

Local History: The Lancashire Cotton Industry

Prior Knowledge

Year 3, What was life like in Helmshore during the Victorian Era?

You will start this unit by recalling all you remember from this topic.

Key Vocabulary:

word	picture	definition
Lancashire		A county in the North West of England, where you live.
The Cotton Gin		The Cotton Gin means cotton engine. It is a machine invented by Eli Whitney in 1793. It quickly separates cotton fibres from their seeds.
Exports		To send goods or services to another country for sale.
Slave Labour		People are forced to work for long hours, in difficult conditions for little to no money or reward.
Cotton		Cotton is a natural fiber which grows on a plant. We use cotton to make clothes. Your school t-shirt is made from this material.
American Civil War		The American Civil War (where different parts of the same country disagree) stopped Southern Ports in America from sending their cotton to Lancashire. Without the cotton people in Lancashire were made unemployed and the mills closed.
Transatlantic Slave Trade		Lasted almost 400 years, this was the transportation of enslaved African people for goods such as clothes, iron and sugar.

Key learning: How significant was the Lancashire Cotton Industry for the people of Lancashire and beyond?

Lesson 1	How were clothes made in the past and how has this process changed?
Lesson 2	How significant was the Lancashire Cotton Industry for the people of Lancashire?
Lesson 3	What was life like for the Lancashire cotton factory workers?
Lesson 4	How did the 1862 cotton famine affect the people of Lancashire?
Lesson 5	Did the cotton grow here? Where did it come from? Who was involved? What was their life like?
Lesson 6	What was the Transatlantic Slave Trade? Was Great Britain involved?
Lesson 7	Were the Lancashire Cotton Industry and the Transatlantic Slave Trade linked?

Next Steps

Year 6- The Slave Trade.