

**Teacher:** Leigh-Ann Hunt

**Lesson Plan Title:** The Cotton Gin: A Digital Story Project

**Grade:** 8<sup>th</sup>

**Subject:** Social Studies

**Introduction:**

This lesson deals with one specific technological development that affected Georgia's growth in the late 1700's and early 1800's, the cotton gin. It will build upon other lessons and learning activities about Georgia's development during this time period. They will be using this background as a reference point to complete their research, story board, and movie. They will be researching for facts and information only. I will be providing them with a digital resource kit and a storyboard.

**Georgia Performance Standard:**

**SS8H5 The student will explain significant factors that affected the development of Georgia as part of the growth of the United States between 1789 and 1840.**

c. Explain how technological developments, including the cotton gin and railroads, had an impact on Georgia's growth.

**Objectives:**

- The student will be able to describe the impact of the cotton gin upon Georgia's growth in the late 1700s and beyond.
- The student will be able to create multimedia presentations using the Microsoft Moviemaker software.

**Duration:**

- 5 to 7 days

**Materials Needed:**

- Computers
- Microsoft Moviemaker Software
- Internet Access
- Storyboard Printouts
- Digital Resource Kit with still images, audio files, and movie clips
- LCD Projector and Screen

### **Essential Questions:**

- How did the invention of the Cotton Gin impact Georgia's economy and population?
- How can various digital resources be combined to effectively inform an audience?

### **Procedures:**

1. I will develop a Digital Resource Kit, containing video clips, still images, and sound clips, that are relative to the invention of the cotton gin.
2. I will show students some examples of digital stories to provide further explanation and build interest in the project.
3. I will schedule time in the computer lab and the media center for students to do research using electronic and print resources.
4. Students will research the invention of the cotton gin and its impact on Georgia's growth.
5. Students will take notes about important information discovered through research.
6. Students will be given a blank storyboard and information about how to access the Digital Resource Kit.
7. I will present the Digital Resource Kit, reviewing each component with the class.
8. Students will create a storyboard for their movie using the information from the Resource Kit and their research notes.
9. I will evaluate the completed storyboards and give guidance as needed.
10. Students will create a movie using Moviemaker on a computer.
11. Students will self-assess using the project rubric, and they will assess the work of another student.
12. Students will make adjustments to their movies based on the evaluations.
13. When their movie is finished, they will save it in the correct format and in the proper location.
14. Students will present their movies in class.
15. I will assess movies during the class presentation using the rubric for this project.

### **Assessment:**

- Students will be assessed on their finished movies and their completed storyboards. A rubric will be used to assess the projects.