

# TODAY *in* GEORGIA HISTORY

## December 8, 1766: Eli Whitney Born Daily Activity

### Introduction:

The daily activities created for each of the *Today in Georgia History* segments are designed to meet the Georgia Performance Standards for Reading Across the Curriculum, and Grade Eight: Georgia Studies. For each date, educators can choose from three optional activities differentiated for various levels of student ability. Each activity focuses on engaging the student in context specific vocabulary and improving the student's ability to communicate about historical topics.

One suggestion is to use the *Today in Georgia History* video segments and daily activities as a "bell ringer" at the beginning of each class period. Using the same activity daily provides consistency and structure for the students and may help teachers utilize the first 15-20 minutes of class more effectively.

### Optional Activities:

**Level 1:** Provide the students with the vocabulary list and have them use their textbook, a dictionary, or other teacher provided materials to define each term. After watching the video, have the students write a complete sentence for each of the vocabulary terms. Student created sentences should reflect the meaning of the word based on the context of the video segment. Have students share a sampling of sentences as a way to check for understanding.

**Level 2:** Provide the students with the vocabulary list for that day's segment before watching the video and have them guess the meaning of each word based on their previous knowledge. The teacher may choose to let the students work alone or in groups. After watching the video, have the students revise their definitions to better reflect the meaning of the words based on the context of the video. As a final step, have the students compare and contrast their definitions to their textbook, dictionary or other teacher provided materials definitions.

**Level 3:** Provide the students with the vocabulary list and have them use their textbook, a dictionary, or other teacher provided materials to define each term. After watching the video, have the students write a five sentence paragraph based on the provided writing prompts.

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## Vocabulary/Writing Prompts:

### Vocabulary Terms

Pan  
Plantation  
Inventive  
Revolutionized  
Profitable  
Concept  
Interchangeable

### Writing Prompts

1. Does technology change society and culture? In a five-sentence paragraph explain how the technology of the Cotton Gin changed the society and culture of Georgia.
2. In a five-sentence paragraph explain how the technology of interchangeable parts impacted not only the cotton industry, but also the later industrial revolution.
3. How do humans, nature, technology all interact in the story of the cotton gin? In a five-sentence paragraph explain how the natural characteristics of short-staple-cotton forced the humans to use technology to create economic prosperity.

## Related Georgia Performance Standards:

### Reading Across the Curriculum (Grades 6-12)

#### SSRC1 Students will enhance reading in all curriculum areas by:

- c. Building vocabulary knowledge
  - Demonstrate an understanding of contextual vocabulary in various subjects.
  - Use content vocabulary in writing and speaking.
  - Explore understanding of new words found in subject area texts.
- d. Establishing context
  - Explore life experiences related to subject area content.
  - Discuss in both writing and speaking how certain words are subject area related.
  - Determine strategies for finding content and contextual meaning for unknown words.

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**Grade 8 Georgia Studies**

**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.**

- a. Explain the establishment of the University of Georgia, Louisville, and the spread of Baptist and Methodist churches.
- b. Evaluate the impact of land policies pursued by Georgia; include the headright system, land lotteries, and the Yazoo land fraud.
- c. Explain how technological developments, including the cotton gin and railroads, had an impact on Georgia's growth.
- d. Analyze the events that led to the removal of Creeks and Cherokees; include the roles of Alexander McGillivray, William McIntosh, Sequoyah, John Ross, Dahlonega Gold Rush, Worcester v. Georgia, Andrew Jackson, John Marshall, and the Trail of Tears.

**United States History 9-12**

**SSUSH7 Students will explain the process of economic growth, its regional and national impact in the first half of the 19th century, and the different responses to it.**

- a. Explain the impact of the Industrial Revolution as seen in Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin and his development of interchangeable parts for muskets.
- b. Describe the westward growth of the United States; include the emerging concept of Manifest Destiny.
- c. Describe reform movements, specifically temperance, abolitionism, and public school.
- d. Explain women's efforts to gain suffrage; include Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Seneca Falls Conference.
- e. Explain Jacksonian Democracy, expanding suffrage, the rise of popular political culture, and the development of American nationalism.

**Grade Four US History to 1850**

**SS4H3 The student will explain the factors that shaped British colonial America.**

- a. Compare and contrast life in the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern colonies.
- b. Describe colonial life in America as experienced by various people, including large landowners, farmers, artisans, women, indentured servants, slaves, and Native Americans.