

Nationalism and Sectionalism**Lesson 5****The Market Revolution****Key Terms and People**

specialization In farming, the raising of one or two crops for sale rather than a variety of foods for personal use

market revolution Economic changes where people buy and sell goods rather than make them themselves

capitalism Economic system in which individuals and businesses control the means of production

entrepreneur Business owner

Samuel F.B. Morse Inventor of the telegraph

telegraph Device that sends messages by wires

John Deere Inventor of the steel plow

Cyrus McCormick Inventor of the mechanical reaper

Before You Read

In the last lesson you read about Jackson's policies related to tariffs and the national bank and the formation of the Whig Party. In this lesson you will learn how changes in technology affected the American economy.

As You Read

Use a chart to take notes on important 19th century inventions and their role in expanding the national economy.

U.S. MARKETS EXPAND**What was the Market Revolution?**

The United States experienced great economic changes during the first half of the 1800s. The country became more industrialized, and workers began to spend the money they earned on goods made by others. In addition, many farmers changed their practices. Before, they raised a variety of crops to meet their own needs. Now, they turned to **specialization**, raising one or two cash crops that they could sell.

These changes brought about a **market**

revolution, in which people bought and sold goods rather than making them for themselves. This new process depended on **capitalism**, an economic system in which private businesses and individuals control production to make a profit.

Entrepreneurs, or business owners, invested money in new industries. If the industry failed, they lost the money. If it succeeded, entrepreneurs grew wealthy.

Inventor-entrepreneurs began making goods to make life more comfortable.

Vulcanized rubber, invented in 1839, did not freeze, and people used it to protect

Lesson 5, *continued*

their boots. Later, this type of rubber was used to make automobile tires. The sewing machine, invented in 1846, and the addition of the foot treadle greatly reduced the time it took to sew products. This led to factory production of clothing and made clothes cost less.

The growing number of workers in cities led to increased demand for food. Farmers used machines to plant and harvest crops to meet this demand. Farmers often bought more equipment and manufactured goods with their earnings. Many rural women had less field work because of farming machinery. Some created home businesses selling clothes, crafts, or farm goods.

1. What was the market revolution?

THE ECONOMIC REVOLUTION
How did inventions change life in the United States?

New inventions also changed life in the United States. Some made life more comfortable and others led to an economic revolution by changing manufacturing, transportation, and communication.

Samuel F.B. Morse patented the **telegraph** in 1837. This device could send messages by wire in a few seconds. Businesses used this new communication device to transmit orders and relay up-to-date information on prices and sales. New railroads used the telegraph to keep trains moving regularly and to warn engineers of safety hazards. By 1854 some 23,000 miles of telegraph wire crossed the country.

Inventions improved transportation. Steamboats made river travel quicker

and cheaper. In places that didn't have passable rivers, people dug canals. The Erie Canal, which opened in 1825, reduced freight charges and transportation times.

Soon, people began building railroads to move goods. Transporting goods by railroads was more expensive than by canals. However, railroads moved goods faster. Eventually, the cost of shipping goods by railroad became less expensive. By 1850 almost 10,000 miles of railroad track had been laid in the United States. By 1859 railroads carried 2 billion tons of freight a year.

2. What areas did inventions help to improve?

NEW MARKETS LINK REGIONS
How did farming improve?

By the 1840s improved transportation made America's regions interdependent. Regions developed regional specialties. The South exported cotton to Great Britain and New England. The West sent grain and livestock to the East. The East manufactured textiles and machinery.

The South remained mostly agricultural, raising cotton, tobacco, and rice. Demand for products meant farmers needed more slaves. Few immigrants settled in the South because of slavery. Those who did were against it. Conflicts worried southerners.

The Northeast became the nation's manufacturing center. Workers there made more and better goods at lower prices.

The Midwest became a farming center. Inventions made farmers' lives easier. The steel plow, invented in 1837

Lesson 5, *continued*

by **John Deere**, helped them prepare the land for planting. Farmers used the mechanical reaper, invented by **Cyrus McCormick**. With it, one farmer could do the work of five.

Now, farmers could shift from farming for the family to producing cash

crops. Railroads and canals would then carry their crops to markets worldwide.

3. What two inventions helped to improve farming?

Fill in the chart detailing how the inventions aided the national market economy.

How did these inventions help expand the national market economy?	
1. Vulcanized rubber	
2. Sewing machine (and improvements)	
3. Telegraph	
4. Steamboat	
5. Railroad	
6. Steel plow	
7. Mechanical reaper	