

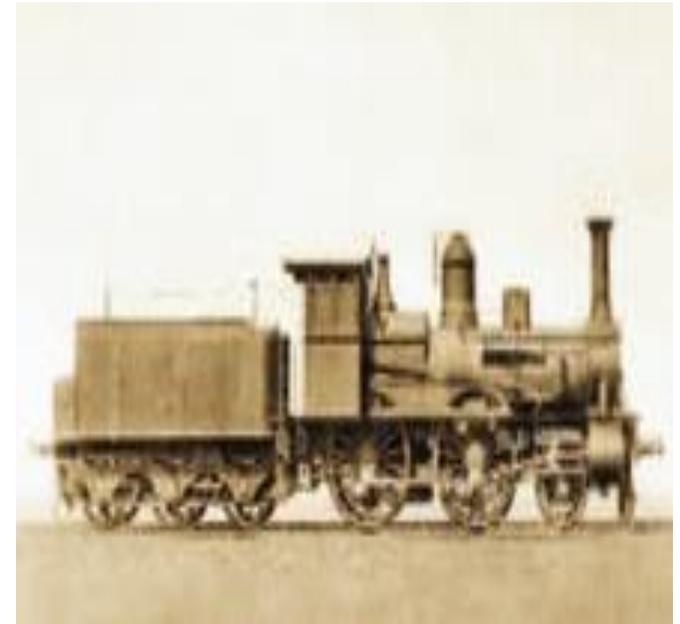
# Homeplace 1850 a living snapshot of history.

## *Understanding our past*

- The years from 1840 to 1850 were marked by war, political changes, a gold rush in California, and many other important events in America and around the world.



**FOR CALIFORNIA!**  
DIRECT  
**EXTRAORDINARY INDUCEMENTS!!**  
**THIRTY-FIVE DAYS TO GOLD REGIONS!**  
The "California Steam Navigation Co."  
**STEAM SHIP!**  
**VICARAGUA**  
ON FRIDAY, MARCH 23d, 1849.  
**200 JACK ASSES!**  
The Quickest, Safest and Cheapest!!  
Price of Passage Through Ninety Dollars!



## Enrichment activity:

### Prepare your students for a trip to the past

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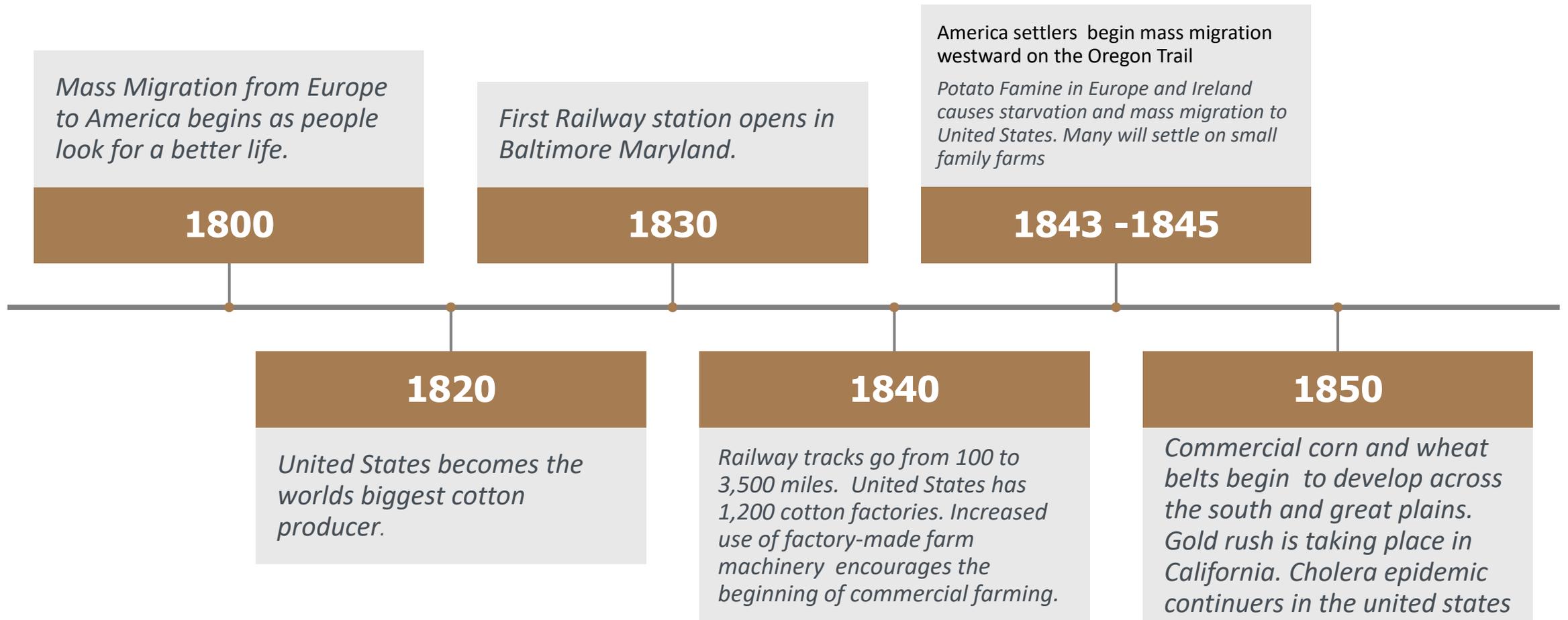
*Historical perspective: Simple questions to consider when time traveling to 1850's*

