



## ECONOMIC CHANGE AND URBAN GROWTH IN POST CIVIL WAR SOUTH

### Introduction:

The Civil War left the South's economy in shambles. Union soldiers noticed the natural resources and the strong inexpensive labor force in Tennessee and many were interested in investing in mining, steel, lumber, and manufacturing. Many returned and began these industries in Tennessee, making it the most industrialized state in the South by the turn of the century.

### Guiding Questions:

Why did the South and Tennessee move to an economy built on industry and mechanization after the Civil War?

How were cities, such as Knoxville, affected by industrialization?

### Learning Objectives:

The learner will identify key factors in Tennessee's post-Civil War industrialization.

The learner will analyze primary sources to determine how industrialization contributed to urbanization.



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## Materials Needed:

1. Content Essay: [\*Mining, Railroads and Industrialization\*](#) from teachTNHistory.org

The following resources may be found at the end of the lesson plan.

2. Copies of pages 140 and 141 of the 1869 *Knoxville City Directory*
3. Copies of pages 662 and 663 of the 1890 *Knoxville City Directory*
4. Copies of pages 651 through 653 of the 1890 *Knoxville City Directory*

## Lesson Activities:

- **Activity 1- Guiding Questions**

*Whole Class Activity*

Begin the lesson by showing students the guiding questions and discussing their responses. The answers can be recorded in a K-W-L chart to reference later.

- **Activity 2- Content Essay**

*Partner Activity*

Have students read the content essay *Mining, Railroads and Industrialization*. As they read, students should highlight or underline any key information that relates to the guiding questions. Students should share and discuss their learning with their partners. Briefly discuss their responses as a class if time allows.

- **Activity 3- City Directory analysis**

*Partner Activity*

Explain to students that City Directories were printed yearly and listed all businesses, churches, schools, organizations, and property owners. Students will compare Knoxville's City Directories from 1869 and 1890.

Give each pair of students the City Directory pages from 1869 and 1890. Ask the students to study the document and note the differences and similarities using a Venn diagram. Students will likely observe some of the following:



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*The 1890 Directory includes advertisements for businesses.*  
*There are far more boarding houses in 1890 than in 1869.*  
*There are more dentists in 1890 than 1869.*  
*In 1890, Knoxville had a diamond broker/ jeweler.*  
*In the 1890 directory there are advertisements for trunk repair.*  
*There are no blacksmiths in the 1890 directory.*  
*There are a number of industries in the 1890 directory including railroads, a cotton mill and metal fabricators.*  
Ask the students to infer how the observations they made relate to the guiding questions.

- **Activity 4- Class Discussion**

*Whole Class*

Have the students share their observations and inferences. Guide the discussion as necessary to cover the following points:

*The increase in boarding houses indicates a large increase in population between 1869 and 1890.*

*The increase in boarding houses and advertisements for trunk repair indicate that there were many recent immigrants to Knoxville.*

*The presence of a jeweler indicates a more affluent population with more disposable income.*

*More industries and industrial jobs existed in Knoxville in 1890 than 1860.*

**Assessment:**

Students should answer the guiding questions in an essay of two to three paragraphs. Students should cite evidence from the content essay and the City Directory in their essays.

**Extending the Lesson:**

Assign students a local business. Have them identify the various ways the business advertises. Have the students analyze which types of advertisements are most effective with people their age.



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**Questions?**

Contact: Lisa Oakley, Curator of Education  
East Tennessee Historical Society  
865-215-8828 | [oakley@eastTNhistory.org](mailto:oakley@eastTNhistory.org)

Owens B G  
 Crozier Jno H  
 Crozier E W  
 Crozier Jno H, jr  
 McClung E S  
 Nelson T A R  
 Camp E C, U S Att'y Gen'l  
 Abernathy J L

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 Shropshire P

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 Abercrombie Jack  
 Scaggs David  
 Harris William  
 Runnels Ed  
 Martin David R  
 McClung Lee (C)

### Billiard Saloons.

Cooper J L  
 White E T

### Blacksmiths.

Bell Thos  
 Davis Jas M  
 Newman David  
 Goins & Hicks  
 Dogan & Miller  
 Comstock Charles  
 Harris & Co  
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 Gentle M J R  
 Hicks Alexander

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 Fahnstock Banj  
 Cooley H J  
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