



Jacob's New Shirt

Jacob's mother took him shopping for new school clothes. He had grown so much over the summer that few of his old pants and shirts fit anymore. Jacob wasn't thrilled about shopping, however, and after two hours and four stores, he was pretty bored and ready to go home. Suddenly, he noticed the coolest shirt he had ever seen. It was a handsome, cowboy shirt. He found one his size, and when he tried it on, it fit perfectly. Jacob asked the store clerk if he could keep the shirt on and wear it home after his mother paid for it. She smiled and said that would be alright.

Jacob's new shirt was made of soft cotton. Cotton has been grown in this country for over 200 years. At first, the seeds had to be removed by hand before the cotton could be spun into cloth. This was a tedious process and took a lot of time. Finally, a man named Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin, a machine that could do the job of seed removal much faster. This greatly increased cotton production in the United States. Whitney received a U.S. patent for his invention on March 14, 1794.

Jacob may not have known how his cotton cowboy shirt came to be. He was just awfully glad it did.

Directions: Please choose the correct answer and write its alphabet letter on the space in front of the appropriate question.

- _____ 1. Jacob was going shopping for new _____. a. cowboy
- _____ 2.. How did Jacob feel after two hours of shopping? b. school clothes
- _____ 3. Jacob found a cool _____ shirt that he really liked. c. cotton
- _____ 4. What type of cloth was the cowboy shirt made from? d. Eli Whitney
- _____ 5. Who invented the cotton gin and got a patent for it in 1794? e. bored