*As you review the historical timeline keep these questions in mind*

- Where were most people living in the early 1800's?
- What happened to cause so many people from Europe and Ireland to travel to America in the mid 1800's?
- How did most settlers plan to make their living?
- By 1840 what had happened to change the way people and supplies could be moved around the country.
- What was the world like in 1850 Middle Tennessee?
- How did increased world trade change rural Tennessee farm life?
- Why were Tobacco and Cotton such an important part of farming in the south?

# History Timeline 1800's

*What you would have experienced and how your life would change.*



# Snapshot of Agricultural Events in 1840

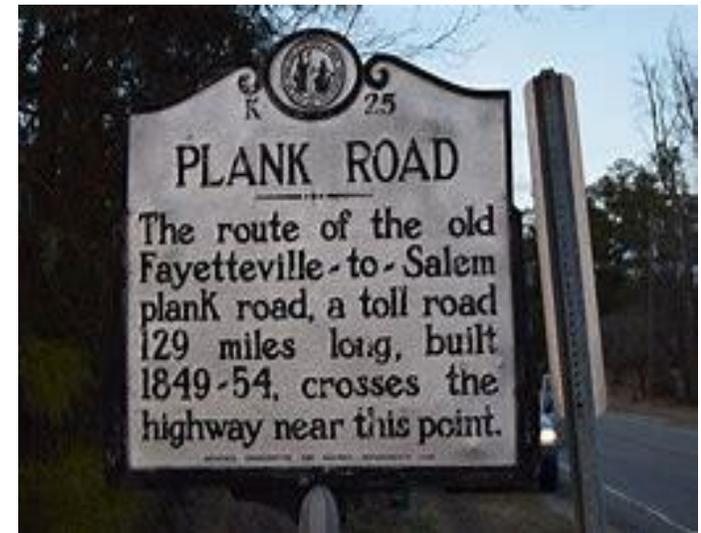
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- The growing use of factory-made agricultural machinery increased the farmers' need for cash and encouraged commercial farming.
- **1840**—Justus Liebig's **Organic Chemistry** appeared
- **1840–1850**—New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio were **the chief wheat States**
- **1840–1860**—Hereford, **Ayrshire**, Galloway, Jersey, and Holstein **cattle were imported and bred**
- **1840–1860**—Growth in **manufacturing** brought many **laborsaving** devices to **the farm home**
- **1840–1860**—Rural housing improved with use of **balloon-frame construction**
- **1840**—Total population: 17,069,453; Farm population: 9,012,000 (estimated), **Farmers** made up 69% of labor force
- **1840**—**3,000 miles** of **railroad track** had been constructed
- **1841**—Practical **grain drill** patented 
- **1841**—**Preemption Act** gave **squatters first** rights to buy land
- **1842**—First **grain elevator**, Buffalo, NY



