• 1793—Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin
  o Separated the seed from the cotton boll
• Cotton became the leading crop in the state and Georgia became one of the top producers in the world
• Farmers sought out land to the west to produce the crop
  o More cotton was planted and large plantations were established
• Led to the rise of slavery across the South
  o More than half of Georgia’s population was slaves
• Cotton was the main cash crop

• Railroads
  o Needed faster and easier transportation than wagons, flatboats, and steamboats
• 1833—three major rail lines in Georgia were chartered by the General Assembly
  o The Georgia Railroad Company—an Athens to Augusta line
  o The Central of Georgia Railroad Company—a Savannah to Macon line
  o The Monroe Railroad Company—a Macon to Forsyth line
• 1834—began the construction of the Georgia Railroad
• 1836—the state also chartered the Western and Atlantic Railroad—linked central Georgia with Chattanooga, TN
• 1860—more than 1,200 miles of railroad in Georgia
• Atlanta was the hub of the railroads in Georgia
  o Originally called Terminus—“end of line”