

Lesson Plan 2 Cont./ 8th grade Reading for Comprehension

Directions: Students should read the following selection and then complete the multiple choice questions.

The Textile Industry Takes Root!

In the late 1700 and early 1800s Great Britain was the center for the textile industry. So serious was this country about protecting its interests, laws were created to prevent those knowledgeable about the technology from leaving the country. Meanwhile, from 1790 to 1810, a fledgling cotton industry was beginning to take hold in Rhode Island, but it was mostly dependent on southern plantation cotton. By 1815, 167 cotton mills dotted the Rhode Island landscape.

At that time, Boston was a financial center, but when the Embargo of 1808 and the War of 1812 bottled up Boston Harbor, wealthy shipping leaders, out of desperation, decided to invest in new textile factories. The Colonies had to become more self-sufficient. By 1846 Lowell, Massachusetts, had nine large mills, machine shops, miles of canals and thousands of people employed in the mills. Textile mills were flourishing in another part of the New World as well, beginning in 1830 through 1882, because of a peculiar geological boundary that would have an impact on early transportation and, consequently, on commerce, Georgia's fall line, where land drops from the hills of the Piedmont region to the upper Coastal Plain lands, was perfect for such an industry.

Directions: Answer the Multiple Choice Questions below.

1. During the colonization of America by Great Britain textile manufacturing was
 - a. Very protected in England
 - b. Never an economic concern in the northern colonies
 - c. Was not dependent on southern colonies cotton.
2. The first colony that became a textile center was
 - a. Florida
 - b. Texas
 - c. Rhode Island
3. The cotton industry in the South
 - a. Was important to northern textile mills
 - b. Was an economic failure to Great Britain
 - c. Was replaced with the growing of Silk
4. What hurt Boston as a financial center?
 - a. The boll weevil
 - b. The Civil War
 - c. The War of 1812
5. What made Georgia a perfect location for textile mills?
 - a. Slave labor
 - b. The fall line
 - c. The mountains

