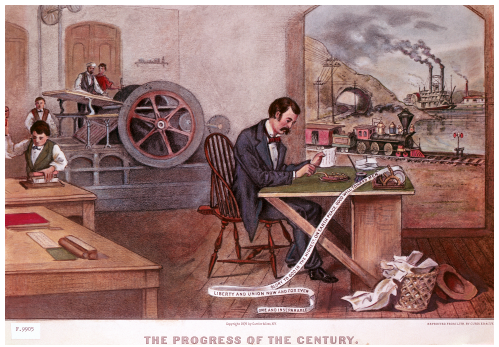
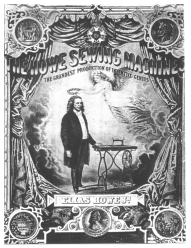
Early American Industrialism



The Currier & Ives lithograph to the left depicts four of the major inventions of the nineteenth century: the steam press, the electric telegraph, the locomotive, and the steamboat.



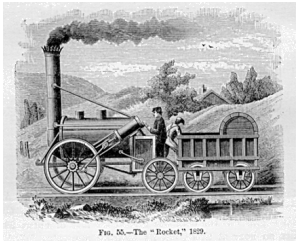
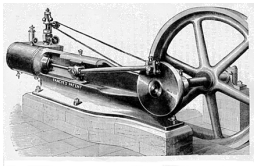


Fig. 55.—The "Rocket," 1829.



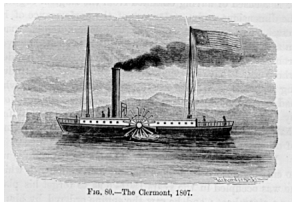


Fig. 80.—The Clermont, 1807.

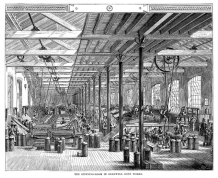
Production Changes in America

from natural power → to artificial power

from regional distribution → to national distribution

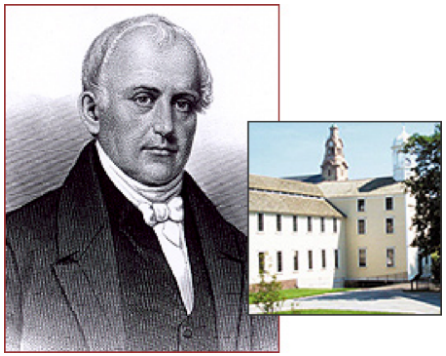
from at-home production (cottage industry) → to factory production (industry)

from Great Britain being the world's industrial leader → to a concentration of the textile industry in America's Northeast



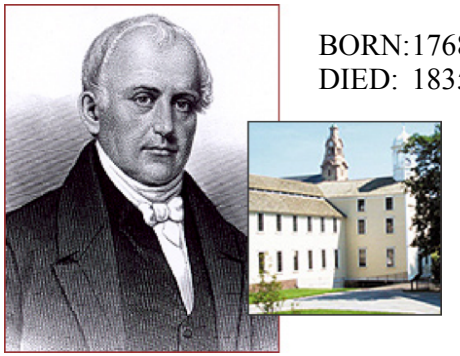
Samuel Slater:
Father of the American Factory System

BORN:1768, Derbyshire, England
DIED: 1835, Webster, MA



Samuel Slater:
Father of the American Factory System (1)

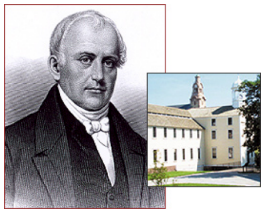
Slater divided factory work into such simple steps that children aged four to ten could do it -- and did. While such child labor is not allowed today, American children were traditionally put to work around the farm as soon as they could walk. Slater's factory system became a valuable vocation for children.



BORN:1768, Derbyshire, England
DIED: 1835, Webster, MA

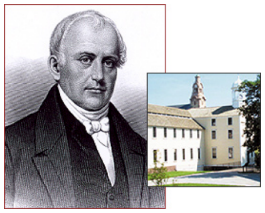
Samuel Slater:
Father of the American Factory System
(2)

English Factory Worker
Samuel Slater has been called the "father of the American factory system." He was born in Derbyshire, England on June 9, 1768. The son of a yeoman farmer, Slater went to work at an early age as an apprentice for the owner of a cotton mill. Eventually rising to the position of superintendent, he knew everything about the mill machines designed by Richard Arkwright, a genius whose other advances included using water power to drive his machines and dividing labor among groups of workers.



