

**SAMPLE LESSON PLAN**  
**8th Grade Social Studies**  
**Lecture and Activity**

**Subject:** This lesson is an 8th grade social studies lesson.

**Content Standard:** Specifically, this lesson meets the following Content Standard for 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies:

8.7 Students analyze the divergent paths of the American people in the South from 1800 to the mid-1800s and the challenges they faced.

**Materials:** discussion template, list of key terms, overhead projector, transparency of template, paper and pencil, textbook, picture of cotton gin.

**OPENING**

**Attention:** "Okay class, time to begin." Raise hand in air and countdown with fingers---  
"Five, four, three, two, one."

**Review:** "Let's quickly review what we have been learning about. Who can tell me one fact you remember about life in the South during the late 1700s and into the 1800s?"  
"Somebody else?"

**Goal:** "During today's lesson we will be learning how increased demand for cotton affected the South. We will also learn about the invention of something called the cotton gin. What do you suppose the cotton gin was?" "Finally, we will complete a worksheet about today's topic."

**BODY**

**Model: I Do It**

Tell the students that new inventions in the Northern textile mills caused an increase demand for cotton, the main cash crop in the South.

Explain how the agricultural economy of the South was different than the more industrial economy of the North. Explain how the South's cotton production connected to the Northeastern cotton mills.

Finally, talk about how the invention of the cotton gin made cotton production more profitable and widespread in the South. Use a picture of the cotton gin to explain how it worked.

During the lesson, define key concepts such as cash crop and plantation. Write the definitions on the overhead transparency.

**Prompt: We Do It**

"Okay, together, we will read Chapter 10 from the textbook. Before we do, please copy the definitions of the key terms I used onto your handout."