



The Cotton Gin

General Instructions:

This task has three parts: **Part 1** has two questions; **Part 2** has two questions and **Part 3** has an essay (a narrative writing piece).



You have joined the *Great Inventor's Club* at your local history museum. Your club is currently researching important inventions, and you must choose one to write a narrative about. For your narrative, you must include information from research that you have done. To prepare for your narrative, you have decided to research the cotton gin, a machine that helped to separate cotton seeds from cotton fibers. Below are two sources you have uncovered in your research.

Instructions to Begin:

After you have reviewed these sources, you will answer some questions about them. Briefly scan the sources and write down the important points. Then, go back and read the sources carefully to gain the information you will need you will need to answer the questions and write a narrative.

In Part 3, you will write a narrative on a topic related to the source.

You will now read the two sources. You may re-examine either of the sources and the important points as often as you like.



Source 1

Eli Whitney: Inventor of the Cotton Gin

Eli Whitney, the famous inventor, was born on December 8, 1765, in Westboro, Massachusetts. He was born into an average family who farmed for a living. At a young age, Eli was expected to help his father with the everyday duties that existed on a farm. He did as he was told and spent long days in the fields, but he was also very intelligent and had a great imagination. He enjoyed creating and repairing machines. This was the beginning of the great inventions we would see from Eli Whitney.

Eli became friends with Catherine Greene and her fiancé Phineas Miller in 1792. They learned from farmers that separating the cotton seeds from the cotton fiber was a particularly difficult challenge, mainly because of the amount of manual labour required to complete the task. With this information, and with financial help from Catherine, Eli got to work on creating the cotton gin. This machine forever changed the way cotton would be farmed.

Eli partner with Phineas and they began making as many cotton gins as they could. They decided to charge farmers a fee to use their gins. This greatly upset the farmers. They did not want to continuously have to pay Eli and Phineas to use the machine, so they began creating their own. Eli and Phineas filed lawsuits, but they did not help, because of this, the financial gain the partners hoped to achieve did not happen.

Eli would have many other opportunities for fortune, though. In 1798, with war becoming a possibility between the United States and France, he entered into a contract with the government to produce the muskets, a type of weapon, which they would need. He built these muskets with interchangeable parts and started a new type of industrial manufacturing. From this invention, Eli finally received the financial reward for which he had hoped.



Source 2

The invention of the cotton Gin

The invention of the cotton gin did so much more than simply separate cotton seeds from cotton fiber. It changed history in a very big way. There were positive and negative effects that resulted from the creation of this machine. Eli Whitney was anxious to make his fortune. He most likely never knew the extent of the impact that his invention would have on the world.

To start, one obvious benefit of the cotton gin was the increased production of cotton. The machine enabled planters to separate the cotton seeds from the cotton fiber at much faster pace. Before the cotton gin, the enslaved workers of the planters would need to pick out each seed from the fiber. Because the process became more efficient, planters were able to become more profitable and before long, America was producing the majority of the cotton that the entire world was using. Steamboats were also now available to ship the cotton to places around the world and machines were now being used to spin and weave the cotton, making it into cloth. The industrial Revolution was in full swing

You might think that slavery would decline because the cotton gin was now able to do much of the work the planters had relied on enslaved people to do. Actually, the opposite resulted. The number of slave states grew from six to fifteen through the years. Planters needed more enslaved workers to grow and pick the cotton their ever-growing cotton plantations. This created more conflicts with the issue of slavery. Most of the land in the south was being used for large cotton plantations; therefore, immigrants coming to the United States went to the North, where city life and factories were flourishing. The strong division of the North and south was becoming clear. The Civil War was not far behind.



Write the important points from the sources.

<p>Source 1</p>	
<p>Source 2</p>	



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Instructions for Part 1

1. For each of the following statements, indicate using a check () whether the information can be found in source 1, source 2, both sources or neither source support each statement. (Only one box can be ticked for each statement).

Statement	Source 1 supports	Source 2 supports	Both Source 1 and Source 2 support	Neither Source 1 nor Source 2 support
Eli used the information they got from the farmers to create a machine that changed the way cotton would be farmed.				
The cotton gin allows the process of separating cotton seeds from cotton fibers to be done at a much faster pace.				
After a rough start, the cotton gin brought profits to the farmers.				
Eli Whitney made a great fortune from the cotton gin.				

2. Based on both sources, how did the cotton gin affect agriculture? Give examples from any of the sources to support your answer.

Instructions for Part 2

Answer the questions in the space provided. For help, you may refer to any of the sources as well as the important points at any time.

3. It is said that **Eli sought fame and fortune**. Identify three examples from the sources that supports this statement.

[illegible]

5. In your opinion was Eli Whitney's cotton gin a **"successful"** invention? Use details from the sources to support your opinion.



Instructions to Part 3

You may look back at the sources, your answers to the questions in Parts 1 & 2, and also refer to the important points at any time, they will help you. Now read your assignment and the information about how your fantasy story will be scored; then begin your work.

Your assignment:

It is now time to write the narrative that you will share with your club. You have decided to write a multi-paragraph narrative from the point of view of Eli Whitney's assistant. Tell the story of what happens as Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin. Make sure you develop your characters, setting, and plot using details, dialogue, and description where appropriate. When developing your narrative, use the source materials to inform and strengthen your writing.

REMEMBER: Your narrative will be scored using the following:

1. **Statement of purpose and organization:** How effective was your plot, and did you maintain a logical sequence of events from beginning to end? How well did you establish and develop setting, narrative, characters, and point of view? How well did you consistently use a variety of transitions? How effective was your opening and closing for your audience and purpose?
2. **Elaboration and evidence:** How well did you develop your narrative using description, details, dialogue? How well did you incorporate sensory and figurative language that is appropriate for your audience and purpose? How well did you use relevant material from the sources in your story?
3. **Conventions:** how well did you follow the rules of grammar, usage, punctuation, capitalization and spelling.

Now begin work on your narrative. Manage your time carefully so that you can:

1. Plan your multi-paragraph narrative



PEP Practice Test:

Language Arts - Performance Task

2. Write your multi-paragraph narrative
3. Revise and edit the final draft of multi-paragraph narrative

For **Part 2**, you are being asked to write a multi-paragraph narrative. Write your response on a separate sheet of paper. You may refer to your answers, important points and the sources.