# Snapshot of Agricultural Events in 1840 , continued

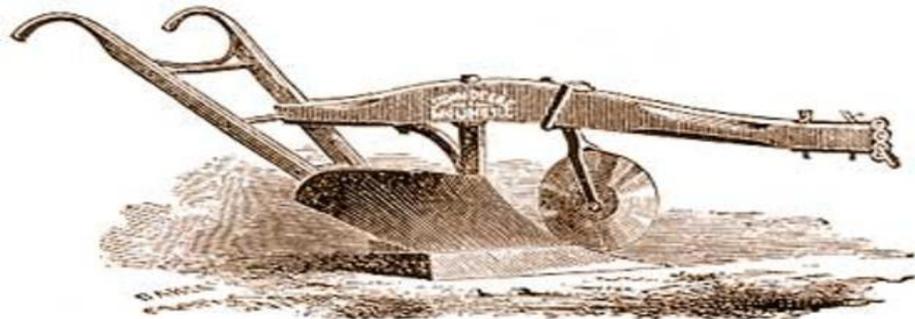
- **1844**—Practical **mowing machine** patented
- **1844**—Success of the **telegraph** revolutionized communications
- **1845**—**Mail volume** increased as postage rates lowered
- **1845–1853**—Texas, Oregon, the Mexican cession, and the **Gadsden Purchase** were added to the Union
- **1845–1855**—The **potato famine in Ireland** and the German Revolution of 1848 **greatly increased immigration**
- **1845–1857**—**Plank road movement** 
- **1846**—First herd book for Shorthorn cattle
- **1849**—First **poultry exhibition** in the United States
- **1847**—**Irrigation** began in Utah
- **1849**—Mixed **chemical fertilizers** sold commercially
- **1849**—**Goldrush**



# Snapshot of Agricultural Events in 1850

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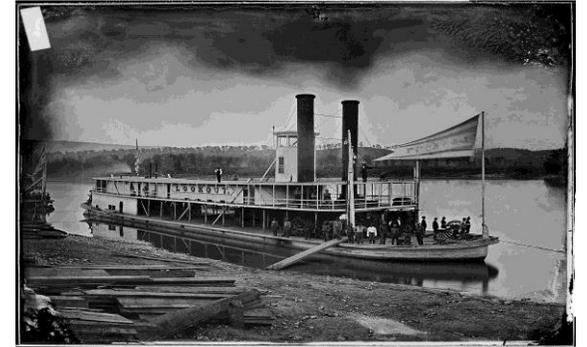
- **1850**—Total population: 23,191,786; Farm population: 11,680,000 (estimated); Farmers made up 64% of labor force; Number of farms: 1,449,000; Average acres: 203
- **The 1850s**—**Commercial** corn and wheat belts began to develop; wheat occupied the newer and cheaper land west of the corn areas and was constantly being forced westward by rising land values and the encroachment of the corn areas
- **The 1850s**—**Alfalfa** is grown on the west coast
- **The 1850s**—Successful **farming on the prairies** began
- **1850**—With the **California gold rush**, the frontier bypassed the Great Plains and the Rockies and moved to the Pacific coast
- **By 1850**, about 75–90 labor-hours were required to produce 100 bushels of corn (2-1/2 acres) with **walking plow, harrow, and hand planting**.



