



Reading 345

Read the following text. Complete the text with five sentences listed below. Two sentences don't belong in the text. Choose the correct letter.

British manufactured goods were sold throughout Europe and in America. Because they were machine-made, these goods were cheaper than hand-made products. They sold very well. **(1)** Many of them travelled to Britain to discover how British industrialists did things.

But Britain did not want to share its industrial innovations. Many companies tried to guard against spies. They built factories with thick walls and small windows to keep out unwelcome visitors. Some companies forced workers to swear that they would never tell anyone about their factory's manufacturing secrets.

The British government passed laws that made it illegal to export spinning or weaving machinery. They even made it illegal for machine operators to leave the country. For a short time, the British efforts to protect their secrets worked. Eventually, the Industrial Revolution spread through Europe and to the United States.

The first person to bring knowledge of textile manufacturing to the United States was an Englishman named Samuel Slater. When he was 14, Slater became an apprentice in a textile factory. **(2)**

Meanwhile, the newly independent United States was determined to stop buying manufactured goods from Britain. American businessmen were willing to pay a lot of money to anyone who could help them set up a working textile factory. Slater realized that his knowledge of textile technology was valuable. He decided to help the Americans.

When he arrived in the United States, Slater met Moses Brown, a merchant from Rhode Island. Using Brown's money and his own memory of English machinery, Slater built America's first water-powered, cotton-spinning mill in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

By 1800, Slater's mill employed more than 100 workers. **(3)** Slater's business became an important first step in the American Industrial Revolution. A generation of millwrights and textile workers trained in Slater's mills. By 1810, dozens of water-powered spinning mills could be found along the riverbanks of southern New England.

Although the New England mills spun thread, most weavers still worked at home. Typically, weavers picked up their yam at the mills, wove it at home, and returned the finished cloth to the mill. This system was inefficient and slow.

On a trip to England in 1810, a Boston businessman named Francis Cabot Lowell toured British textile mills. He was impressed with their operation and how fast they wove cloth. **(4)** When he returned to the United States, Lowell hired a mechanic to build an improved version of the British loom.

With several partners, Lowell formed the Boston Manufacturing Company in 1813. Lowell's company built its first textile mill using power looms on the Charles River in Waltham, Massachusetts. Inside the mill, workers performed all the steps needed to convert raw cotton into cloth. The Waltham mill flourished and was extremely profitable.

Although Lowell died in 1817, the Boston Company continued his work and expanded its textile manufacturing. In 1822, the company began constructing a huge new mill complex in a farming village on the Merrimack River, about 30 miles from Boston. They designed buildings and laid out streets. They built mills, machine shops, and housing for workers. They also built a series of canals to manage the river's waterpower. (5)

Lowell became the country's first planned industrial town, and soon it was the largest industrial center in America. It employed more than 10,000 people and produced almost one million yards of cloth each week (914,400 meters). The sheer size of the city stunned visitors. Massive brick mills lined the Merrimack River for nearly a mile (one-and-a-half kilometers). The city's canals drove the waterwheels powered 320,000 spindles and almost 10,000 homes. Some visitors described the city as one of the wonders of the world.

- A. While at the mill, Lowell memorized how English power looms worked.
- B. Soon he had gained enough experience to become a supervisor.
- C. Noticing this, European and American businessmen decided to build their own profitable factories.
- D. To protect inventors, the United States passed the first patent law in 1790.
- E. In honor of Lowell, the company named the town after him.
- F. He built several more successful cotton mills throughout New England.
- G. Some of the first workers in Lowell's textile mill were young women.

Key

1. C
2. B
3. F
4. A
5. E