Unit 1: Farming Transformed

**Objective:** Students will gain insight into the New South, learning new vocabulary terms and historical facts post-Civil War.

**Essential Question:** What is the *New South*?

**Activities:**

- Reading and Vocabulary Sheet (15-20 mins)
  
  Directions: Students will read *Farming Transformed* and then complete the vocabulary worksheet.

- Charlotte’s Cash Crop (15-20 mins)
  
  Directions: Students are prompted to identify the plant on the coloring page and color the page.
Farming Transformed

1860s-1920s

In the spring of 1865, the Civil War ended and the South lost the war. This was the end of the Old South and the beginning of the New South. Life changed for everyone in the South. Over four million black southerners were now free. New laws ended slavery, made African Americans citizens, and gave black men the right to vote.

Many formerly enslaved African Americans and poor whites started working as sharecroppers. They worked on farms that they did not own. Landowners allowed sharecroppers to farm the land if they agreed to give the landowner half of their crop. In the Charlotte area, most sharecroppers grew cotton. Cotton was considered the “king” cash crop. A cash crop is a plant that is grown to only be sold.

Sharecroppers were often underpaid and in debt to the landowners. Many white southerners did not like the new rights that African Americans had, so they started passing new laws to take them away. These Jim Crow laws treated African Americans as unequal to whites. In the early 1900s, many black southerners started moving North in hope of a better life. Over the years, millions African Americans left the South in the Great Migration.
Vocabulary

Directions: Choose a word from the vocabulary box located to the right of the page, and then match it with the correct sentence. Write the vocabulary on the line.

1. The New South began after the _____________.
2. Many African Americans and poor whites worked as _________________.
3. Sharecroppers were usually underpaid and in _________________.
4. ________________ was the “king” cash crop of the South.
5. After the Civil War, African Americans were granted new _________________.
6. Millions of African Americans moved to the North during the _________________.
7. ________________ treated black southerners as unequal to white southerners.
8. Sharecroppers had to give _________________ half of their crop.
9. The Civil War brought an end to _________________.

Answer key on last page.
What is the name of this cash crop?

HINT: It was the "king" crop of the south.
Answer Key

1. Civil War
2. Sharecroppers
3. Debt
4. Cotton
5. Rights
6. Great Migration
7. Jim Crow Laws
8. Landowners
9. Slavery