

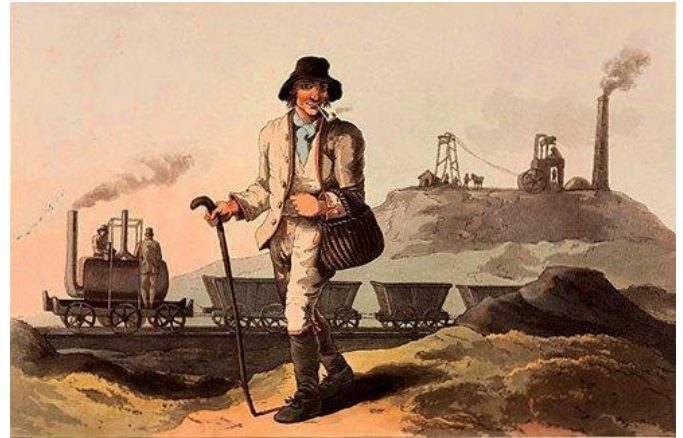
I. The Market Revolution

Aim: How did new technologies change the course of the United States?

Do Now: Read the quote below and examine the image. Then answer the questions that follow.

Throughout the centuries there were men
who took first steps down new roads armed
with nothing but their own visions”
--- Ayn Rand

1. How does the image reflect the quote?



Assignment: Read the passage of the Market Revolution and complete the questions on the right.

1. The antebellum era was a time not only of profound political change but also of great technological and economic innovation. The **Industrial Revolution** had produced new inventions and methods of production. American inventors transformed the U.S. economy with new innovations. This rapid development of manufacturing and improved farming had such a profound effect on American society that historians often refer to it as the **Market Revolution**.

2. Eli Whitney and the Cotton Gin

The first major innovation in the Market Revolution was **Eli Whitney's** invention of the **cotton gin**. For most of the 1700s, America lacked cotton. Southern planters had tried to grow cotton, but they had abandoned it for rice and tobacco because cotton had proved too labor-intensive: it took one slave an entire day to separate just one pound of cotton seeds from the fibers. The cotton gin revolutionized cotton harvesting by separating the cotton seeds and fibers automatically—it allowed one slave to produce *fifty* pounds of cotton in one day. Within several years of the cotton gin's invention, cotton had become a major crop in the South, and factories in the North were producing cotton cloth.

3. The New Cotton Economy

The cotton gin had profound effects on American history and society. Southern planters abandoned almost all other crops in favor of the newly profitable cotton. In addition, planters required enormous increases in **slave labor**. As a result, thousands more slaves from Africa and the West Indies were purchased before the slave trade was banned in 1808. The size of individual **plantations** increased, from relatively small plots to huge farms with as many as several hundred slaves each. The cotton industry in turn spurred enterprising northerners to build **factories**: southern farmers supplied the cotton, northern factories spun it into cloth, and the finished cloth was then either used at home or shipped abroad. The development of factories produced a larger, richer **merchant class** and helped create the **wage worker**, who was paid by the hour to tend to the machinery or cloth in the factory.

1. **Underline** the detail that explains why historians call it the Market Revolution.
2. What would be the **main idea** of this paragraph?
3. **Underline** one effect the cotton gin had on the South. **highlight** one effect the cotton gin had on the North.

4. Agriculture in the West

Many new products revolutionized agriculture in the West. **John Deere**, for example, invented a horse-pulled **steel plow**. The steel plow allowed farmers to till soil faster and more cheaply without having to make repairs as often.

5. In the 1830s, **Cyrus McCormick** invented a **mechanical mower-reaper** that quintupled the efficiency of wheat farming. Prior to the mower-reaper, farmers had instead produced corn, which was less profitable. Farmers in the West raked in huge profits as they acquired more lands to plant more wheat. More important, farmers for the first time began producing more wheat than the West could consume. Rather than let it go to waste, they began to transport **crop surpluses** to sell in the manufacturing Northeast.

6. Regional Specialization

Over time, **regional specialization** emerged: the West farmed to feed the Northeast, the South grew cotton to ship to the Northeast, and the Northeast produced manufactured goods to sell in the West and South. The roads, canals, and other **internal improvements** made under Henry Clay's **American System** made this nationwide trade possible.

7. Steamboats

The **steamboat**, invented by **Robert Fulton** in 1807, permitted fast two-way traffic on the nation's new waterways. Within a couple of decades, steamboats were in use on all of the major rivers, canals, and eventually on the high seas. The steamboat completely changed shipping: For the first time in history, mariners didn't have to rely on winds and currents, so they could travel directly to any port at any time. Planters in Missouri, Mississippi, and Louisiana, for example, could easily and cheaply ship cotton, rice, and sugar upriver on the Mississippi rather than send it around Florida and up the Eastern seaboard, as they had previously done.

8. Transportation: North vs. South

The Erie Canal, completed in 1825, was only the first of several canals in the North that linked western farmers with eastern manufacturers. Other major canals were built in Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Few canals were built in the South: the South produced enough food to feed itself, and it relied on Atlantic shipping to send cotton to the North and to receive manufactured goods. This relative isolation of the South prevented the South from modernizing and improving its standard of living to the degree that the North and West did. Although the standard of living improved in all three regions, the South lagged behind. Northern manufacturers shipped most of their finished products to the West, while the West grew rich on Northern grain purchases. Better transportation in the North would be a major factor in the Civil War.

9. Railroads

Railroads also allowed people and goods to move faster and more cheaply. At first, railroads were confined mostly to the Eastern seaboard (from Virginia to Boston) and in the West (from Chicago to Pittsburgh). In the 1850s, though, Americans laid tens of thousands of miles of track, mostly in the North.

10. The Telegraph

Long-distance communication was revolutionized by **Samuel F. B. Morse's** invention of the **telegraph** in 1835 (as well as the **Morse code** system that bears his name). The first **transatlantic cable** was laid in 1858, enabling rapid communication between the United States and Europe.

4. **highlight** how the steel plow impacted farming in the west.

5. **Underline** the far reaching effect the mechanical reaper had on the West.

6. **highlight** how the Western economy specialized, **underline** how the South's economy specialized, and **highlight** how the Northern economy specialized.

7. What detail shows you how steamboats changed shipping on the Mississippi River?

8. Picture the nation described in this passage. What images come to mind?

9. **Underline** how railroads improved transportation in the US.

10. What would be an appropriate question for this paragraph?

Summarize: How did the Market Revolution impact the development of the United States?