

Study Guide



Chapter 13, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 397–400

SOUTHERN COTTON KINGDOM

KEY TERMS

- cotton gin** A machine that removed seeds from cotton fibers (page 398)
- capital** Money to invest in businesses (page 399)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What is the economy based on where you live? Is it mostly agricultural, fishing, mining, manufacturing, or something else? How does the economy in your area affect the way you live?

In the last section, you read about how the growth of industry and increased immigration changed the North. This section focuses on the factors that led to the cotton boom in the South.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how important cotton was to the economy of the South.

Southern Economy	
Agriculture	Industry
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

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READ TO LEARN

- **Rise of the Cotton Kingdom** (pages 397–399)

Between 1790 and 1850, the economy of the South changed greatly. In 1790 most Southerners lived along the Atlantic coast in the Upper South: Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. By 1850 many Southerners lived farther inland in the states of the Deep South: Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. In earlier times tobacco, rice, sugarcane, and indigo were important cash crops in the South. By the 1850s cotton changed the economy of the South, becoming the leading cash crop.

The great demand from textile mills and Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin made it possible to make large profits from the growth of cotton. The **cotton gin**, a lightweight machine that separated seeds from cotton fibers, increased the amount of cotton that a worker could clean in one day from 1 pound by hand to 50 pounds with the new invention. Farmers wanted to grow more cotton and needed more workers to plant and pick it. The demand for enslaved Africans grew. The main crops in the Upper South were tobacco, hemp, wheat, and vegetables. The main crop in the Deep South was cotton, and in some places rice and sugarcane. The Upper South became the center of the slave trade in the United States.

1. What effect did the cotton gin have on the lives of Southerners?

- **Industry in the South** (page 399–400)

The South was mainly a rural, agricultural region. Little industry was found in the South. Farmers made so much money growing cotton that they were not interested in starting businesses. Farmers also had their money invested in enslaved African Americans and land. They did not have enough money, or **capital**, to invest in starting businesses. Many people in the South were enslaved African Americans who did not buy goods from merchants, so there was less demand for manufactured goods in the South. Some leaders worried that the South was too dependent on the North for manufactured goods. They wanted to see industry develop in the South. Some believed that factories might help the economy of the Upper South, which was less successful than the economy of the Deep South. While industry in the South was limited, it did exist.

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The South had few canals or roads on which to move goods and people from place to place. They relied instead on natural waterways. As a result, Southern cities grew slowly. The lack of railroads would negatively impact the South during the Civil War.

2. Why was there so little industry in the South?
