

# “The King of Cotton”

Article from *Uncle John’s Ahh Inspiring Bathroom Reader*, 2002, pages 93-96

**Directions: Read the article about the cotton gin. Then unscramble the order of the questions below (a-j) and answer them in complete sentences.**

## Looking for Work

- 1.
- 2.

## Mass Production

- 3.
- 4.

## The Big Bang

- 5.

## No Problem

- 6.

## Brave New World

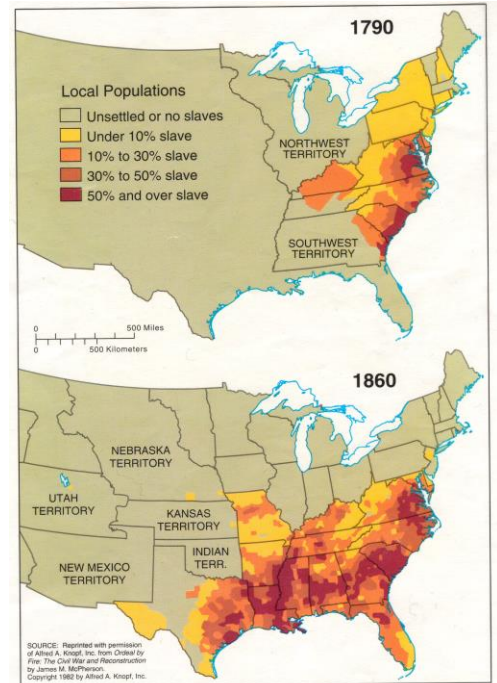
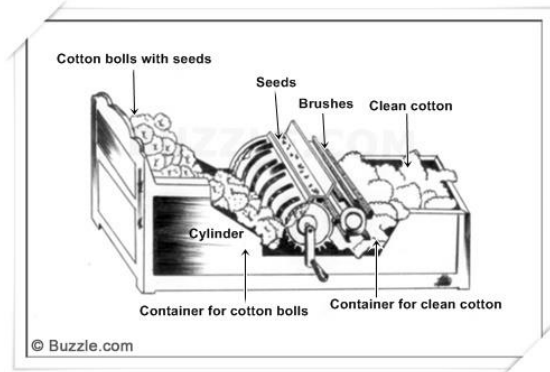
- 7.

## The Clothes on your Back

- 8.

## Chains of Cotton

- 9.
- 10.



## **Questions are out of order; put them in the correct order before answering.**

- a. Between 1765 and 1790, describe the change in demand for cotton in England’s textile industry.
- b. Why did cotton go from being one of the most expensive fabrics on Earth to one of the cheapest?
- c. Why was upland cotton essentially worthless before the invention of the cotton gin?
- d. Describe how Whitney’s cotton gin removed seeds from the cotton fiber.
- e. What product(s) does the textile industry make?
- f. Why did the demand for cotton increase in England during the Industrial Revolution?
- g. What was the change in price of slaves between 1800 and 1850?
- h. How did the invention of the cotton gin strengthen slavery in the American South?
- i. Describe how the cotton gin transformed the American South.
- j. When was Eli Whitney born?

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