

“The King of Cotton”

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

Directions: Read the article about Eli Whitney and answer the following questions, in complete sentences, on your own paper.

Looking for Work

1. When was Eli Whitney born?
2. Why was upland cotton essentially worthless before the invention of the cotton gin?



Mass Production

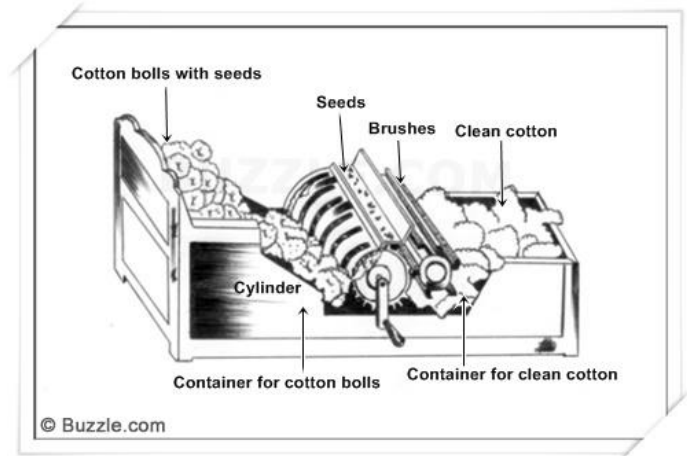
3. What product(s) does the textile industry make?
4. Why did the demand for cotton increase in England during the Industrial Revolution?

The Big Bang

5. Between 1765 and 1790, describe the change in demand for cotton in England’s textile industry.

No Problem

6. Describe how Whitney’s cotton gin removed seeds from the cotton fiber.



Brave New World

7. Describe how the cotton gin transformed the American South.

The Clothes on your Back

8. Why did cotton go from being one of the most expensive fabrics on Earth to one of the cheapest?

Chains of Cotton

9. What was the change in price of slaves between 1800 and 1850?
10. How did the invention of the cotton gin strengthen slavery in the American South?