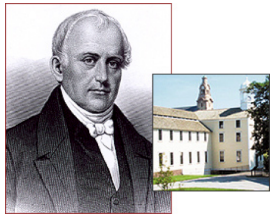
Samuel Slater:
Father of the American Factory System
(3)

Sneaky Departure
Slater dreamed of making a fortune by helping to build a textile industry. He did so covertly: British law forbade textile workers to share technological information or to leave the country. In 1789, Slater emigrated to the United States, having memorized the details of Britain's innovative machines.



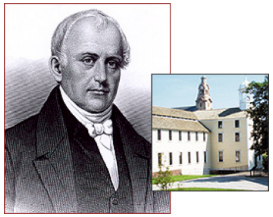
Samuel Slater:
Father of the American Factory System
(4)

Rhode Island Mill
With the support of a Quaker merchant, Moses Brown, Slater built America's first water-powered cotton spinning mill in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. By the end of 1790, it was up and running, with workers walking a treadmill to generate power. By 1791, a waterwheel drove the machinery that carded and spun cotton into thread.



Samuel Slater:
Father of the American Factory System
(5)

America's Industrial Revolution
Slater employed families, including children, to live and work at the mill site. He quickly attracted workers. In 1803, Slater and his brother built a mill village they called Slatersville, also in Rhode Island. It included a large, modern mill, tenement houses for its workers, and a company store -- a small pocket of industry and a ready-made rural village. Slater's factory system became known as the Rhode Island System. It was soon imitated -- and improved upon by innovators like Francis Cabot Lowell -- throughout New England. Slater died in 1835.



Samuel Slater:
Father of the American Factory System

1. In the early 1800s, when were American children traditionally put to work?

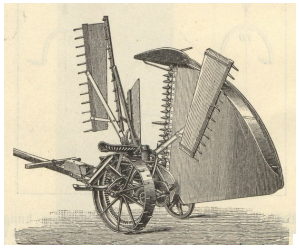
2. What was Samuel Slater's nickname?

3. Why was it dangerous for Slater to emigrate to America?

4. What did Slater build with the help of a Quaker merchant named Moses Brown?

5. What was Slater's factory system, also known as the Rhode Island System, like?

New Inventions - Agriculture

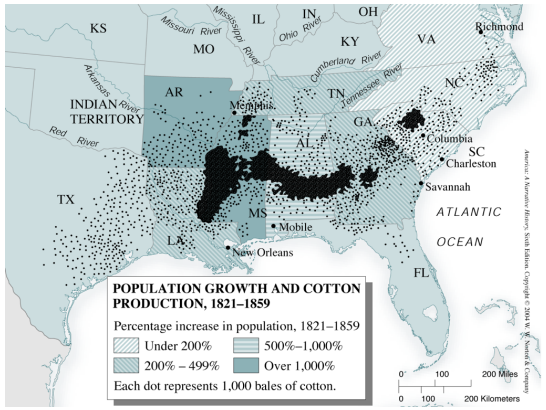


Cyrus McCormick (1834): mechanical reaper

John Deere (1837): steel plow

Eli Whitney's cotton gin (1793)
1 worker used to be able to hand clean 1 lb. cotton/day
1 worker can now clean 50 lbs. cotton/day
use waterpower = 1,000 lbs./day

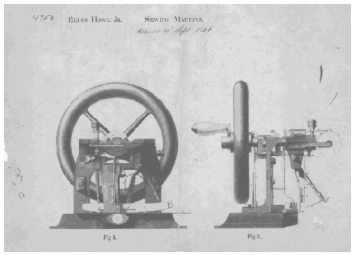
King Cotton



while industry was the king of the North, Cotton was king of the South (everything: economics, politics, society)

after the mass implementation of the cotton gin, the number of slaves quadrupled planting, growing, harvesting: all labor intensive activities needing large labor force (slaves)

New Inventions - Industry



Elias Howe: sewing machine (patent granted Sept 10, 1846)

"Occupational portrait of a woman working at a sewing machine." Ca. 1853. America's First Look into the Camera: Daguerreotype Portraits and Views, 1839-1862, Library of Congress

Samuel Morse (1861): telegraph key and receiver

made transportation and communication faster and more efficient