

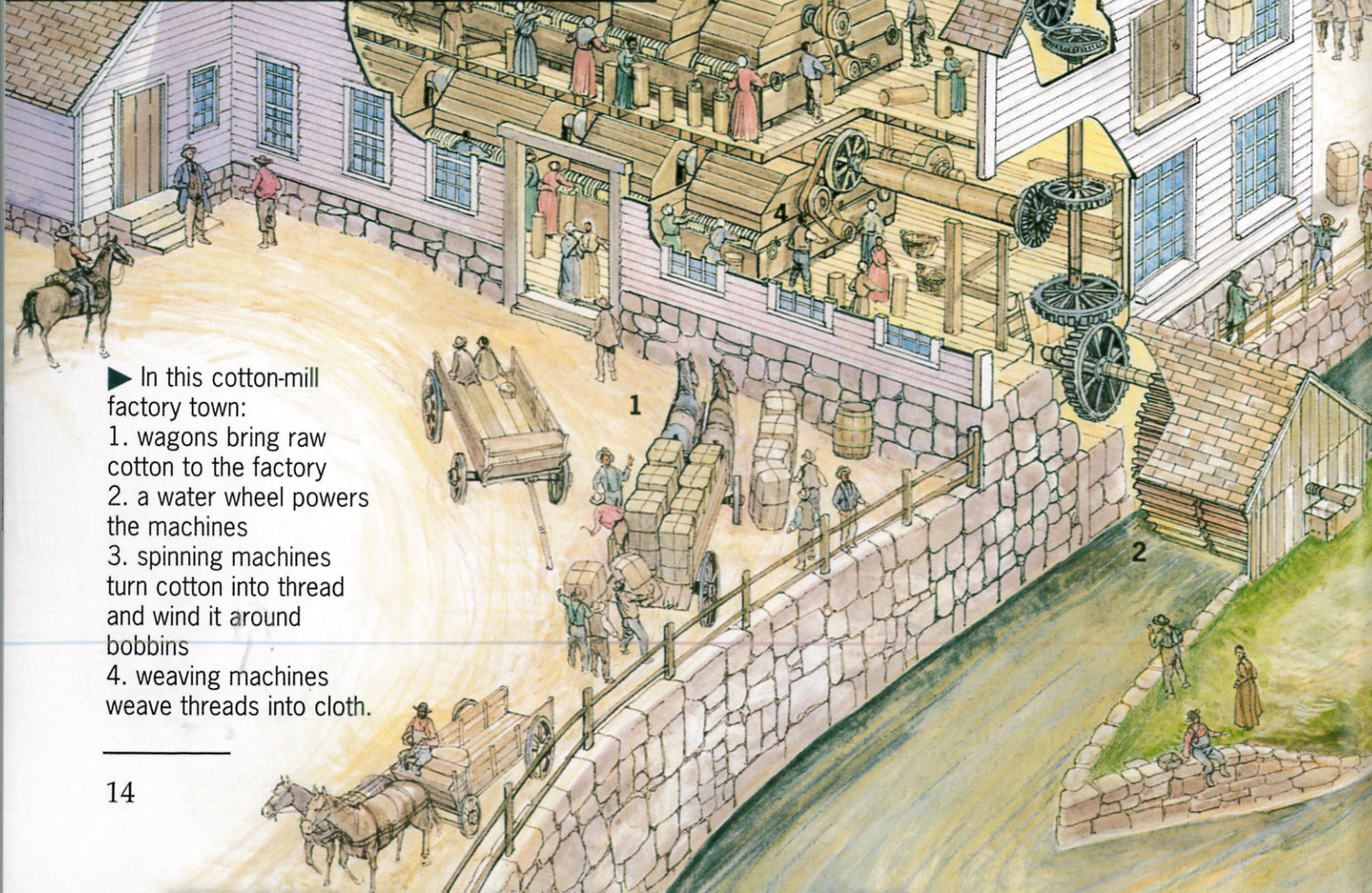
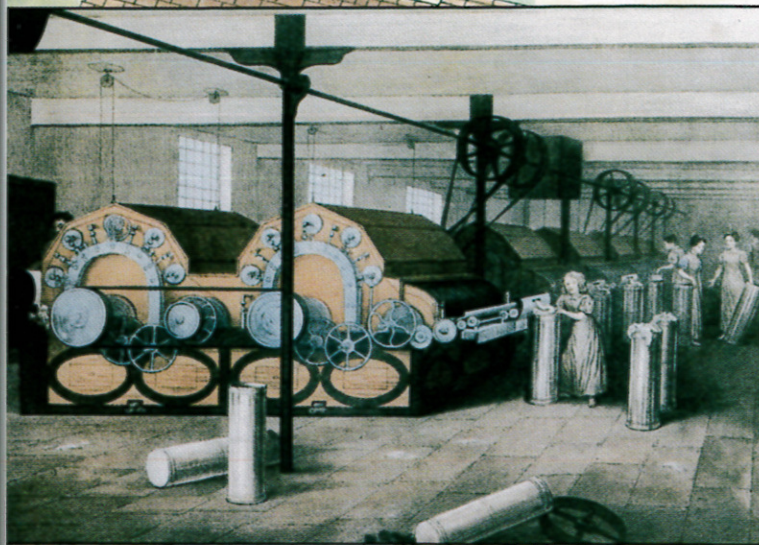
1801 to 1825

FACTORIES

In 1813, a Boston merchant named Francis Lowell visited England's cloth factories. He saw large machines making hundreds of yards of cotton cloth which were then shipped to America. "Why couldn't America make its own cloth?" he wondered.

New states and colonies of America
1803 Ohio statehood
1816 Indiana statehood
1817 Mississippi statehood
1818 Illinois statehood
1819 Alabama statehood
1819 U.S. buys Florida from Spain
1820 Maine statehood
1821 Missouri statehood
1821 Stephen Austin starts an American colony in Mexico's Texas.

◀ An engraving of inside a cotton mill of 1815.



▶ In this cotton-mill factory town:
1. wagons bring raw cotton to the factory
2. a water wheel powers the machines
3. spinning machines turn cotton into thread and wind it around bobbins
4. weaving machines weave threads into cloth.

Francis Lowell returned to America, and in 1814 built a cotton processing factory in Waltham, Massachusetts, not far from Boston. There were many machines in the factory. Some machines spun cotton into thread. Others wove the thread into cloth. The factory was built next to the Charles River. The rushing water powered a water wheel, which powered the machines.

The first women factory workers
After Lowell's death in 1817, his business partners built a factory town, called Lowell, in Massachusetts. They built factories, stores, churches, and **boarding-houses** for the employees. Many of the workers were teenage women from farms who had never been able to find full-time paid work before. They worked in the factories until they decided to marry.



▲ Lowell's factories processed raw cotton from **plantations** in the South. This engraving from 1800 shows a plantation owner selling his cotton to a factory owner. Black **slaves** operate a cotton gin, which separated cotton fibers from the seeds.



▲ Children who worked in the factories were often told to get behind machines to fix broken threads. This was a dangerous job.

A changing world
Factory workers worked 12 hours a day, 6 days a week. Most workers were women and children. While parents stayed on their farms, sons and daughters worked in the factory towns. Cities grew around the factories. Then people started moving from farms to cities. This was the start of America's **Industrial Revolution**.