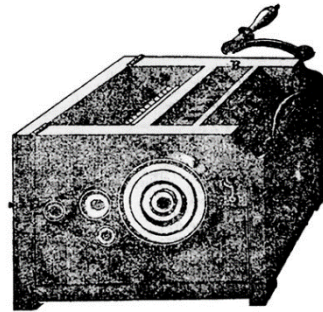


Name: _____

The Destructive Impact of the Cotton Gin



Wood-engraving illustration of a cotton gin, Harper's Weekly, 1859.
Sourced from The 1619 Supplementary Broadsheet, curated by Mary Elliott.

Directions: Read the following passage on the cotton gin, taken from The 1619 Supplementary Broadsheet by Mary Elliott and Jazmine Hughes. Then, complete questions in the table below.

“The national dialogue surrounding slavery and freedom continued as the demand for enslaved laborers increased. In 1794, Eli Whitney patented the cotton gin, which made it possible to clean cotton faster and get products to the market more quickly. Cotton was king, as the saying went, and the country became a global economic force. But the land for cultivating it was eventually exhausted, and the nation would have to expand to keep up with consumer demand. In 1803, Thomas Jefferson struck a deal with Napoleon Bonaparte, the Louisiana Purchase: In exchange for \$15 million, the United States gained almost 830,000 square miles of land, doubling the size of the country and expanding America’s empire of slavery and cotton. Soon after this deal, the United States abolished the international slave trade, creating a labor shortage. Under these circumstances, the domestic slave trade increased as an estimated one million enslaved people were sent to the Deep South to work in cotton, sugar, and rice fields.”

Explain how the invention and use of the Cotton Gin impacted the following areas

Social	Economic	Political