

**Eli Whitney:**

Eli Whitney was an inventor, mechanic, and engineer in the late 1700s known for developing the cotton gin and interchangeable parts. The cotton gin helped clean and prepare cotton faster, meaning that more cotton was cleaned and therefore more textiles could be created in a shorter amount of time. As demands for textiles increased, the cotton gin also led to the expansion of the institution of slavery. Interchangeable parts allowed for the expansion of the Industrial Revolution and the division of labor. The division of labor is the separating of a task into smaller repetitive tasks. Instead of finishing an entire item, laborers now only did a small share of the work, and they did not get to witness the satisfaction of completing a product. This led to a decrease in worker morale and made work less satisfactory, although it did speed up production overall. In short, Eli Whitney is important because his cotton gin led to the expansion of slavery and interchangeable parts led to the division of labor.

**Nativism:**

Nativists, despite being descended from immigrants themselves, believed themselves to be true “natives” of the United States and they disliked individuals from other countries coming to America. When more immigrants began to arrive on American soil in the mid-1800s, nativists created political parties to stop immigrants from gaining equal rights. One nativist party, the Order of the Star Spangled Banner became known as the Know Nothing Party and went on to impact American politics. It was created to protest the rise of Irish, Roman Catholic, and German immigration into the United States. Nativism is important because it led to conflicts and showed a hatred towards immigrants that is still seen today. Groups like the Know Nothings also demonstrated that America is not a melting pot.

**Fulton's Clermont:**

The Clermont (also known as the North River Steamboat) was the first commercial steamboat, created by Robert Fulton and Robert R. Livingston in the early 1800s. The Clermont was introduced on the Hudson River, and the two men were granted the ability to run a ferry service between New York and New Jersey by Congress. They profited greatly from this opportunity, prompting competitors to challenge their success. This led to the court case of *Gibbons v. Ogden* in which John Marshall found that people did not have exclusive rights to a monopoly. The Clermont led to the Market Revolution, which was where farmers produced more and made profits on their crops. Overall, it brought better opportunities for farmers and manufacturers. The Clermont is important because the steamboat allowed goods and people to travel faster than before and also allowed them to travel upstream, leading to the creation of new cities. Steamboats would be improved so that goods could travel farther and safer. The Clermont and other early steamboats led to the canal boom and the creation of the Erie Canal, which connected the Midwest to the East Coast.

**Erie Canal:**

The Erie Canal was created in the mid-1800s and connects Lake Erie to the Hudson River. The project began under Governor Dewitt Clinton in New York and took 8 years to complete. It gave New York access to western cities like Chicago, leading to interregional trade. The canal was eventually made larger due to its usefulness. Soon after, a canal boom began and the north became a commercial center. The Erie Canal is important because it led to the prices of goods decreasing, allowed the northeast to become a commercial center, and led to a greater canal boom spurred by interregional trade.