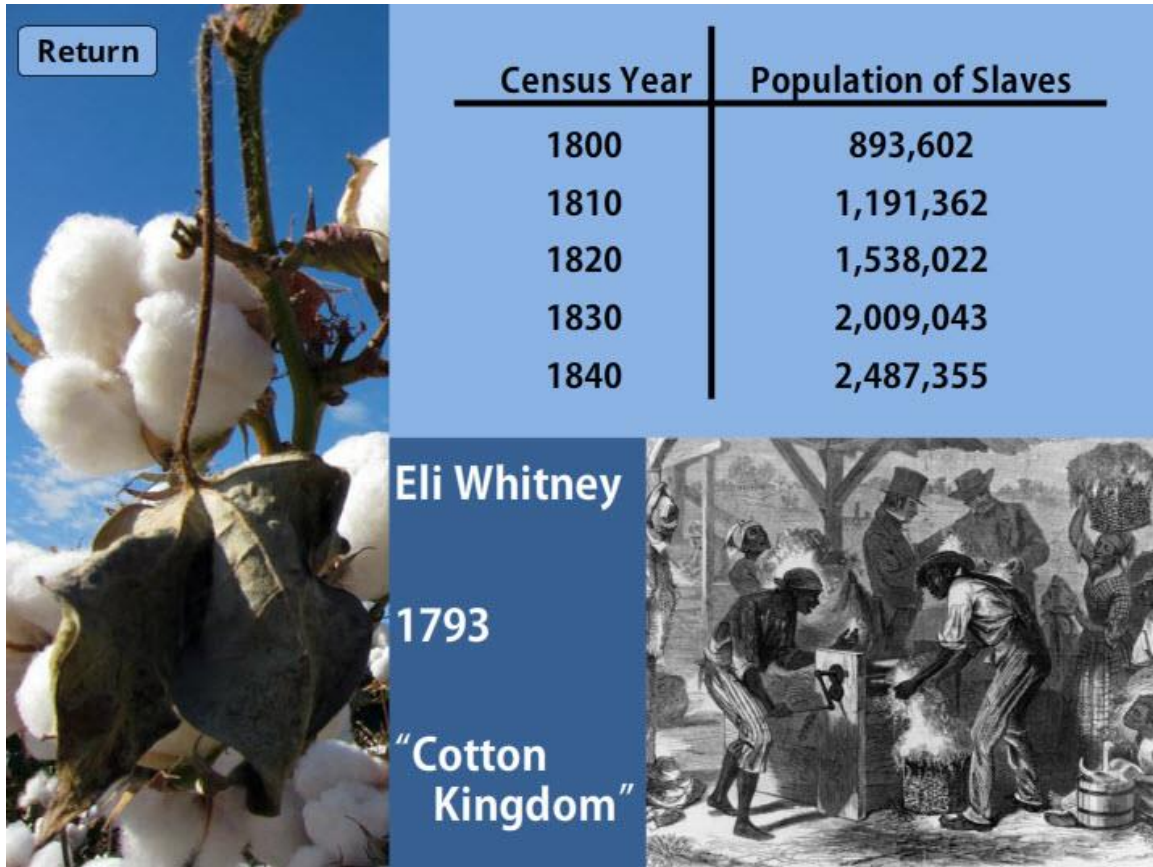
	Direct Benefits	Indirect Benefits
	Reliable Fast Cheap Useable all year	Expanded farming Extensive transportation
Transport		
1828 1860		

The railroad helped transport people and supplies to the West. At first, transportation by rail was achieved by a horse-drawn carriage. The invention of the steam locomotive in 1804 replaced the horses and influenced the building of the first American railroad in 1828.

By 1860, the United States had over 30,000 miles of railway built. The railroad provided direct and indirect benefits. The direct benefits of the railroad were reliable, faster, and cheaper travel. Unlike canals, railroads did not freeze during the winter months. Indirect benefits included the expansion of farming. Farmers could easily use the railroad to transport their goods across the country.

Module 4: Creating a New Nation - 1788 to the 1840s
Topic 2 Content: The Impact of Technology on Westward Migration Notes

Cotton Gin



Census Year	Population of Slaves
1800	893,602
1810	1,191,362
1820	1,538,022
1830	2,009,043
1840	2,487,355

Return

Eli Whitney
1793
"Cotton Kingdom"

A third American invention that contributed to the economic growth of the United States and the spread of Americans to the West was the cotton gin. Invented by Eli Whitney in 1793, it solved the problem of separating seeds from cotton, allowing cotton production to become much more profitable.

Cotton production still required a lot of slave labor. As the production of cotton became more profitable, demand for land and slaves to work the land grew in the southern areas of the country. In 1800, there were approximately 900,000 slaves in the United States. The demand for slaves increased, and by 1840, there were slightly fewer than 2.5 million slaves. The demand for new land caused many southern Americans to migrate westward, bringing slaves with them. Eli Whitney's cotton gin helped contribute to the expansion of the slavery-based "cotton kingdom."