Unit 2: Bring the Mills to the Cotton

Objective: Students will learn about working and living in the mill village.

Essential Question: What would it have been like to be a child working in a Carolina mill?

Activities:

Reading and Vocabulary Sheet (15-20 mins)
Directions: Students will read *Bringing the Mills to the Cotton* and then complete the vocabulary worksheet.

Quilt Word Jumble (15-20 mins)
Directions: Students have to “unjumble” the words in the chart. All the words are contained in the Word Bank for assistance.
Bring the Mills to the Cotton

1880s-1930s

Before the Civil War, the North had more factories than the South. After the war, the South started opening its own textile mills. Trains would bring the cotton from the farms to the mills. Many farmers started working in the mills to make higher wages. Children worked in the factories with their parents, just as they did on the farm.

All of the mill workers lived in a neighborhood beside the factory called a mill village. The neighbors knew each other spent their free time together. Unfortunately, a lot of mill owners did not want to hire African Americans. They were treated unfairly and did not have the same rights as white people.

Mill owners also paid the workers in fake money called scrip. The workers could only spend the scrip in the company store. Charlotte grew really fast because of the textile mills.
Name: ___________________________

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. Workers left the farms hoping to earn higher ________________.
2. Before the Civil War most U.S. factories were in the ________________.
3. African American workers were not always allowed to work in the ________________.
4. Everyone in the family worked in the mills, even the ________________.
5. Cotton was carried from the farm to the textile mill on ________________.
6. The mill workers lived together in the ________________.
7. People living in the mill village became ________________.
8. Mill workers were paid in a fake type of money called ________________.
9. Mill workers could only spend the money in the ________________.

Answer key on last page.
Quilt Word Jumble

The words in my quilt are all jumbled up. Can you help me finish the quilt by figuring out what these words are?

tfcoray  iqutl  itelxte

wse  icnardg  molo

sipn  tcotno  wveae

Word Bank

Quilt
Spin
Carding
Sew
Weave
Loom
Factory
Cotton
Textile
Answer Key

1. Wages
2. North
3. Textile Mills
4. Children
5. Trains
6. Mill Village
7. Neighbors
8. Scrip
9. Company Store