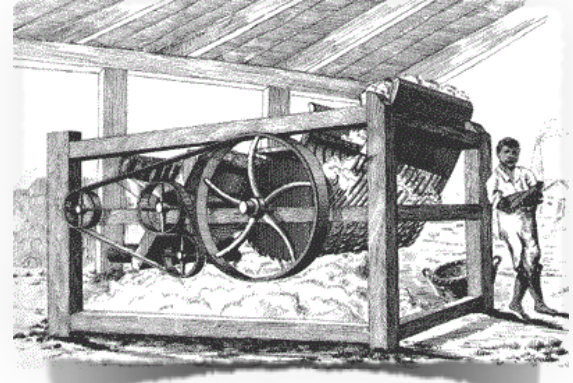
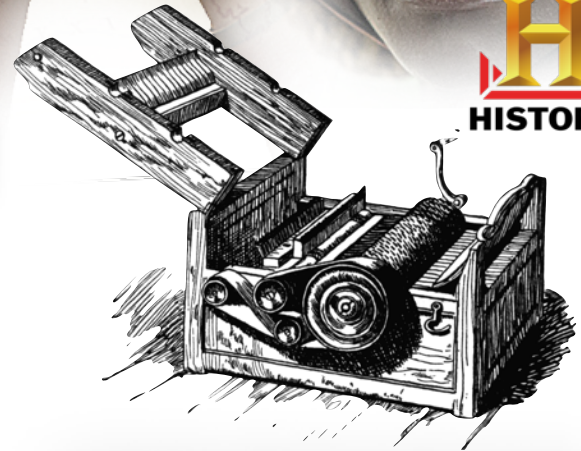


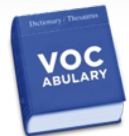


THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COTTON GIN



In the late 18th century, with the land used to grow tobacco nearly exhausted, the South faced an economic crisis, and the continued growth of slavery in America seemed in doubt. Around the same time, the mechanization of the textile industry in England led to a huge demand for American cotton, a southern crop whose production was unfortunately limited by the difficulty of removing the seeds from raw cotton fibers by hand. In 1793, a young Yankee schoolteacher named Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin, a simple mechanized device that efficiently removed the seeds. His device was widely copied, and within a few years the South would transition from the large-scale production of tobacco to that of cotton, a switch that reinforced the region's dependence on slave labor.

Slavery itself was never widespread in the North, though many of the region's businessmen grew rich on the slave trade and investments in southern plantations. Between 1774 and 1804, all of the northern states abolished slavery, but the so-called "peculiar institution" remained absolutely vital to the South. Though the U.S. Congress outlawed the African slave trade in 1808, the domestic trade flourished, and the slave population in the U.S. nearly tripled over the next 50 years. By 1860 it had reached nearly 4 million, with more than half living in the cotton-producing states of the South.



buck: homme
wench: femme



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COTTON GIN

1. What crisis did the South live in the late 18th century?
2. What changed the situation?
3. Who was Eli Whitney and what did he do?
4. What consequences did it have on the southern states and on slavery?
5. Explain the northern states situation.
6. How many slaves were there in 1860?

POSTER

6. Describe the document on the right.
7. Comment it and express your feelings about it.

GREAT SALE

of
SLAVES
JANUARY 10, 1855

There Will Be Offered For Sale at Public Auction, at the SLAVE MARKET, CHEAPSIDE, LEXINGTON, All The SLAVES of JOHN CARTER, Esquire, of LEWIS COUNTY, KY. On Account of His Removal to Indiana, a Free State. The Slaves Listed Below Were All Raised on the CARTER PLANTATION at QUICK RUN, Lewis County, Kentucky.

- 3 Bucks Aged from 20 to 26, Strong, Able-bodied
- 1 Wench, Sallie, Aged 42, Excellent Cook
- 1 Wench, Lize, Aged 23 with 6 mo. old Picinny
- One Buck Aged 52, good Kennel Man
- 17 Bucks Aged from twelve to twenty, Excellent

TERMS: Strictly CASH at Sale, as owner must realize cash, owing to his removal to West. Offers for the entire lot will be entertained previous to sale by addressing the undersigned.

JOHN CARTER, Esq.
Po. Clarksburg Lewis County, Kentucky

LEWIS COUNTY SLAVES SOLD ON CHEAPSIDE