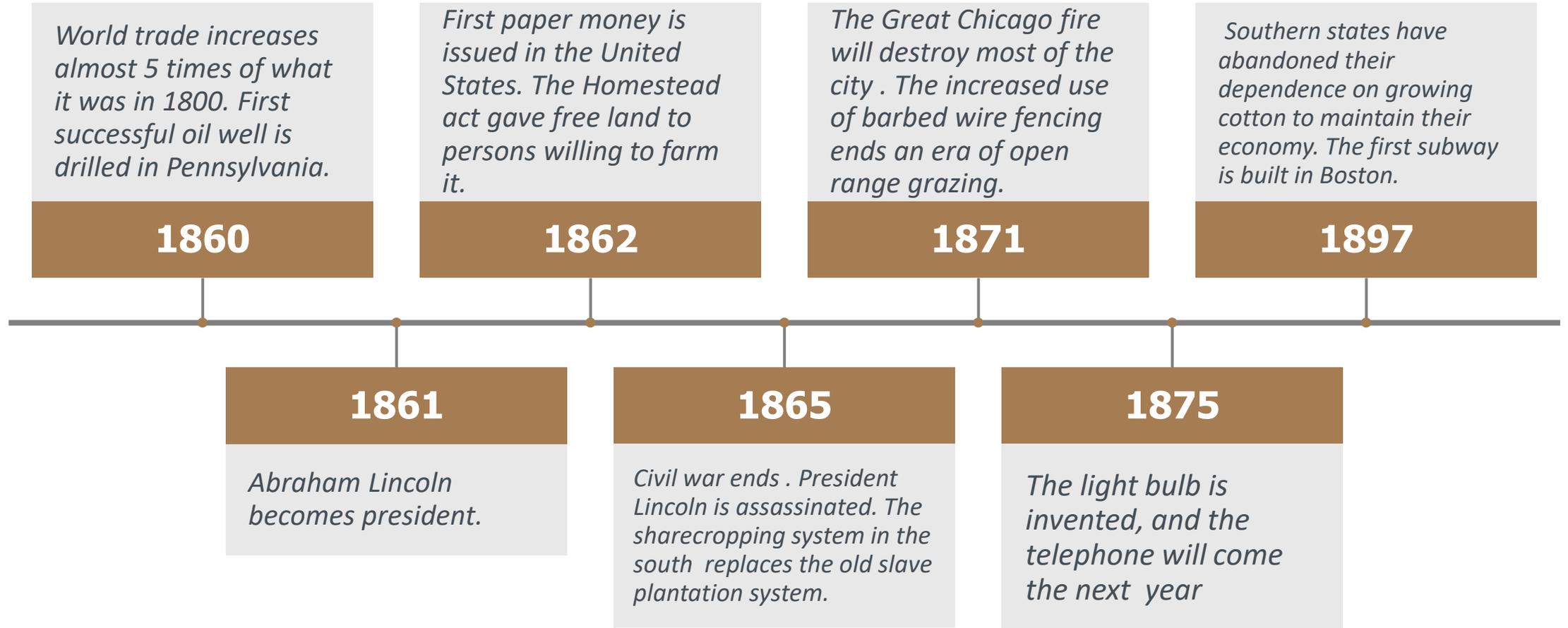
# Snapshot of Agricultural Events in 1850, continued

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- **The 1850s—Steam and clipper ships** improved overseas **transportation**
- **1850–1862**—Free land was a vital rural issue
- **The 1850s**—Major **railroad trunk lines** from eastern cities crossed the Appalachian Mountains
- **1850–1870**—Expanded market **demand for agricultural products** brought adoption of improved technology and resulting **increases in farm production**
- **1854**—Self-governing windmill perfected
- **1854—Graduation Act** reduced price of unsold public lands
- **1856**—2-horse straddle-row cultivator patented
- **1858**—Grimm alfalfa introduced
- **1859–1875**—The miners' frontier moved eastward from California toward the westward-moving farmers' and ranchers' frontier



