

## **STANDARD USI.8d**

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**The student will apply social science skills to understand westward expansion and reform in America from 1801 to 1861 by**  
**d) describing the impact of inventions, including the cotton gin, the reaper, the steamboat, and the steam locomotive, on life in America;**

### **Essential Understandings**

Prior to the Civil War, most industrialization in America was in the North; however, the equipment produced in the North had an impact on the farming society of the South.

### **Essential Knowledge**

#### **Terms to know**

- inventor: A person who is the first to think of or make something
- entrepreneur: A person who organizes resources to bring a new or better good or service to market in hopes of earning a profit

#### **New technologies and their impact on society**

- The cotton gin was patented by Eli Whitney. It increased the production of cotton and thus increased the need for slave labor to cultivate and pick the cotton.
- Jo Anderson, an enslaved African American, and Cyrus McCormick worked to invent the reaper. McCormick was an entrepreneur who brought the reaper to market. The reaper increased the productivity of the American farmer.
- The steamboat was improved by the entrepreneur Robert Fulton. It eventually provided faster river transportation connecting Southern plantations and farms to Northern industries and Western territories.
- The steam locomotive provided faster land transportation.