



A newsletter providing access to teaching resources from Teaching American History in South Carolina

Seeds of Invention

In an effort to help teachers make history come alive for their students, *TAHSC* has partnered with the South Carolina Cotton Museum and J&J Custom Cabinets to create 75 working replica cotton gin models. These tabletop models are based on the design patented to Eli Whitney on March 14, 1794. Contrary to popular belief, Eli Whitney did not invent the first cotton gin, but rather proposed a new design, which contained these three distinct features:

1) wire teeth on one cylinder to tear seeds from the lint; 2) turning brushes on the other cylinder to sweep the cotton out of the teeth; and 3) a slotted guard above the cylinders to sift out loosened seeds.



The *TAHSC* Cotton Gin really works!

These replica gin models give students a chance to work closely with this important invention that changed American history.

[To learn more about Eli Whitney and his Cotton Gin click here!](#)

News and Notes:

"TAHSC Masters" corner

TAHSC is happy to have our Master Teachers Mike Kreft of the Lowcountry and Tim Hicks of the Midlands joining us again for the 2006 summer institutes! Allyson Goff and Kim Harnelson, 2005 participants, will share the role of Pee Dee Master Teachers. Marc Turner and Wardie Sanders are returning to work with TAHSC as well, as teaching method mentors. Check this column in future editions of *TAHSC Connections* for teaching tips from these members of the TAH staff!

2006 Summer Institutes

The 2006 Summer Institutes will cover American History content from 1865 to the present. Whether we are discussing Reconstruction in the Midlands, the Roaring Twenties in the Lowcountry, or Civil Rights in the Pee Dee you can be sure to learn more about the role your local community played in larger national stories. The courses are filling up, but it is not too late to [apply!](#)

[Click here to learn more about the 2006 Institutes.](#)

Lesson Plans

Looking for a creative way to teach American History? Try some of the lessons you will find on our website: www.teaching18history.org. We regularly post lessons developed by past participants. Below you will see two examples of the excellent work produced in the course:

[Images from South Carolina Cotton Mills](#) - Learn about child labor in this fifth grade lesson created by Betsy Long of Doby's Mill Elementary.

[Examining Slave Auction Documents](#) - This high school lesson written by Techa Bryant of North Charleston High gives students a personal look at the

April 2006

Volume 1, Issue 1

Cultural Institution Calendar

April 2006

- 6 [Florence County Library \(FCL\): Stokes History Series: Amadeus Weart, 4:30 pm](#)
- 6 [Greenville County Museum of Art \(GCMA\): Bob Chance and Michael Kroskur discuss their work, free in-service credit, 4:30 pm](#)
- 6-8 [William Gilmore Simms Conference at South Caroliniana Library](#)
- 13 [FCL: Stokes History Series: Teddy Roosevelt, 4:30 pm](#)
- 18 **TAHSC Midlands Orientation Meeting**
- 20 **TAHSC Charleston Orientation Meeting**
- [FCL: Stokes History Series: Woodrow Wilson, 4:30 pm](#)
- [GCMA: Impressionism and the South, a gallery discussion, free in-service credit, 4:30 p.m.](#)
- 27 **TAHSC Pee Dee Orientation Meeting**
- [GCMA: Songs from the Heart, a performance of Appalachian and Celtic music, free in-service credit, 4:30 p.m.](#)
- 29 [Historic Columbia Foundation, Wilson Avenue: Main Street Living, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.](#)
- 30 [Artifact ID for the Public at the SC State Museum \(SCSM\), 2-4 PM](#)
- [Special Program on Digital Photography with Cecil Williams, SCMA, 2 PM](#)