# History Timeline 1800's



# Snapshot of Agricultural Events in 1860

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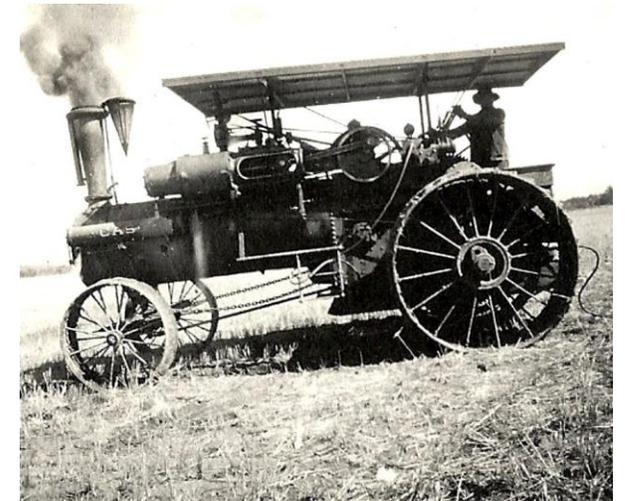
- The early 1860s witnessed a **dramatic change from hand power to horses**, which historians characterize as the first **American agricultural revolution**
- **1860**—Total population: 31,443,321; Farm population: 15,141,000 (estimated); Farmers made up 58% of labor force; Number of farms: 2,044,000; Average acres: 199
- **The 1860s**—**Kerosene lamps** became popular
- **The 1860s**—The Cotton Belt began to move westward
- **The 1860s**—The Corn Belt began stabilizing in its present area
- **1860**— **30,000 miles of railroad track** had been laid
- **1860**—Wisconsin and Illinois were the chief wheat states
- **1862**—**Homestead Act** granted 160 acres to settlers who had worked the land 5 years
- **1865–1870**—The **sharecropping system** in the South **replaced** the old slave **plantation system**
- **1865–1890**—Influx of Scandinavian immigrants



# Snapshot of Agricultural Events in 1860, continued

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- **1865–1890**—Sod houses common on the prairies
- **1865-75**—Gang plows and sulky plows came into use
- **1866–1877**—Cattle boom accelerated settlement of Great Plains; range wars developed between farmers and ranchers
- **1866–1986**—The days of the Cattlemen on the Great Plains
- **1868**—Steam tractors were tried out
- **1869**—Illinois passed first designated "Granger" law regulating railroads
- **1869**—Union Pacific, first transcontinental railroad, completed
- **1869**—Spring-tooth harrow or seedbed preparation appeared



- *Review: Simple questions to consider when time traveling to 1850's*
- Thank you for stepping back into the past.

## Tennessee Social Studies Standards

- Grades 6-8 Social Studies Practices Overview: Students will apply these skills to create and address questions that will guide inquiry and critical thinking. These practices should be regularly applied throughout the year. Students will progress through the inquiry cycle (SSP.01-SSP.04) by analyzing primary and secondary sources to construct and communicate their conceptual understanding of the content standards and to develop historical and geographic awareness (SSP.05- SSP.06).
- 8.34 Describe the development of the agrarian economy in the South, the locations of the cotton producing states, the significance of cotton and the cotton gin, and the founding of Memphis as a center for cotton and the slave trade. C, E, G, H, P, T
- 8.35 Analyze the characteristics of Southern society and its influence on the social and political conditions prior to the Civil War. C, E, G, H, P, T
- 8.38 Describe how technological developments affected the growth of the industrial economy and cities in the North. C, E, G, H, P
- 8.39 Identify the push-pull factors for Irish and German immigrants and describe the impact of their arrival in the U.S. prior to the Civil War. C, E, G, H, P
- 8.40 Analyze the development of roads, canals, railroads, and steamboats throughout the U.S., including the Erie Canal and the National Road. C, E, G, H, P

## Tennessee Social Studies Standards, continued

- Grades 9-12 Social Studies Practices Overview: Students will apply these skills to create and address questions that will guide inquiry and critical thinking. These practices should be regularly applied throughout the year. Students will progress through the inquiry cycle (SSP.01-SSP.04) by analyzing primary and secondary sources to construct and communicate their conceptual understanding of the content standards and to develop historical and geographic awareness (SSP.05- SSP.06).
- W.10 Explain how the Agricultural Revolution, mechanization, and the “enclosure movement” led to rapid population growth, rural to urban migration, and the growth of major cities in Europe and North America. C, E, G, H, P
- W.14 Explain how scientific and technological innovations (e.g., the steam engine, new textile technology, steel processing, medical advances, electricity, and new methods of transportation) led to massive social, economic, cultural, and demographic changes. C, E, G, H, P