**American Industrial Revolution Web Quest**

**Task:** Throughout this Web Quest, you will be visiting several websites focusing on specific inventions/innovations. Each website will have a task for you to complete. Write your responses on your own sheet of paper in complete sentences. Hit control and click on the web address to get to each site.

**Focus Question:** How did the Industrial Revolution signify a social and economic change in Antebellum America?

**Inventions/Innovations:**

1. **Lowell Mills/System**
2. **Farm Equipment (Steel Plow)**
3. **Morse Code**
4. **Cotton Gin**
5. **Tom Thumb Locomotive**

**The Lowell Mills/System (Panel # 2)**

**Task:** During the 1800s, America witnessed a change in America: factories were hiring women. One of such factories was the Lowell Mills in Massachusetts. Your task is to go to the site below. This website includes interpreted journal entries of women who worked at the Lowell Mills. Read the journal entries and complete the task:

[**http://inquiryunlimited.org/bk/sbks/jh/textilesjh.html**](http://inquiryunlimited.org/bk/sbks/jh/textilesjh.html)

1. **Discuss how the Lowell Mills treated those injured or sick on the job.**
2. **Do you think how the Mills treated the injured was right or wrong, Why?**

**Farm Equipment (Panel # 3)**

**Task:** As many of you already know, John Deere is a popular brand of farm equipment today. Check out this site below to help further your understanding of John Deere by answering the questions.

[**http://invent.org/inductee-detail/?IID=39**](http://invent.org/inductee-detail/?IID=39)

**Explain why John Deere and his partner, Leonard Andrus, developed the steel plow. How do you know that his invention was successful?**

**Task:** Another famous inventor was Cyrus McCormick with the mechanical reaper. Go to the site below and complete the following question below:

[**http://gardenofpraise.com/ibdcyrus.htm**](http://gardenofpraise.com/ibdcyrus.htm)

**List one way the reaper improved farming the America.**

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**Morse Code (Panel # 4)**

**Task:** In 1837, Samuel F.B. Morse created a style of communication that cities and naval ships use to transmit messages. The machine sent long and short pulses of electricity along a wire; the messages were in dots and dashes! In fact, you have probably seen this in movies such as Titanic to transmit messages of distress (sinking in the middle of the ocean).

**Go to the site below and do the following below.**

[**http://www.glassgiant.com/geek/morse/**](http://www.glassgiant.com/geek/morse/)

**Type in your name and click listen to hear your name in Morse Code. Use the Morse Code Alphabet at the bottom of the page to write down your first and last name in Morse Code.**

**Give an example of how being able to communicate over long distances would help Americans.**

**Cotton Gin and Slavery (Panel # 5)**

**Task:** This task could be interesting, yet challenging for you. First, go to the site below and scroll until your see the animation of the cotton gin. Now complete the following tasks below.

[**https://www.eliwhitney.org/7/sites/default/files/minisites/cotton/patent.html**](https://www.eliwhitney.org/7/sites/default/files/minisites/cotton/patent.html)

**1. Examine the animation and tell how Eli Whitney got this idea from an observation he made: "...by watching a cat reach through a fence, try (to reach) for a chicken, and come away with nothing but feathers..." (Whitney)**

Now visit the next site to read information regarding the Cotton Gin.

[**http://www.ushistory.org/us/22b.asp**](http://www.ushistory.org/us/22b.asp)

**1. The impact of the Cotton Gin caused what to happen to cotton production? How was this important to the south?**

**2. Although a triumphant agriculture ingenuity, what negative impact did the Cotton Gin have on the Southern United States? Why?**

**Locomotive/Steam Engine (Panel # 6)**

**Task:** Railroads and steamboats would be a huge factor in changing America during the 1st Industrial Revolution. The railroad boom started with the first steam-powered locomotive, the Tom Thumb. Go to the site below to learn a little more about ol’ Tom Thumb.

[**http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/wwww/us/tomthumbdef.htm**](http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/wwww/us/tomthumbdef.htm)

1. **Why do you think using stream-powered locomotives would be better for the railroad than using horses?**
2. **Make your own drawing of a locomotive. How will this innovation benefit Americans?**

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**Conclusion**

**Task:**

**1. Summarize what you learned by completing this web quest in 4 to 5 sentences.**

**2. Which of the inventions covered in this web quest do you think was most important to helping the USA become an industrial power? Why? Draw a small illustration of your choice.**

**3. How did the Industrial Revolution signify a social and economic change in Antebellum America?**

**Congratulations on completing your adventure for uncovering important innovations developed during the 1st Industrial Revolution.**