

The Cotton South
Chapter 15 Lesson 1 Pages 235-237

Before You Read:

The title of this lesson is **Cotton** South. Look at the photos, illustrations, maps and headings all related to cotton.

Who are the people shown on page 234? What is unusual about this group of workers?

What invention was made to improve cotton production on page 235?

What do you notice about how the production of cotton changed from 1820-1860 (page 236).

What were the homes like for the plantation owners on the larger plantations?

How many acres were cotton plantations?

As You Read

What does a **cotton gin** do?

How much faster was the cotton gin, than work by hand?

Why did planters prefer to grow cotton, compared with tobacco or wheat?

List three new states that were created by farmers seeking land to grow cotton:

Why did cotton increase the number of slaves in the South?

What did the North invest its money into?

How many slaves did big plantation owners like W.S. Hyland own?

If a middle class farmer owned slaves, how many did he have?

Who were the poor whites in southern society? What did they do?

Who were the “free people of color” in southern society?

What percentage of the southern population were slaves in 1860?

After You Read

Below is a social pyramid of groups from the Southern States. At the top were the plantation owners. Write in the groups who would be in the middle and the bottom of the social pyramid in the Southern States. Be sure to include the other four groups mentioned in your text.

