

# Lesson Plan:

## History of Cotton



### Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Correctly sequence major events in the history of cotton

### Materials Needed:

- Computers with internet access
- Poster board
- Craft supplies
- Index cards with the following facts (each written on a different card) –
  - ✓ **1500** – cotton is raised by Native Americans
  - ✓ **1556** – Spanish raise a cotton crop in Florida
  - ✓ **1607** – English settlers plant cotton at Jamestown
  - ✓ **1790** – the first U.S. cotton mill is built
  - ✓ **1793** - Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin
  - ✓ **1850** – the first cotton picking device is patented
  - ✓ **1873** – blue jeans are first manufactured by Levi Strauss
  - ✓ **1936** – the first mechanical cotton picker is introduced

### Procedure:

1. Pass out index cards to student volunteers. Have them sequence themselves in the correct order at the front of the class.
2. Put students in groups of 2-3 and assign each group one of the events on the timeline.
3. Have groups research their event and create a “museum exhibit” for it. Museum exhibits should include a poster and 3-D representation.
4. Place finished museum exhibits around the classroom and have students go on a museum “tour.”



Credit: National Park Service

