

Geography and History Activity

The logo for 'networks' features the word 'networks' in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font. A stylized graphic of intersecting lines forms a starburst or network pattern behind the letter 'o'.

Growth and Expansion

Lesson 1 *A Growing Economy*

Understanding Human-Environment Interaction: Industrial Growth

The Industrial Revolution began in England in the mid-1700s. Soon, industrialization spread across the Atlantic to the United States. New England was the first region of the United States to embrace industrialization, and many factories were built there in the early 1800s.

Even though the soil quality was poor and the climate was harsh, many people in New England were farmers. However, many farmers were willing to put down their farm equipment and work on a new industrial machine.

It is understandable why New England led the way to industrialization. With plentiful rivers and streams, this region made an ideal location for the development of mills using waterpower. Samuel Slater deserves much of the credit for bringing the textile mill to New England.

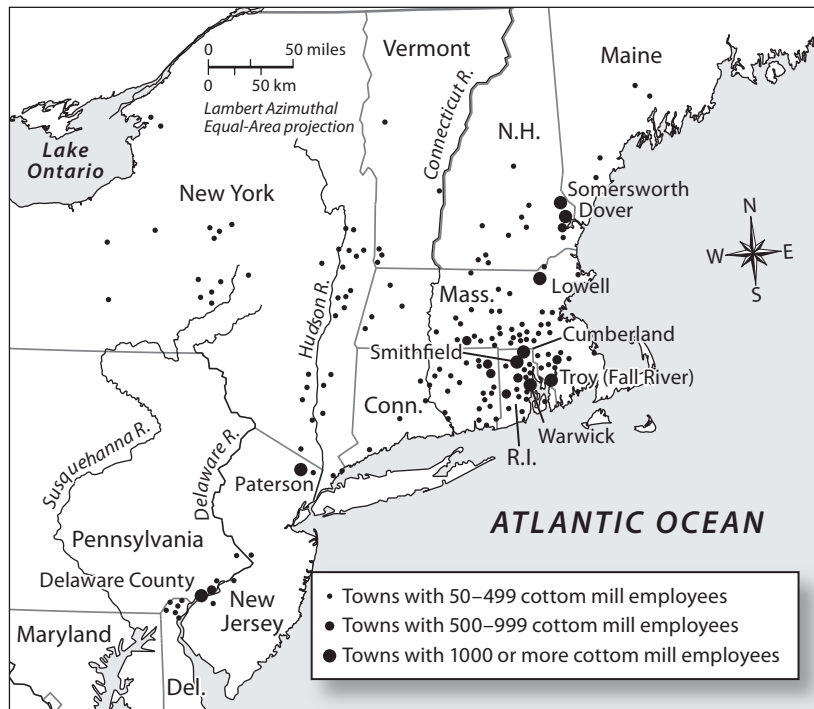
Slater worked in England in a textile mill before coming to the United States. Despite a British law against textile workers leaving the country, he moved to Pawtucket, Rhode Island. In 1790 he copied British designs to create his own textile mill along Pawtucket's Blackstone River. Slater's mill used waterpower to run the spinning machines that spun cotton thread into yarn.

Before long, dozens, then hundreds, of mills were built along rivers across New England, New York, and New Jersey. Textile mills were big business in early industrial America, but they didn't come without a cost. Many mills dumped hazardous chemicals in the rivers, causing them to become polluted.

Geography and History Activity *Cont.*



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Directions Answer the following questions.

Understanding the Concept

1. Identifying Where were most mills located in the early 1800s?

2. Drawing Conclusions What were the effects of the success of Samuel Slater’s mill?

Applying the Concept

3. Analyzing What regional features made New England an ideal place for industrialization?
