

Use the map provided on the blog (<http://mappinghistory.uoregon.edu/english/US/US18-01.html>).

The Spread of Cotton 1790-1860 Set your timer for 5 minutes. Read the information and analyze the map titled “The Spread of Cotton 1790-1860.” When 5 minutes is up, answer the following questions:

1. Describe the growth of cotton production. Use what you know of US history in the 1800s to explain why you think cotton spreads the way that it does.
2. Why would the creation of the cotton gin effect how profitable growing cotton is?
3. Many of the slides on the map timeline talk about the amount of cotton that was exported. What is an export? What do exports tell us about the productivity (economic strength) of a resource (like cotton)?

The Spread of Slavery 1790-1860 Click the “Next” button. Set your timer for 5 minutes. Spend five minutes reviewing and reading through “The Spread of Slavery 1790-1860.”

4. In 1790, what state has the most slaves? Think back on what you know about colonial American history. Why would there be such a high concentration of slaves in this area? What were they doing there?
5. As time progresses how does slavery spread? What regions or states rely the most on slave labor?
6. The Northern states did not support slavery. Why might they be concerned about the spread of slavery as represented on this map? How might Oregon and California play a role in their concerns?

The Spread of Cotton and Slavery 1790-1860 Click the “Next” button. Set your timer for 5 minutes. Spend five minutes reviewing and reading through “The Spread of Cotton and Slavery 1790-1860” maps.

7. What regions of the maps seem to be synched – meaning which areas grow or change in a similar way?

8. What regions do not change in similar ways? (For example: One region sees an increase in slavery, while the other map does not show an increase in cotton in that region.) What reason can you come up with to explain this difference?

9. After looking at these maps, what is one thing that you wonder concerning slavery and/or cotton?

Reflective Question

The cotton gin (short for engine) was developed in the 1790s. The cotton gin mechanically picked seeds out of cotton so that slaves wouldn't have to pick each seed out by hand. A slave picking seeds by hand could process one pound of cotton a day. The cotton gin could process 50 pounds of cotton a day.

Do machines that perform the work of a human decrease the need for human labor? Explain your answer. Use the maps you just analyzed to support your explanation.