

Name: _____ Hour: _____

Crash Course Black American History #13: The Rise of Cotton - <https://nerdfighteria.info/v/83eJfEFFZ74/>

Introduction: Cotton

What are THREE things on your body right now or in your house which are made (at least partly) of cotton?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

4. Cotton was largely grown in what part of the United States? _____

5. Why did it grow better there than in other places? _____

6. A lot of America's historical wealth was built on the cotton trade, and the cotton trade was built on the labor of _____.

7. Although they didn't have cotton plantations or that many slaves, many white people in the _____ got rich because of cotton and slavery as well. How?

→ Textile mills which turned cotton into fabrics for clothing, bedding, etc.

→ Shipbuilding and shipping cotton around the globe

8. What does it mean to say that even nations which didn't have slavery themselves "incentivized" the use of slaves to grow cotton in the United States? {You may figure this out from context or use a dictionary.}

*****OPENING CREDITS*****

What were THREE things people around the world wanted cotton for?

9. _____ 10. _____ 11. _____

12. What did the U.S. have more of than almost anywhere else that made them a leader in cotton production?

{Hint: it's not "slaves" – slavery grew largely because the U.S. had so much of this.} _____

13. Clint Smith says the work of actually growing cotton wasn't just backbreaking, it was _____

The Cotton Gin (Thought Bubble)

14. What did the cotton gin change about the process of picking and preparing cotton? (You don't need a detailed technical explanation – just the general idea): _____

15. How did the cotton gin lead to an increase in the number of people being enslaved in the south? _____

Demand for more cotton meant demand for more of other things as well. Name TWO of them:

16. _____ 17. _____

18. What nickname was given to cotton during this time? "King Cotton"

Cotton Around the U.S. and Across the Globe

19. Cotton was a “driving force for _____ in the Old Southwest.”
20. Cotton was an important part of the trade between the U.S. and _____.
21. The New England states were heavily dependent on raw cotton for their _____ revolution.
22. Why does Clint Smith say that “any notion that the North wasn’t intimately involved in slavery is something we should immediately toss out the window”? (Explain in your own words, please.) _____
23. England (Britain) had outlawed slavery by the early 1800s, and yet Smith would argue they were benefitting from slave labor in the U.S. as well. How? (Explain in your own words, please.) _____
24. Clint Smith even considers cotton one of the main causes of the _____.
25. Even after the Civil War, the South was able to use cotton to make sure they’d still have _____.

The Economic Implications of Slavery (Then AND Now)

26. For hundreds of years, “Black people’s labor” played a huge role in America’s growth into a “_____” even though the people doing the work didn’t receive the benefits.
27. {The American Dream was largely built on property ownership, but} _____ weren’t usually allowed to own property – and even when they did, it could be taken away pretty easily.
28. AFTER the Civil War, the _____ system wasn’t much better.
29. This system kept Black Americans in _____ and made it difficult for them to own their own land (or much of anything else).
- 30-31. What is “generational wealth” and how does Clint Smith believe it impacts Black families even today, 150 years after slavery was outlawed by the Thirteenth Amendment? (Please explain in your own words. You are welcome to look up “generational wealth” in other sources as well to assist your response IF it’s helpful.) _____
- 32-33. What dilemma (or “difficult question”) does this leave us with today, according to Clint Smith? (Explain in your own words, please.) _____